

Minutes of the 119th Committee Meeting of the British Biophysical Society

19 January 2000, 1.00pm

MINUTES

Present: R Cooke
M Ferenczi
J Helliwell
S Harding
A Lane
J Murray-Rust
A North
G Roberts
M Sansom
A Thomson

Action

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from G Grant, D Hornby, E Hounsell, M Miles, S Radford, M Sternberg, G Taylor, A Watts and A Wilkinson.

2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

3. **Matters Arising**

Item 3: The possibility of having BBS posters included with the physics journal has still to be investigated.

A Thomson

The poster will also be sent to EBSA affiliated societies.

J Murray-Rust/
M Ferenczi

Details of the Irish Lectures still need to be resolved.

G Grant/
A Thomson

Len Fischer had been e-mailed thanking him for his service to the BBS. The RSC will now be approached regarding a replacement.

A Thomson

Item 4: Publicity material has been compiled and circulated for careers conferences.

Item 5: Details of what the BBS is paying to other societies are contained in the treasurer's report.

Item 9: John Walker and Tony North had been elected as honorary members at the AGM.

A list of emeritus members appears in the Treasurer's report.

The question of who had previously been elected as honorary member's needs to be clarified.

A North/R Cooke

Special arrangements had been made at the December meeting for registration of emeritus members.

The notes from meeting organisers will be amended to allow for similar provisions in the future.

E Hounsell

The UKLSC URL concerning the RAE statement of criteria for assessment for Biological Sciences had been sent to committee members.

The EPSRC meeting to discuss funding for Biological Projects was well received. A report will be published in the next BBS newsletter.

**S Harding/
J Murray-Rust**

4. **Publicity Officer's Report (presented by Judith Murray-Rust)**

Production of pens and letterheads is awaiting a new URL for the BBS.

The possibility of using the NIMR server to support the BBS web site would be investigated.

**M Ferenczi/
J Murray-Rust**

The next newsletter would contain a request for people to allow their contact details to be published on the BBS web site.

J Murray-Rust

5. **Secretary's Report (presented by Rob Cooke)**

The Royal Society would be approached regarding direct payment of the IUPAB subscriptions.

R Cooke

Nominations for an EBSA prize for a promising young scientist would be requested from the committee. If more than two are suggested, Rob Cooke and Andrew Thomson will decide which to submit.

**R Cooke/
A Thomson**

6. **Treasurer's Report**

A report from Tony Wilkinson was tabled.

The 1998 accounts and the 1999 draft accounts look very healthy.

The possibility of employing a temporary secretary to assist with membership records and details of subscriptions would be investigated.

**A Thomson/
A Wilkinson**

The registered charity number should appear on letterheads and other official documents.

**A Wilkinson/
J Murray-Rust/
R Cooke**

Letters will be sent to organisers of the nucleic acids meeting and ultracentrifugation workshop requesting clarification of the discrepancies appearing in the accounts.

A Wilkinson

In future, bursaries should be paid by the BBS to the meeting organiser and details will appear in the accounts of the meeting. The notes to meetings organisers will be appropriately amended.

**A Wilkinson/
E Hounsell**

It was suggested that the fourteenth emeritus member, whose name was not clearly transcribed in the records, could be H E Huxley.

The nature and value of the payments to the Institute of Physics and the Foundation for Science and Technology will be investigated.

A Thomson/
A Wilkinson

8. **Honorary Meetings Secretary's Report**

A formal report was held over to the next meeting.

Mark Sansom suggested a joint meeting with the MGMS on G-protein coupled receptors in April 2001.

Preparations for the Membranes meeting at Unilever on 19 and 20 April were progressing well. The Unilever contact is now Patrick Warren. A fee structure, beneficial to BBS members was agreed and students would be notified of the possibility of bursaries.

Preparations for the Hydration meeting in September 2000 were progressing well.

The possibility of organising future joint meetings with the Biochemical Society Techniques Group was raised.

It was agreed to offer a £100 poster prize to the Structural Genomics meeting.

Rob Cooke

John Helliwell alerted the committee to an RSC meeting on New Techniques in Structural Biology, to be held on 19 April at UMIST.

Andrew Lane suggested the BBS might wish to be involved with a potential meeting in September 2001 to mark the retirement of Jim Feeney. The discretion of Committee members was requested, as Jim is unaware of this meeting

The committee agreed to the request from David Hornby to support a speaker from the Hans Krebs Centenary meeting in September in exchange for some mutual publicity.

The current lack of a December BBS meeting, and the implications for the BBS AGM, were noted. If nothing could be arranged a possible fall back could be as part of the Atomic Force Microscopy meeting.

A Thomson/
E Hounsell

9. **Report from the IUPAB Congress and General Assembly**

John Helliwell, Louise Johnson and David Moss represented the BBS as delegates to the IUPAB General Assembly.

Israel Pecht was elected as IUPAB president.

The anticipated bid from the United States to host the 2005 congress was not forthcoming. Instead an excellent bid from France was supported.

At the extraordinary general meeting a resolution was passed to change the voting scheme from one vote per delegation to one vote per delegate. This gives more votes to member countries paying high subscription levels.

The Indian hosts were highly praised for their hard work in organising the congress and general assembly.

10. **Future IUPAB and EBSA meetings**

The possible implications of having IUPAB and EBSA meetings in Europe in consecutive years was discussed. The committee felt that the timing of these meetings would not have a seriously negative impact on either.

It was noted that discussions were ongoing between IUPAB and EBSA as to whether any possible conflict could be resolved. The BBS committee agreed they were happy to endorse an EBSA meeting in the UK in either 2006 or 2007, depending on how these discussions evolved.

10. **Future representation of Biological Sciences**

The summary recommendation from the Jamieson report into the representation of Biosciences in the UK was discussed. The Biochemical Society is recommending adoption of option A. The possible negative financial implications of option A were raised.

Gordon Roberts was asked to formulate a question from which the views of BBS members could be ascertained. After circulating to the committee, his question would be posted on the BBS web site and published in the next BBS newsletter. A link would appear on the BBS web site to the UKLSC site for a copy of the Jamieson report.

**G Roberts/
J Murray-Rust**

12. **Any Other Business**

Mike Ferenczi alerted the committee to a meeting at the Karolinska Institute in September 2000 on Protein Electrostatics.

Gordon Roberts circulated a report on post-graduate education compiled by the UKLSC and mentioned that the UKLSC animal sciences group were responding to a Home Office request for an opinion on use of animals in Research.

13. **Date of the next meeting**

The next meeting has been arranged for 16 May 2000.