

British Biophysical Society

Minutes of the 7th meeting of the Steering Committee

The 7th meeting was held at 6 Gray's Inn Square, W.C.1. on Friday, 3rd February, 1961 at 2.15 p.m.

Present: Professor J.A.V. Butler (Chairman)  
Professor D.D. Eley  
Professor A.F. Huxley  
Dr. J.W.S. Pringle  
Professor F.J.W. Roughton  
Dr. P.M.B. Walker (Treasurer)  
Dr. J.C. Kendrew (Secretary)

Apologies for absence were received from Dr. L.H. Gray, Professor R.D. Preston, Professor J.T. Randall and Sir Gordon Sutherland.

1. Correspondence. The Secretary reported that he had written to the Wellcome Foundation asking for a grant of £500 to assist members, and especially younger members, to attend the first International Congress on Biophysics at Stockholm in July and August 1961, the grant to be distributed on the basis of an individual allocation of £35 per head. The action of the Secretary was endorsed, and it was decided that a Sub-Committee consisting of Professor Butler, Dr. Walker and Dr. Kendrew would make recommendations to the Committee as to the allocation of this grant (if obtained). Applicants would be asked to provide a covering letter from the Heads of their Departments, and to certify that they had been unable to obtain money elsewhere.
2. Future Meetings
  - a) General. The Meetings Secretary was authorised to send announcements of all future meetings to Nature, the Physiological Society, the Faraday Society and the Biochemical Society. In general abstracts of papers to be presented would be demanded three weeks in advance of each meeting, with the intention of circulating them not later than ten days before the meeting.
  - b) Meeting for the reading of papers at Birkbeck College, Tuesday 25th April, 1961. The Meetings Secretary reported that Professor Bernal had agreed to provide accommodation for the Society. Only one offer of papers had so far been received, but the Committee felt that it would be possible to obtain a sufficient number if serious efforts were made. It was proposed that the meeting should last three-quarters of a day, beginning at 11 a.m. with a visit to the Department (if this could be arranged) and with a demonstration by members. Contributed papers would be read during the afternoon. No charge would be made for members or guests. The Meetings Secretary was asked to write to Professor Bernal inviting him to be Chairman of the meeting.
  - c) Meeting at Nottingham, 26th July. The detailed arrangements for this meeting were discussed, and the Meetings Secretary was authorised to

make a charge of £3. 6s. 4d. for those occupying a single room for two nights, £2. 16s. 4d. for those sharing a double room for two nights, and an additional 10/- for non-members. The meeting would include a short discussion of the draft rules of the Society and of the proposed International Organisation of Biophysics. It would also include two symposia and a session of contributed papers. An outline of the proposed arrangements is appended to these minutes.

- d) Phosphatide Meeting, to be held jointly with the Biochemical Society, October 1962. It was agreed, on representations from the Biochemical Society, that an informal dinner should if possible be arranged; but it was decided that no subsistence allowance would be paid to speakers. Up to fifty pounds would be paid from Society funds to Dr. Saunders for incidental expenses and to cover the cost of abstracts to be circulated to all members of the Society. It was further agreed that papers could be given at the meeting by non-members if introduced by a member.
- e) Meeting at Saclay, 3rd-4th July 1961. Professor Butler reported on the arrangements for this meeting and stated that it would be a joint meeting with the Societe de Chimie Physique. The Society would ask for abstracts for circulation to all members and would be responsible to paying for these and for circulating them. A charge of 10/- would be made to all those attending this meeting whether members or not, to cover incidental expenses.
- f) Other Meetings. The following provisional programme was proposed:

December 1961 - Meeting at the Royal Institution, London.

April 1962 - Meeting in Edinburgh.

September 1962 - Meeting in Cambridge.

April 1963 - Meeting in Oxford.

Professor Huxley reported that Professor Katz would be glad to arrange a meeting of the Society at University College on some future occasion.

The Secretary was instructed to write to Professor Bragg asking him if he would agree to a meeting of the Society being held at the Royal Institution in December 1961.

3. Mechanism for ratification of rules and election of Committee. It was decided to postpone further consideration of the third draft of the rules of the Society until a further meeting. The following provisional scheme for establishing a constitution and for electing a committee was proposed:

1. The draft rules to be circulated to members before the Nottingham meeting.

2. A short statement about the rules to be made at the Nottingham meeting.
3. The rules to be ratified at the meeting in December 1961.
4. Formal election of the committee to take place at the full meeting following that in December 1961.
4. Draft rule 1. The following new version of this rule was agreed:  
"Graduates who are, or have been engaged in research or teaching connected with biophysics, biophysical chemistry, and related subjects, or other persons whose election the Committee shall consider would be in the interests of the Society, shall be eligible for election as Ordinary Members".
5. Applications for Membership.
  - a) The list of those who had applied for membership of the Society was tabled by the Treasurer and discussed. In one particular case it was agreed that the applicant should be informed that the rules of the Society were not yet ratified and that he would be notified of the decision of the Committee at a later date.
  - b) It was agreed that supplementary lists of those applying for membership would automatically be tabled at each meeting of the Committee, and that these would be appended to the minutes of the meeting.
  - c) An analysis of the membership up to 31st December 1960, prepared by the Treasurer, is appended to these minutes.
6. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would take place at Birkbeck College at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 25th April.

