

## British Biophysical Society

Minutes of the 108th Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 14th May 1996 at 1.00 p.m. at the Biochemical Society, 59 Portland Place, London.

**Present:** P. M. Bayley, R. Cooke, M. A. Ferenczi, L. Fisher, S.E. Harding, E. Hounsell, D.W.L. Hukins, D.J.S. Hulmes, W.N. Hunter, G. G. Kneale, R. Leatherbarrow, , A.C.T. North, A.R. Rees, G.C.K. Roberts, W.A. Thomas, J. Thornton (Chair)

J. Thornton opened the meeting and thanked G. Roberts for chairing the committee meetings for the past three years.

**1. Apologies for absence:** K.R. Fox, J. Molloy, M. Sansom

**2.** A correction to the minutes of the 107th meeting was made at the Hon. Sec's report (9) which should read "Sheena Radford (Leeds) and **Carol Robinson** (Oxford) would be approached about a Mass spec. meeting.

**Minutes of the previous Committee meeting were then accepted.**

### **3. Matters arising**

Relevant points are to be addressed as appropriate during the meeting.

### **4. Contribution to meetings expenses**

JT suggested that BBS contributions to meetings be increased from the current levels of £500 for a main meeting, £200 for a 1 day meeting. The sums of £1000 for main meetings and £300 towards 1 day meetings were put forward and accepted. These funds would now be available for future meetings but not for those meetings already discussed and agreed upon. The level of support could be reviewed at a later date depending on the financial state of the society.

### **5. Secretarial support**

At the last committee meeting it was decided that for a trial period of 1 year secretarial help would be organised and a sum of £1000 was to be used for this purpose. WNH had not been able to organise this and suggested that the appropriate time for implementation would be when the next Hon. Sec. takes over at the end of this year. WNH also pointed out that he had enquired about secretarial rates and been quoted £6 an hour, a substantial reduction on the rate of £10 an hour put forward in previous discussion.

Yet again the pro's and con's of organising and paying for secretarial help were covered. The committee is unanimously in favour of organising secretarial support but the precise mechanism and implementation of said has still to be finalised.

### **Honorary Secretary's Report: Presented by WNH.**

(1) An application to the Royal Society for a block grant to support members to attend the IUPAB congress was unsuccessful although the Royal Society will entertain applications from individuals. Although the availability of funds from the Royal Society was publicised in the latest newsletter it was pointed out that the BBS bursaries were inadvertently omitted. WNH was asked to post messages on bulletin boards. WNH again asked committee members to notify appropriate individuals about these BBS bursaries.

(2) The UK delegation to the IUPAB has been confirmed as Dr R. Leatherbarrow (Chief delegate), Prof. D. Lilley and Dr. E. Hounsell. ACTN provided an update of IUPAB matters and outlined some of the issues to be discussed at the IUPAB general assembly. These included the election of a Secretary General, revision of statutes, the venue of the 2002 congress and current membership fees and subscription rates.

(3) Correspondence from Dr M Cortijo (EBSA President) was circulated. Dr Cortijo informed us that EBSA would be holding a general assembly during the IUPAB congress. He outlined some changes to the present statutes that have been recommended in respect of obtaining charitable status under British law. He requested the member societies to nominate a member of the executive committee and also a delegate to the general assembly. PMB provided further details on the move to obtain charity status in the UK. There is a requirement for 3 UK trustees. GCKR has agreed to be put forward as one. MAF was nominated as treasurer of EBSA. EH has agreed to be the delegate at the general assembly.

(4) Committee Membership: Prof. G. Moore has not yet provided a replacement as the IBDG member but further prompts would be made. The Institute of Physics representative is now DWLH.

#### **Honorary Treasurer's Report: Presented by RL.**

(1) Detailed accounts were presented which showed the BBS to be in a healthy financial state. One query was raised by ARR about a significant amount of capital in a current account. It was pointed out that this was only a temporary state since one of the investment accounts had matured and the money was only in the current account pending the opening of a replacement investment account. The funds have now been transferred out of this current account.

#### **Honorary Meeting Secretary's Report: Presented by SEH.**

(1) "The structural basis for molecular recognition and signalling.", December 19-21, 1996 Bath. ARR presented a detailed report on what was an extremely successful meeting. The organisers, in particular ARR and his secretary were thanked for all of their efforts.

