

**The 176th Committee Meeting of the British Biophysical Society, held from
9.00 am – 1.00 pm on Monday 14th January 2019 in Bush House, room BH(S)2.04, in
King's College London**

Edited Minutes

Date: 14th January 2019

Present: Olwyn Byron (Chair), Tharin Blumenschein (Secretary), Guy Grant (Meetings Secretary), Ann Dixon (Treasurer), John Seddon, Mark Wallace, Claire Friel and John Sanderson.

1 **Apologies:** Robin Leatherbarrow, Tuomas Knowles, Ehmke Pohl, Svetlana Antonyuk, Tony Watts, Syma Khalid, Dave Scott and Mark Leake.

2 **Approval of Minutes of the 175th meeting**

The Minutes were accepted with minor corrections.

3 **Actions**

This agenda item was changed from “Matters Arising” to “Actions”, and now covers the table of actions from the previous meeting.

Biophysics week events are being organised by Olwyn, Guy and Ann.

Mark Wallace has talked to Steve Lee about cross-representation, and will invite him to a future meeting.

Action: Mark Wallace

Actions table was updated with other actions that were completed.

4 **Chair's Report (Olwyn Byron)**

Jeremy Craven has stepped down from the committee. The committee unanimously approved a vote of thanks to Jeremy to be recorded.

EPSRC

Olwyn will invite Luke Boldock to a well-attended future committee meeting.

Action: Olwyn

Committee membership

Olwyn instigated a discussion on committee membership, with two main issues: continued committee membership of members who haven't been able to attend committee meetings, and other roles that should be present in the committee.

It was agreed that Olwyn will contact a number of committee members that haven't been attending recently to see if they'd like to step down.

Action: Olwyn

The committee agreed that we should elect student and postdoctoral level members to the committee. This should not require a change to our constitution. This election should take place at the AGM, which needs to be organised for this year.

Action: Tharin to create a Doodle poll for the AGM

The committee also agreed that we should have a leading role in developing education in Biophysics nationally. Guy is interested in taking this role, but that would require someone else assuming the role of Meetings Secretary.

5 **Treasurer's Report** (Ann Dixon)

1. **Balances:** The Society's accounts look healthy.

2. **Gift Aid:** Ann has now been added as an official for our organization to the HMRC records, and have begun drafting a letter (which she will run past Jeremy) to ask whether Gift Aid can still be received from the donations made last year.

3. **Membership fees:** Membership income this year comes from a total of 237 members. Showing a slight drop in membership, but overall seems stable compared to last 3 years.

4. **Payments:** We are up-to-date on all claims and payments

5. **Charity Commission:** Ann has logged in to our records on the Charity Commission website, and we are all up to date with our submissions until the next submission due in the spring, which will require an independent examiner.

6. **Independent examiner:** Because our income is so high this year, we will need to get this done and submitted by March / April (tbc). The independent examiner's report should replace our annual report to the Charity Commission. The independent examiner is likely to cost between £250-500 + VAT, and Ann has begun searching for an examiner local to her in Warwickshire.

7. **Bank of Scotland:** Ann now has full access to all online banking and can make online transfers again.

8. **IUPAB Congress:** Ann will query with Tony if the accounts from the IUPAB Congress have been finalised with the IoP.

Action: Ann

6 EBSA/IUPAB Activities (John Seddon)

EBSA – The next meeting of the EBSA Executive Committee will be held in the coming weekend (19th January 2019, in Göttingen) so not much to report at this stage.

- There are 7 applicants to the Young Investigators' Medal; a panel to select the winner will be set up at the meeting on Saturday.
- Avanti Polar Lipids / EBSA Award nominations were received directly by Tony.
- Everything is generally in place for the 12th EBSA Congress, in Madrid from 20-24 July 2019 (Chair: Jesus Perez-Gil). The Congress will be held jointly with IUPAP (Section C6).
- The 2021 EBSA Congress will be held in Vienna. The Chair, Elena Pohl, has joined the EBSA Committee.

IUPAB – The IUPAB Newsletter was circulated recently.

- IUPAB supports educational workshops; Guy will look into it and how we could get involved.

Action: Guy

7 IOP Activities (Mark Wallace)

The last committee meeting was in December, with some discussion about committee size and composition. The Physics World 30th Anniversary Special Issue contained no Biophysics. A number of conferences are being planned for 2019, including a Physics meets Biology meeting in September, Quantitative Methods in Gene Regulation V in December, and a meeting on the Physics of Microorganisms in April. Chiu Fan is organising 2 meetings on Physics of Emergence for 2019.

The nomination process for the Tom Duke Prize and Lecture is being rethought.

The IoP would like to organise sandpit meetings based around funding calls.

8 **Physics of Life Network** (Olwyn Byron/Mark Leake)

EPSRC have now announced the first call for the building of collaborations within the Physics of Life interface (<https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/calls/physicsoflifecollab/>). The time scale for this first call is very aggressive. In particular, successful applications will need to start April 2019, and there is no current guarantee from EPSRC that no cost extensions will be permitted at the end of these 3 year grants. Recruitment of postdocs therefore is likely to be challenging, unless existing candidates can be identified quickly, and/or named on the application itself. For open postdoc positions, however, the Physics of Life network has offered to help in coordinating postdoc applications that come in from advertised positions from the successful Physics of Life grant proposals. In this way there could then be an openly accessible pool of suitably interdisciplinary postdoc candidates which other Physics of Life grant proposals could benefit from to facilitate their postdoc recruitment. The Physics of Life network will contact the "Co-PIs" of successful grant proposals in this regard once these have been announced. This is a call for cross-discipline proposals, and encouraged to be cross-institution. It is expected that there will be 2 to 6 postdocs per grant. The panel will meet in March.

