

BRITISH BIOPHYSICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the 91st Committee Meeting held on Thursday 4th October 1990 at 1.0 p.m. at Birkbeck College

Present: PMB, MAF, KRF, DWLH, ACTN, HWER, GCKR
Apologies for absence : NB, AC, GM, CN, SEVP, GT

90/08 The minutes of the 90th committee meeting were approved subject to two amendments.
90/05 2) to read under Dec. 1991 'PB suggested the possibility of attaching an EBSA workshop'.
90/06 was changed to the BBS membership could be made available to EBSA members.

90/09 Matters arising

90/02 Vancouver Congress Linda Smith (AFRC, Norwich) had written a report on the IUPAB congress, expressing her thanks for the bursary provided by the BBS. This letter would be included in the next newsletter.

KF

PB reported on the IUPAB assembly and the new members of the council, including ACTN. It seems likely that IUPAB would be changing to a four year cycle, in line with other international unions. The 1993 congress would be in Budapest, 1996 in Amsterdam. PB to include EBSA and IUPAB reports in the next newsletter.

PB

ACTN reported on the congress itself. There was some criticism of the duplication of parallel sessions, which were only held in the mornings, afternoons being reserved for posters. The plenary lectures were generally disappointing, several speakers lacked the discipline needed to address a general audience. There was no opportunity for converting the best posters into short oral presentations. ACTN would feed these comments back to the organising committee.

AN

The general secretary should have written to the Royal Society inviting nominations to various IUPAB commissions. Nothing had been heard about this. The secretary would write to the Royal Society asking to be kept informed.

KF

IRC The Royal Society had written explaining the BBS representation on the IRC. The Royal Society would 'seek suggestions as to his (Prof. Fuller's) successor from such specialised societies as he will have advised previously would be appropriate ... to consult'. They would invite suggestions rather than a single nomination. Since ACTN has been elected to IUPAB council there was no immediate problem. In addition it was agreed to nominate GCKR.

KF

Royal Society Block grants. 93/03.4 Application for block grants for attendance at the 1993 IUPAB congress would be made in much the same way as previously under the BNC. This will henceforth be the responsibility of the appropriate IRC member, about 9-12 months ahead of the congress. This would be made (by Prof. Fuller's successor) in time for the 1 October 1992 deadline.

Questionnaire 90/02, 89/27 HWER had sent out the questionnaire and received about 180 replies to date. A good response so far. The analysis would be presented to the next committee meeting and the AGM, and inserted in the next but one newsletter.

RDS 90/03.2. The proposal for school talks in Biological Sciences had taken the title 'Talking Point'. A circular had been prepared by

the RDS for inclusion in the mailing lists of participating societies, together with a reply paid envelope. It was agreed that the BBS would include this with a newsletter along with a covering explanation. We would, however, prefer all replies to be directed through the BBS enabling us to compile a list of potential speakers in Biophysics.

KF

PB and GCKR had taken no further action in rewriting 'why biophysics?'. It was felt that two types of document should be produced, one aimed at careers advice in schools, the other would be much shorter and would be suited to individual use. Production of this material would be a useful application of the society's funds.

PB

GR

90/10 Honorary Secretary's report

Symposium in honour of Sir David Phillips: Protein Structure and Function 1-3 July 1991. It was agreed to support this meeting by publicising it in the Newsletter. The BBS had also been approached for sponsorship of the meeting. It was felt that this was likely to be an excellent meeting, worthy of sponsorship. DWLH would negotiate a suitable sum up to £1000. We would like this to be spent providing bursaries for UK graduate student, rather than subsidising speakers expenses.

DH

90/11 Honorary Treasurer's report

Present financial position: current account £1900, City of Bristol Bonds, £5400 (recently reinvested for a further 5 years), £8400 national savings.

