

Minutes of the 120th Committee Meeting of the British Biophysical Society

16 May 2000, 1.00pm

MINUTES

Present: R Cooke
G Grant
S Harding
J Helliwell
E Hounsell
M Miles
A North
S Radford
G Roberts
M Sternberg
A Thomson
A Watts
A Wilkinson

Action

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from M Ferenczi, D Hornby, A Lane, J Murray-Rust, M Sansom and G Taylor.

2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

3. **Matters Arising**

Item 3: BBS lectures will be held in Cork, Belfast and Dublin. The BBS will pay for travel, while the hosts will pay for accommodation.

It was agreed in principle to make Honorary members from the list of Emeritus ones. The records still need to be examined for names of other Honorary members.

Emeritus and Honorary members should be offered student rates at meetings wherever possible.

The report on the EPSRC meeting has been forwarded for inclusion in the next BBS newsletter.

The committee would be emailed asking for contributions to future newsletters.

Item 5: The Royal Society will be asked to pay the contribution to IUPAB direct this year.

A North /
R Cooke

J Murray-Rust

R Cooke

Nominations for the EBSA young scientist prize were received for Clemens Glaubitz and Justin Molloy. The EBSA committee selected Justin to receive the award.

Item 6: Tony Wilkinson has been investigating the matter of secretarial support.

The discrepancies in the accounts from the nucleic acids meeting and ultracentrifugation workshop had been resolved. Meeting organisers will in future be asked to pay bursaries direct. The BBS Meetings Secretary will agree who should receive them.

The registered charity number could be reproduced on documents, but this would await their reproduction with the new URL. The possibility of making the letterhead available electronically would be investigated.

J Murray-Rust

The value of payments to the IOP would be investigated.

J Helliwell

The value of payments to the Foundation for Science and Technology will be investigated.

A Thomson

Item 8: Rob Russell had been contacted regarding a poster prize for the Structural Genomics meeting.

A meeting has been organised in Norwich for Spring 2001.

Item 10: Feedback from the Jamieson report has been received and communicated to the UKLSC

4. **Publicity Officer's Report was held over to the next meeting**

5. **Secretary's Report (presented by Rob Cooke)**

A request from IUPAB for topics and speakers for the next congress had been received. Suggestions should be sent direct to Tony North.

The request from IOB for a statement of priorities resembled a previous request. The IOB would be contacted to clarify what is required.

J Helliwell

It was agreed that Tony North should represent the BBS as their official delegate at the EBSA general assembly, with Tony Watts as observer.

The request from the UKLSC for support for an administrator for the animal science group was not supported.

Following the notification of the death of Prof Preston, it was agreed that Andrew Thomson would write a letter of condolence to his widow, after a suitable period Tony Wilkinson would remind her to cancel his subscription, and Tony North would write a short note in the next newsletter.

**A Thomson /
A Wilkinson /
A North**

6. **Treasurer's Report (presented by Tony Wilkinson)**

The 1999 accounts have been approved.

Reminders for underpayers will be sent out immediately after payments are received in January.

A Wilkinson

A more lucrative form of investment for the large bank balance will be investigated.

A Wilkinson

The possibility of sponsoring an essay prize will be investigated with journals such as New Scientist or TIBS.

**A Thomson /
S Radford**

Proposals for recognition of contributions from young biophysicists will be brought to the next meeting.

S Radford

7. **Irish sub-section**

The arrangements for the BBS lectures are well underway (see note in Matters Arising).

Guy Grant is willing to carry on as representative for Ireland, even though he is no longer based there.

8. **Honorary Meetings Secretary's Report (presented by Liz Hounsell)**

A report from the Molecular Motors meeting has appeared in the BBS Newsletter.

Successful meetings have recently been held in Leeds and at Unilever.

The solvation meeting in September is being assisted by a contribution from the Biochem. Soc. Techniques Group. BBS membership will be encouraged with the registration.

The Techniques group meeting on AFM in December has been cancelled.

An IOP meeting has been organised for December 18 on condensed matter and material physics. The possibility of having a biophysics meeting on the previous day was raised. The committee agreed to support this with £250 if it went ahead.

The BBS is supporting the MGMS meeting on Structural Genomics with a poster prize. Concern was expressed at the cost of MGMS meetings.

It was suggested that the BBS AGM could be held with the BCA meeting in December. Clarification would be sought from Nigel Kemp.

E Hounsell

The BBS would support (up to £500) a named speaker at the Bristol meeting in April 2001.

E Hounsell

Plans for the BBS meeting in Norwich are well underway.

A suggested meeting on NMR in Autumn 2001 was supported.

The possibility of staging a joint meeting with the molecular enzymology group on Biocatalysis in September 2001 would be investigated.

A Wilkinson

A computational chemistry / drug design meeting for late 2001 or early 2002 was suggested. The MGMS would be contacted regarding a possible joint meeting.

**R Cooke /
G Grant**

9. **Future representation of Biological Sciences**

The UKLSC members are generally happy to proceed with discussions until it is clear what is on offer. John Helliwell expressed the view that having a body that acted on specific items when necessary would help with accountability and keep costs down. It should concentrate on sponsoring meetings and the public awareness of science, rather than lobby government, as this is already done effectively by the IOB and UKLSC.

12. **Any Other Business**

Tony North mentioned a request to contribute to an Encyclopaedia of Biophysics. He is particularly interested in assistance from someone with a background less focussed on structural biology. Responses should be sent direct to Tony.

13 **Date of the next meeting**

The next meeting has been arranged for 19 September 2000.