

BRITISH BIOPHYSICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the 98th Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 12th January 1993 at 1.00 p.m. at the Biochemical Society, 59 Portland Place.

Present: PMB, GB, MAF, KRF, SEH, WNH, DO, GCKR, PMR, MS, JMT.

The chairman welcomed Bill Hunter and Peter Murray-Rust to the committee. Mike Ferenczi was thanked for his work as meetings secretary over the past 3 years.

It had only recently been possible to contact Dr Tony Rees (Bath) concerning his willingness to stand for the BBS committee. He was willing to stand and it was agreed to coopt him onto the committee.

93/01 Apologies for absence: DWLH, ACTN, SH

Dr Fisher (RSC) was also unable to attend; item 93/03 was therefore taken at the end of the agenda.

93/02 The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

93/04 All matters arising from the previous meeting were dealt with under separate reports.

93/05 Honorary Secretary's Report

i) Careers in Biophysics. A notice asking for information about courses with a Biophysics content had been placed in the October newsletter. Only one reply had been received. The secretary would write to University registrars asking for information about Biophysics courses. These would often be third year options within physics, biochemistry, chemistry or physiology degrees.

ii) Newsletter The present rate for including publishers fliers with the Newsletter was £200. Such sponsorship had recently been received from Nature and Plenum.

iii) IUPAB

a) Due to infrastructural development of Szeged, where the conference secretariat is located the telephone and fax numbers are due to change in mid January 1993. The new numbers are: Phone+(36-63) 433-131 or 432-232/ext. 244, fax: +(36-62) 433-133 or 432-576. These changes will be announced in the January Newsletter.

b) No applications had been received for the BBS bursaries to support research students. This would be readvertised in the January Newsletter, omitting the phrase 'who are not eligible for support from other sources' but asking for details of other funds applied for. These bursaries could meet up to half the cost; the exact amount awarded would be judged according to the need.

c) The Royal Society has allocated a block grant of £10,000 towards attendance at the Budapest meeting. Applications for travel grants to the RS would be considered by GCKR and KRF.

d) Nominations for IUPAB council members. ACTN was eligible for election for a further 3 years. It was agreed to ask the Royal Society to propose him.

e) Although no formal notice had been received it was anticipated that the UK would be entitled to two other delegates at the general assembly. It was agreed that these should be PMB and MS.

f) Agenda for IUPAB general assembly. ACTN had asked that IUPAB consider the

frequency of International meetings, with a view to making them less frequent, i.e. 4 years instead of 3 years. This would avoid the present situation where IUPAB and IUCr meet in the same year and would permit an EBSA congress in the intervening year.

iv) 1996 IUPAB congress, Amsterdam. The Netherlands academy committee on Biophysics had written asking for suggestions for topics deserving special attention during the congress and/or that would be covered in satellite symposia. Suggested topics for attention included: Cell receptors, protein/DNA interaction, glycoproteins and protein saccharide interactions, macromolecular assemblies, protein 3° structure prediction, small angle X-ray diffraction.

Suggestions for UK satellite meetings included molecular modelling and computer simulations and Electron microscopy. Either of these would be best approached in the form of a workshop. KRF would write to enquire about funding for these from IUPAB. These suggestions would be considered further at the next committee meeting.

93/06 Honorary Treasurer's report

i). DWLH had sent a written report. The BBS had a balance of income over expenditure of £4,229 for the last financial year. In the light of our healthy financial situation there was some discussion about spending more money on promoting biophysics and on financing of our own meetings.

ii) The database is being up-dated.

93/07 Honorary Meeting Secretary's report

Peptide Ligands as Protein Analogues. This one day meeting at Mill Hill had been a success with 142 registrants. The finances had allowed a 70% grant to students and post-docs for both registration and travel. It was noted that the Molecular enzymology group had contributed £400 while the BBS had contributed nothing.

Proteins and DNA Topology. The meeting in Leicester had been a success with about 120 registrants. It seemed to be financially sound.

Joint Meeting with BCA - April 1993. This would be publicised in full in the January Newsletter, though no titles were yet available for the talks. The BCA closing date for registration is 14th February.

December 1993 Oligosaccharides Steve Homans had sent a draft budget. The Molecular graphics society would contribute £850 towards the cost of two US speakers. It was felt that £300 travel expenses for US speakers was not sufficient and that full apex fares should be offered. In any event the amount offered needs to be spelled out precisely at the start. It was also felt that the organisers had been too optimistic about the numbers taking accommodation. This had been inflated by £20, any shortfall in numbers would therefore affect the overall budget. It would be better to increase the registration fee. There needed to be some consideration of reduced registration for students and non-members. Sponsorship could be obtained from the Royal Society and the Wellcome Trust.

March 1994 Ion Channels David Ogden and Mark Sansom had contacted the Ion channel group of the Physiological Society, with a view to making this a joint meeting. This was still to be confirmed by the Phys. Soc. committee. Although the Windeyer Building had been booked for 29th- 30th March, but the dates might change according to the timing of the main Phys. Soc. meeting. A provisional programme had been prepared aiming to build bridges between physiology, biophysics

and mutagenesis. A more detailed programme and budget would be presented at the next meeting.

December 1994 Suggested topics included Drug Design (with the RSC?) or biophysical methods of studying membranes and membrane proteins. A decision to be taken at the next meeting.

One day meetings None had been planned. A further notice would be placed in the newsletter, stressing the BBS sponsorship and the possibility of a rapid decision on BBS support.

Student Biochemical Societies GCKR proposed that we offer up to £100 to student biochemical societies to establish British Biophysical Society Lectures. It was agreed to support up to 5 such lectures each year and to write to heads of departments of Physics, Biochemistry and Physiology departments publicising the scheme.

EBSA conferences PMB gave details of two meetings in April on Biophysics of the cytoskeleton and Protein Folding. These were well supported by the ESF and would probably be repeated after two years in a manner similar to Gordon conferences.

EBSA meeting during IUPAB Mark Sansom would be the BBS representative at the EBSA meeting.

93/03 Relations with the RSC.

Dr Fisher was unable to attend the meeting, but had sent a short report. There was concern as to whether a separate group for Biophysical Chemistry within the Faraday Society, would fragment the discipline. The motive for establishing the group was as physical chemists moved into biological research. It was noted that other similar groups already existed, such as the techniques group of the Biochem. Soc. If such group is established (which might happen anyway) then it was essential to keep good relations between the two societies. Reciprocal committee membership would be sensible. We would write to ask if one of our members (GCKR) could attend their steering committee meetings.

93/08 There was no other business

93/09 Date of the next meeting Tuesday 18th May 1993, Biochemical Society.