

BRITISH BIOPHYSICAL SOCIETY

The 34th Meeting of the Committee was held at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 6th October 1971 at the offices of The Biochemical Society, 7 Warwick Court, High Holborn, London.

Present :

Dr D.M. Blow
Dr E.M. Bradbury (Secretary)
Dr J.M. Creeth
Dr P. Fatt
Dr J.B. Finean (Chairman)
Dr W. Fuller (Meetings Secretary)
Dr E.G. Richards
Dr M.P. Tombs (Treasurer)

Apologies were received from Professor G.A. Gilbert, Dr A.C.T. Worth, Dr K.D. Parker and Professor J.H. Subak-Sharpe.

71/23 The minutes of the 33rd Meeting were approved by the Committee and signed by the Chairman.

71/24 Matters arising from the minutes and not listed in the agenda:

Training and Careers in Biophysics (70/22, 70/24, 71/3 and 71/13)

In view of the diversity of the contents of the table listing biophysics courses and courses with a substantial biophysics content it was decided that the format should be changed, each entry being listed simply under the name of the University or College. It was agreed that 1200 copies of the booklet should be printed.

Professor R.E. Burge had agreed to organise a 1 day meeting on Training in Biophysics at Queen Elizabeth College, London on January 4th, 1972.

71/25 Reports of Representatives on Joint Committees

(i) U.K. Crystallographic Council

Dr D.M. Blow reported that a European Crystallographic Committee was being formed and that the expenses of the delegate from the U.K. were to be paid by the funds of the U.K.C.C.

Charter flights were to be arranged for participants to the Crystallography Congress held next year in Japan.

A Dame Kathleen Lonsdale Memorial Fund was being organised by the U.K.C.C. It was hoped that Scholarships or Bursers could be provided for the younger crystallographers to pursue their research interests.

71/26 Election of Representatives on other Committees

Computer and Instrumentation Group

Dr Watson Fuller's commitment prevents him from acting as one of our two representatives to this group beyond the end of this year. Dr E.G. Richards

agreed to represent the Society from January 1972. Dr A.C.T. North is willing to continue as a representative for one more year, until December 1972.

71/27 Reports on Scientific Meetings

Physical Biochemistry Group Meeting, September 27th, 1971

The Meeting on "Computational Methods in Analytical Ultracentrifugation", organised by Dr P.A. Charlewood attracted 65 participants. Dr J.M. Creeth reported that scientifically it was a successful meeting.

71/28 Future Meetings

(i) The Winter Meeting, University of Surrey, 14-16 December 1971

Dr Watson Fuller reported that arrangements for the Winter Meeting on 'Separation Methods in Cell and Molecular Biology' were substantially complete. The programme with 18 speakers, was attractive and a large attendance could be expected. The Wellcome Trust had provided a grant for £250 towards the expenses of speakers though no contribution had been received from the Royal Society. The Treasurer, Dr M. Tombs, reported that the finances of the Meeting appeared to be in good order.

(ii) Teaching and Careers in Biophysics, January 4th 1972

Professor R.E. Burge has agreed to organise a meeting on the above topic at Queen Elizabeth College, London. A committee had discussed the programme which was to be devoted mainly to the teaching of Biophysics with some contribution in the discussion from participants from industry. The treasurer agreed that the expenses of the meeting should be kept within £750.

(iii) Spring Meeting 17/18th April 1972

The Spring Meeting on "Calorimetry in the Biological Sciences" is being organised by Dr J.M. Creeth and sponsored by L.K.B. Ltd. Of the 13 speakers who had accepted invitations 4 were from overseas. It was hoped that another 4 overseas participants would contribute to the meeting if their local expenses were provided. L.K.B. were contributing £500 towards the expenses. The Committee agreed that registration fees of £1.50 for members and £2.50 for non-members should be charged.

(iv) Joint Meeting with the Molecular Enzymology Group, 4-6 September 1972

Dr Fuller reported that this meeting on Metalloenzymes will be held at Magdalen College, Oxford. The Treasurer expressed his concern on the Commitments of the Society should a financial loss be incurred at the Meeting. The Committee asked that some formula be agreed between the societies sponsoring the meeting to cover a loss (or divide a profit!). Dr D.M. Blow said that the misgivings of the Committee were also shared by the Committee of the Molecular Enzymology Group.