The Newcastle meeting on Protein Folding had made a large loss £2500, largely as a result of large speakers expenses. Clearly the society can not allow meetings to run at such a loss. This had occurred despite two full budgets being submitted in advance, and a larger than average amount of sponsorship. On inspection the accounts bore little relationship to the budgets. After some discussion it was agreed to ask for a full breakdown of the costs, especially speakers expenses. Roger Paine had written that he could meet some of the shortfall from other sources. The society would be very unhappy to pay more than 50% of the loss.

DH

It was agreed that in future we need to make it clear that meetings are expected to break even. MF and DWLH would prepare or revise guidelines for meeting organisers. In particular speakers should be offered a defined amount rather than given a blank cheque for travel expenses. Organisers should provide a projection of the cost of the meeting before going ahead; this should include a best and worst estimate.

MF

DH

DH It was agreed to transfer the current account to a 'treasurers account', thereby earning interest.

90/12 Honorary Meeting Secretary's report

1) No statement of the accounts for the joint Anglo-French meeting had been received. SEVP would therefore send the balance from this end to DWLH.

2) Future meetings

Dec. 1990 Nucleic Acids Structure, Southampton. Proceeding. Although no firm registrations had been received the level of enquiries was as expected. £500 sponsorship had been received from Applied Biosystems. KRF and SN encouraged to seek further sponsorship from

publishers, LKB and Cruachem.

April 1991. No budget had been received from John Findlay and the list of speakers had still not been agreed. There was considerable concern over the lack of organisation at this stage, especially MF since it would be necessary to publicise the meeting soon. We needed to be convinced as to the viability and content of the meeting before agreeing that it could go ahead. 1st November deadline was set for receiving the necessary details, otherwise it would have to be cancelled.

Dec. 1991 David Blow had agreed to organise the scientific content of the meeting and would send a programme within a few days. The meeting would be held in the Middlesex Hospital Medical School 16-17 Dec., with nearby accommodation in Charlotte Street, 40 rooms booked from 15-18 Dec.

March 1992. Joint Anglo-French meeting - Marseille - Calcium binding proteins, 5-6 March. Jacque Haiech was organising the French end. This would follow immediately after a European colloquium on clinically related matters to do with calcium being held from 1-4 March. The English end would be organised by Barry Levine and Ian Trayer. There was some concern over who would have control of the budget and that it should be a joint meeting, rather than a French meeting with BBS sponsorship.

Dec. 1992. Tony Maxwell and Andy Bates (Leiceseter) had offered to organise a meeting on 'Proteins that influence DNA topology'.

One day meetings. PB still planned to organise a one day meeting on PB video microscopy sometime.

Peptide and Protein NMR 95/05 3. GCKR reported on this meeting of the peptide and protein group of the Biochem. Soc. & Chem Soc. This would be a one day meeting March 26th 1991, in Leicester. There would be one overseas speaker (Peter Wright), the remainder would all be from the U.K. 100-120 people expected. approx. £20 registration, overnight accommodation available. No money was required from the BBS but we would support and publicise the meeting.

90/13 The AGM. Would be held in Southampton during the Nucleic Acid Structure meeting. Wednesday 19th Dec. 1.45 p.m. This would contain the usual reports.

Election of new members: Alan Clark would be retiring from the committee. There was room for 3 new members. Several people were suggested as possible nominees. HWER would contact them to see HR if they were willing to stand.

90/14 AOB. PMB reported on the new EBSA officers (1990-1993). PMB was the new president.

EBSA was considering organising a European Biophysics Congress, The Spanish Biophysical Society had offered to act as host; likely dates were 16-20 Dec. 1991. These dates would clash with our own Christmas meeting, but might be delayed a few days. Several means of proceeding were considered, the most reasonable seemed to be that each national society would organise a half or full day contribution. Concern was again made about the funding of such a joint meeting and the likelihood of finding someone to take on the responsibility at this end.

90/15 Date of the next meeting: Thursday 3rd January 1991, Birkbeck.