Action: Olwyn to write to EPSRC and ask about the reason for such tight deadlines.

9 **RSC Biophysical Chemistry Group Activities**

This was covered when discussing the Actions from the last committee meeting, as we currently do not have cross-representation and this was an action point.

Action: Mark Wallace

10 **Royal Society of Biology Activities** (Tharin Blumenschein)

- 1) *Newsletters continue to be circulated to the committee.*
- 2) There were fewer replies to consultations circulated to the committee. Currently: [Commons Science and Technology Committee inquiry into Brexit, Science and Innovation: Preparations for 'No-Deal'](#)

The Committee intends to explore the Government and it's non-departmental public bodies' preparedness for a 'No-Deal' Brexit. They'll hold an oral evidence session on 30 January 2019, ahead of which, they welcome short written contributions on: a) what a No-Deal Brexit would mean for the science and innovation community and b) the adequacy of what the Government and it's non-departmental public bodies are doing to prepare for such an outcome. **The deadline for [submissions](#) is 23 January.**

- 3) *Royal Society of Biology Diversity and Inclusion group* – there have been regular meetings, but Tharin hasn't been able to take part.

The committee discussed that this is yet another role to be fulfilled by the Secretary; in the future, this role could be fulfilled by a postdoc committee member.

11 **Secretary's Report** (Tharin Blumenschein)

- 1) *EBSA Award and Medal* – The BBS nomination for Lorna Dougan (2018 BBS Young Investigator Medal winner) was sent to EBSA.
- 2) The committee congratulates Olwyn on the publication of an article on Nature.

The US-based Biophysical Society is announcing the Ambassador Program, which will create a global network of Biophysical Society members. This could be an excellent tool to work jointly with the Biophysical Society, perhaps inviting this person to our committee. We should contact the Biophysical Society and ask how we can support their Ambassador to the UK.

Action: Tharin

12 **Meetings Secretary's Report** (Guy Grant)

2018

11-13 July: BBS Biennial Meeting, Southampton. It went really well and all the post-meeting details have been dealt with

2019

10-11 April – Joint meeting with NMRDG, '*NMR in Molecular Biology and Biophysics*', Leeds. (Tharin Blumenschein) – Registrations for the meeting are open, and the programme looks excellent. It's not clear that accommodation is not covered in the registration fee.

Action: Tharin to feed back to NMRDG

20-24 July – *EBSA Congress, Madrid.*

December meeting

Action: Olwyn to confirm

2020

July Biennial Meeting, Nottingham – 1st to 3rd July 2020. Claire Friel presented the plans for the meeting, representing Nottingham. There were concerns about the visibility in the room suggested. We will go to Nottingham for our next committee meeting, to be able to look at the room suggested and possible alternatives.

Action: Tharin to organise Doodle poll

The plans overall look very good, although costs are somewhat higher than for previous meetings.

Action: Syma to send splitting of Southampton costs to Claire and Dave

The meeting organisers would like suggestions for speakers, and sponsors.

Action: Tharin to email committee asking for suggestions

September – Faraday Discussion, Burlington House, organised by John Seddon and Paul O’Shea.

13 Newsgroup/Publicity Officer (Syma Khalid/John Sanderson)

Nothing to report, a new email to the newsgroup will be sent soon.

The new student committee member could help with social media, posting on Twitter, and perhaps creating a LinkedIn page.

14 Website (Mark Wallace)

The website needs to be updated with the more recent committee meetings.

Action: Tharin to email minutes to Mark Wallace

Action: Mark Wallace to update website

15 Membership (Ehmke Pohl)

Item moved to future meetings. We need to have a package prepared to be sent out to potential corporate members. We also need a network of people who would be willing to put up posters and disseminate information locally.

16 Irish Sub-section (Peter Crowley)

Action: Guy to contact Peter and ask for an update

17 Honorary members

Names were suggested.

Action: Olwyn to contact them and ask if they’re willing to be nominated

18 Portfolio of BBS Awards

We should have awards at every career level. We currently have the Young Investigator Award, for scientists beginning their independent career, and the Sosei Heptares Prize, for later stages. We should institute an early career prize to recognise “outstanding contribution during the PhD”. Candidates would be eligible within 2 years of the *viva voce* examination date, and the prize would include travel and and conference registration for the winner to present a talk at a BBS meeting.

The committee was in favour of this proposal

19 Committee membership rules

This was mainly discussed under Chair's report, item 4 above. As Guy is interested in taking on the new role of Education Secretary, John Sanderson has agreed to become the new Meetings Secretary.

20 AOB

There were no other businesses.

21 Date of Next Meeting

The next committee meeting will be in May 2019, in Nottingham, so we can look at the facilities for the 2020 biennial meeting. The date will be decided after a Doodle poll.
