

BRITISH BIOPHYSICAL SOCIETY

The 35th Meeting of the Committee was held at 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 25th January 1972 at the offices of the Biochemical Society, 7 Warwick Court, High Holborn, London.

Present

Dr E.M. Bradbury (Secretary)  
Dr J.M. Creeth  
Dr W. Fuller (Meetings Secretary)  
Professor G.A. Gilbert  
Dr J.J.B. Jack  
Dr D. Marr  
Dr J.C. Metcalfe  
Dr A.C.T. North (Chairman)  
Dr R.H. Pain  
Dr M.P. Tombs (Treasurer)  
Dr H.C. Watson

Professor G.A. Gilbert was Chairman for the first item.

72/1 The Secretary proposed that Dr A.C.T. North be co-opted as a member of the Committee. The proposal was accepted. A second proposal that Dr North be elected Chairman of the Committee for 1972 was carried unanimously and Dr North took the Chair.

72/2 The Minutes of the 34th Meeting of the Committee were approved and signed by the Chairman.

72/3 Matters arising from the minutes and not listed separately in the agenda.

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

The content and format of a revised table listing biophysics courses and courses with a substantial biophysics content was discussed. It was decided that the Table should be circulated to all members of the Society for their comments and additions. The Secretary was to check the University Handbook for omissions from the Table.

Administration The Treasurer reported that the difficulties encountered in the loss of the address cards of some members during the transfer from the Institute of Biology to the Biochemical Society had now been largely overcome.

72/4 Report on the Annual General Meeting (University of Surrey, Wednesday, 15 December 1971)

The reports of the Officers of the Society were approved by the Meeting.

The proposal by the Committee that Rule 11 of the Society be changed to

"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."

was approved.

The nominations by the Committee of Officers and new Committee members were accepted.

72/5 Reports from Representatives on Joint Committees

Computer and Instrumentation Group

Dr North reported that a request was made for suitable topics for future meetings of the group. The feasibility of compiling a register of equipment and setting up an advisory service in equipment was also discussed. Members of the Committee thought that such a service would be valuable.

British Joint Committee for Electron Microscopy

A letter has been received from one of our representatives, Dr P.J. Highton requesting that as the Society has two representatives on this Committee each should attend alternate meetings. This was thought to be a reasonable request.

United Kingdom Crystallographic Council

Dr Fuller reported that a meeting was to be organized for 24 November 1977 on 'The Role, Support and Organization of Crystallography during the 1970's' by Professors Kennard and Rogers. Professor M. Perutz had accepted an invitation to speak on "The Pole of Crystallography in Biology".

Following these reports a discussion developed on the function of representatives of the Society on these joint Committees. It was suggested that representatives not sitting on the Committee should provide a report of the meetings which they attend. The Secretary was asked to write to representative

to enquire whether their attendance on the joint committees was serving a useful function.

72/6 Reports on Scientific Meetings

1. The Winter Meeting, December 14-16 1971

The Meetings Secretary reported that the Winter Meeting of the Society on "Separation Methods in Cell and Molecular Biology" organized at the University of Surrey by Dr Eric Reid was attended by 300 participants. It was a successful meeting and attracted many favourable comments. The treasurer reported that although the details of the finances had not been settled there appeared to be no major gain or loss.

2. "The Teaching of Biophysics", Queen Elizabeth College, January 4, 1972

This meeting, organized by Professor R.E. Burge, attracted 70 participants. Members of the Committee who attended the meeting thought it was valuable and that the quality of the talks and discussion was very high. The possibility of a report on the meeting being prepared for publication was discussed. Dr Fuller was asked to approach Professor Burge to see if he would be willing to write a report. Dr Tombs suggested that such a report could be included with the Table on courses in Biophysics.

3. Physical Biochemistry Group

"Interaction of Ions and Small Molecules with Nucleoproteins"

King's College, London, 22nd January 1972

Dr J.M. Creeth reported that the meeting was very interesting and had attracted 34 participants who stayed through the day. A few Committee Members who attended commented that, if possible, Saturday meetings should be avoided in future.

72/7 Future Meetings

1. Spring Meeting, 17/18 April 1972

Dr J.M. Creeth reported that registration for this meeting on "Calorimetry in the Biological Sciences" was going slowly. It was suggested that this was probably due to the early circulation of members with registration forms and that another set of registration forms should be sent out with the next

circulation of notices.