(2) BBS/CCP11 Discussion meeting, "Getting the most out of your sequence." 11th March 1996 at the Wellcome Trust. Another successful meeting and a written report was provided by T. Attwood. There would be no call on BBS funds since this meeting turned out to be self financing.

(3) "4th UK analytical ultracentrifuge users group." Leicester, 25-26th March 1996 Organised by O. Byron. A report from O. Byron was circulated. This meeting looks to have gone very well and the proceedings are to be published in a special issue of the European Biophysics Journal.

(4) "NMR of proteins and their interactions" Organised by GCKR who tabled a report. Leicester 1-2 April 1996. GCKR tabled a report on this successful and popular meeting. There would be no call on BBS funds due to the high attendance and in addition to successful fundraising.

(5) "Membrane structure and function", 18-21 August 1996 Oxford. Joint with the Australian Biophysical Society. A. Watts is organising this. £500 has been put towards this meeting and further details were presented. A query about the lack of a detailed budget was raised and SEH was asked to write emphasising that BBS were not liable for any overspend.

(6) "Current methods to characterise biomolecular interactions." Organised by RL and Dr W. Ward (Zeneca) and to be held at University College on 16th December 1996. A sum of £200 has been awarded. RL presented further details and everything appears in order.

(7) Joint meeting with the Biochemical Society Nucleic Acids group. December 1997 organised by KF and A. Jones (Liverpool). GGK reported for KF to the effect that nothing has yet been finalised with respect to this meeting. GGK also offered to help in the organisation. JT asked that GGK and/or KF report at the next committee meeting with a program and a budget.

(8) "Theoretical and experimental approaches to molecular and cell biophysics". Organised by DJSH and A. Brass, to be held at Hulme Hall, Manchester, 14-17th September 1997. DJSH put forward an outline of topics and speakers. The committee was very positive about the mix of biological and mathematical approaches evident in the session titles. Some

concern was expressed about the number of overseas speakers. DJSH was asked to prepare a budget for the next committee meeting.

(9) Possibilities for further meetings were discussed.

(i) RC had contacted Carol Robinson about organising a mass spec. meeting but she was not keen to take this on. He had followed this up with Walter Blackstock (Stevenage) and it looked possible to hold a joint BBS/British Mass Spec. Association meeting over 2 days during spring 1997. One day could be devoted to applications of mass spec in sequencing, the second day to the use of mass spec. in studying folding. The committee was supportive of this and RC was asked to get W. Blackstock to provide details for the next meeting.

(ii) LF put forward a proposal for a joint RSC-BBS meeting on the physical properties of biopolymers. This could be held over 2 days in sept, 1997 in Bristol. It was felt that this might be more appropriate for spring 1998 and DWJH was asked if he would be involved in exploring this further. SEH would also contribute to putting together some ideas. The possibility of a Faraday Transactions special meeting and journal edition on water was mentioned and this might be joint with BBS. It was pointed out the L. Pearl(London), D. Rice (Sheffield) and G. Taylor (Bath) were in the process of putting together a meeting on aspects of protein thermostability and this could be a joint venture with the RSC.

(iii) MAF put forward the idea of a discussion meeting on modern optical microscopy to be held at NIMR, Mill Hill in June 1997. He was asked to pursue this and present further details at the next meeting.

(iv) PB informed the committee that J. Goodfellow has been asked to be an organiser for a session at the EBSA congress and has agreed. SEH requested further details. Some discussion took place concerning the sum previously awarded by the BBS towards the EBSA meeting. This stands at \$1000.

#### **AOB**

(1) GCKR circulated a summary of and reported further on the Learned Societies Cooperation Group meetings he has attended as the BBS representative. There are specific proposals to form a joint group with a number of other societies to promote molecular and cellular biology in the UK. The committee has decided to participate although remain very cautious about exactly what such an organisation can achieve and also about the level of subscription. BBS would need to provide membership details so that a subscription level could be worked out (action RL). It was decided that if the subscription was up to £500 it would be reasonable to join for 1 year and then review the situation. GCKR would continue to be the BBS representative.

(2) The date and place for the AGM will be finalised at the next committee meeting. It will take place at the meeting titled "Current methods to characterise biomolecular interactions." This is to be held at University College on 16th December 1996.

(3) The date of the next Committee meeting is Tuesday 15th October, at 1.0 p.m. at the Biochemical Society, 59 Portland Place, London.