(v) Winter Meeting, December 1972

Dr Fuller saw no difficulties in booking the New Hall at King's College for this Meeting on "Biophysics 1960-1970. A 10 Year Survey".

(vi) Molecular Models in Teaching Biophysics, December 1972

After discussion it was thought that an exhibition of the different types of molecular models and methods for the visual representation of molecular structures would be best held in parallel with the Winter Meeting rather than with the one day meeting on "Teaching and Careers in Biophysics". Dr Fuller was asked to enquire whether the exhibition could be assembled 1 day before the Winter Meeting and to continue for 1 day after the end of the Meeting. In addition to the exhibition a round table discussion was to be held on "The Visual Representation of Macromolecular Structures". Dr Pigram of the Biophysics Department, King's College is willing to be the local organizer and Dr Blow agreed to advise on the form of the exhibition and discussion.

(vii) Spring Meeting, April 1973

Dr Blow reported that arrangements were being made to hold this meeting on "The Genetic Code and Phylogenetics of Proteins" at Trinity College, Cambridge.

71/29 Finance

The Treasurer reported that the audit for 1970/71 was complete and that there was a surplus of the order of £700. This was to be compared with the previous year in which a deficit of £500 was incurred. The introduction of registration fees had considerably strengthened the finances of the Society.

71/30 Administration

The Secretary reported that the transfer of the administration of the Society from the Institute of Biology to The Biochemical Society took place at the end of July 1971. One difficulty encountered was that membership cards sent through the post by the Institute of Biology had not been securely packed and some cards were lost. Dr Tombs reported that the Institute of Biology had agreed to pay £15 for the inconvenience caused.

71/31 Federation of European Biophysical Societies

The Secretary reported on the meeting held during the First European Biophysics Congress at Baden to discuss the formation of a Federation of European Biophysical Societies. Opposition to the formation of such a formal federation at this time was expressed by delegates from France, Italy, The Netherlands, Sweden, The U.S.S.R. and Yugoslavia and from the British Society. Professor Sadron (France) pointed out that some process of evolution was required and that initially some informal organization of a Biophysics Club should be arranged; later if a Federation was required it

could be organized. An observer from IUPAB said that IUPAB was not in favour of a Federation which organized large Congresses similar to those of the International Organization. It was thought that one broad International Congress every three years was sufficient for Biophysics. Several delegates expressed the view that European needs would be best served if Symposia on selected topics were organized in turn by the different European Societies. A point made by a delegate from The Netherlands was that European meetings were of benefit both to biophysicists from countries without a strong tradition in biophysics and to young European biophysicists who were often unable to attend the International Congresses. The fact that 1,000 participants attended the First European Congress supported this.

It was proposed, and carried by a unanimous vote, that the Austrian Biophysics Society should continue a dialogue with the other European Societies on the organisation of Biophysics Meetings in Europe. A second meeting of delegates from European Societies will be arranged in Moscow during the IVth International Congress.

71/32 IVth International Biophysics Congress

Other than the dates, 7 - 14th August 1972, no further information, either on the programme or on travel arrangements etc, had been received.

71/33 Any Other Business

(i) Nominations for British Biophysical Society Committee

It was agreed to hold the 11th Annual General Meeting of the Society on Wednesday 15th December 1971 at the University of Surrey during the Winter Meeting. The Committee would propose that the present officers should continue for another year and would nominate five new candidates to take the places of Drs D.M. Blow, P. Fatt, A.C.T. North, E.G. Richards and Professor P.M.B. Walker who were due to retire from the Committee. A list of names was drawn up and it was left to the Secretary to make appropriate enquiries and to draw up the final list of nominations.

(ii) Change of Rules

As requested by several members of the Society it will be proposed at the 11th Annual General Meeting that Rule 11 of the Society be changed to read:

"No ordinary member of the Committee shall be eligible to serve for more than three consecutive years, a rotation being arranged so that three ordinary members normally retire each year. Nominations to vacancies may be made by the Committee or by not less than three members, for election at the Annual General Meeting."

Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday, 25th January 1972 at the Offices of the Biochemical Society, 7 Warwick Court, High Holborn, London.