The programme was now complete with 14 main speakers which included 5 from overseas. Time would be allowed for short communications.

2. Joint Meeting with the Molecular Enzymology Group, 4-6 September 1972

Arrangements for this meeting on "Metallo Enzymes" were almost complete. The Royal Society had made a grant of £500 towards the expenses of the meeting. The inclusive cost for registration and accommodation would be £21. For members of the Societies not requiring accommodation the registration fee would be £1.50 inclusive of coffee and tea.

3. Winter Meeting, December 1972, "Biophysics 1960-1970, A Ten Year Survey"

Dr Fuller reported that the New Hall at King's College London with a capacity of 300 had been booked. Lunches could be arranged for 130 and a Conference Dinner for 120. Dr North showed the Committee a provisional programme of topics and speakers. The speakers were from the U.K. and 3 had accepted invitations.

Exhibition of Models

Quoting from a letter from Dr Blow to Dr Fuller,

"In association with this meeting (The Winter Meeting above) there will be an exhibit of methods of presenting three-dimensional molecular structure. The emphasis will be on the different techniques available, and in addition to molecular models we hope to exhibit stereo and cine techniques, computer drawings, artistic representations, holographic techniques etc."

Dr Pigram of King's College is acting as local organiser of the exhibition.

Dr Fuller would arrange to book suitable rooms at King's College.

Spring Meeting, 5-6 April 1973, Trinity College, Cambridge

Dr Fuller reported that Dr Blow, after holding discussions with his colleagues, now had serious reservation on the feasibility of organising a meeting under the title "The Genetic Code and Phylogenetics of Proteins." Dr Blow suggested that an alternative topic "Conformations of Peptide Antibiotics and Hormones" would have wider appeal and that the Molecular Pharmacology group at Cambridge might be persuaded to organise the meeting. Dr Metcalfe said he would discuss this suggestion with his colleagues.

72/8 Finance

The Treasurer reported that the finances of the Winter Meeting 1971 would take some time to clear up. Otherwise the finances of the Society were sound.

72/9 Federation of European Biophysics Societies (71/19, 71/31)

The Secretary spoke briefly on the meeting of delegates held in Baden on 17 September 1971 to discuss the proposals of the Austrian Society for the formation of a Federation of European Societies. This was opposed by the majority of delegates who spoke in favour of a more informal organisation. A second meeting of delegates is to be held during the 4th International Biophysics Congress in Moscow and the policy of this Society should be decided before then. It was decided that the minutes of the Baden meeting should be circulated in time for the next Committee Meeting when the issue would be fully discussed.

72/10 IVth International Biophysics Congress, Moscow 7-14 August 1972 (71/21, 71/32)

The Secretary reported that a block grant of £2,500 had been made by the Royal Society to the British National Committee for Biophysics as a contribution towards the travel expenses only of delegates from this country. A sub-committee comprising Professor Rotblat, Professor Shaw and the Secretary would be meeting to consider applications for travel grants. The grant would be distributed according to the rules of the Royal Society by which only post doctoral applications can be considered and no contributions can be made towards either registration fees or subsistence. A second grant of £500 had been made by the Wellcome Trust to this Society. There are no restrictions on the distribution of this grant and depending on the number of applicants, contributions can be made for registration fees and subsistence.

The appointment of the most suitable travel agent to handle arrangements was left to the Secretary.

72/11 Should the Committee comment on the Rothschild and Lainton Reports?

After discussion it was decided that the Chairman should prepare a statement expressing the misgivings of the Committee concerning the recommendations of

the Rothschild Report. As there was no time for further discussions this statement would be sent directly to the Committee for Scientific Policy.

72/12 Support for Biophysics Research

An informal discussion was held on the procedure by which the Biology Committee of the Science Research Council supported research in Biophysics. All members of the Committee with experience of the Science Research Council expressed themselves well satisfied with the present arrangements. A point made by Dr H.C. Watson was that within some University departments there was misunderstanding of the mechanisms for application and that we should consider sending to our members details of the regulations for application to the Science Research Council.

72/13 Date of next meeting

2.30 p.m., Tuesday, 16 May 1972, at the offices of the Biochemical Society,