

BRITISH BIOPHYSICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the 90th Committee Meeting held on Thursday 10th May 1990 at 1.00 p.m. at Birkbeck College

Present: PMB, NB, AC, MAF, KRF, DWLH, HWER, GCKR.

Apologies for absence: ACTN, SEVP, GT

90/01 The minutes of the 89th committee meeting were read and approved.

90/02 Matters arising

IRC The Royal Society had not given any clarification concerning representation from the BBS on the new IRC. At present this did not present a problem because of Prof. Fuller's involvement and the possibility of Prof. North serving on the IUPAB council. The secretary would write again enquiring about our longer term representation.

Vancouver Congress.

Royal Society Travel Funds: A small committee consisting of Prof. Fuller, HWER and Prof. Noble (from the Physiological Society) had agreed the allocation of the travel funds. 23 bursaries had been recommended, totalling £12,500 (£10,000 from the Royal Society and £2,500 from the Physiological Society)

BBS Bursaries: 2 awards have been made

Linda Smith - AFRC, Norwich. £650

Kathryn Phillips - Biophysics, Leeds. £350

Linda Smith had agreed to write a report on the Congress for inclusion in the BBS Newsletter.

Netherlands Academy of Sciences. (89/24) PB felt that it was best not to make any nomination from the BBS for the Amsterdam Foundation for Medicine.

Questionnaire (89/27) HWER produced a sample questionnaire, designed to assess the content of the meetings and the general interests of the membership. It was agreed that a questionnaire should be sent out by HWER. This could include further suggestions by committee members.

90/03 Honorary Secretary's Report.

- 1) The Institute of Biology had sent its proposal for amalgamation with the Biological Council, thereby incorporating the Biological Council within the structure of the IOB. This was to be discussed at AGM of the Biological Council on 15th May.
- 2) The Research Defence Society had written with a proposal for School talks in the Biological Sciences, aimed at encouraging school children towards a career in the Biological Sciences. There was general support for the scheme which could be publicised in a later Newsletter, if necessary.
PB and GCKR (together with ACTN) would coordinate gathering current material with a view to increasing the profile of Biophysics - rewriting 'Why Biophysics?'
- 3) The animals procedure committee had written concerning the confidentiality of information provided by certificate and licence holders. Could this be loosened in particular

instances without exposing those entitled to protection. The committee had no clear view on the matter, but asked to be kept informed about any developments.

- 4) Prof. Fuller had written concerning support funds for the next IUPAB congress in Budapest, 1993. With the demise of the BNCs, relevant societies would assume responsibility for preparing block grants to the Royal Society. It was agreed that the BBS was the proper organisation for taking on this responsibility. The Secretary would write to the Royal Society (and Watson Fuller) asking to be kept informed about procedures closer to the time.

90/04 Honorary Treasurer's Report

- 1) Membership: 8 people had recently resigned for various reasons. The membership database was nearly ready.
- 2) Current account contained about £2,000. The deposit account (containing approx. £50 had been closed). Total investments were about £18,000
- 3) The money had been received from the Biosensors meeting (Prof. Vadgama) and the account had been closed. The treasurer emphasised that accounts for meetings should be completed during the financial year in which the meeting had been held.

90/05 Honorary Meetings Secretary's Report

- 1) Newcastle meeting Although no formal report had been made on the meeting it was understood that about 85 people had attended (mainly BBS members) that the meeting had been a success.
- 2) Future Meetings
Dec. 1990 Nucleic Acid Structure. (K.Fox & S. Neidle). To be held in Southampton, Dec. 18-19 1990. KRF presented a proposed budget and list of speakers. The aim was to organise a low cost meeting, expecting to attract about 60 participants (mainly from the U.K.). Speakers are all from U.K. or Europe. "All in" conference fee would be £70, reduced to £55 for students.
Questions were asked as to whether the budget was too modest and whether certain biophysical techniques (e.g. light scattering) had been covered. KRF and SN to consider these points.

April 1991 Membrane Biophysics - Boddington Hall, University of Leeds organised by Dr. J.D.C. Findlay. A provisional programme and budget was presented. The title should be changes so as to be more specific e.g. Biophysics of Membrane channels and receptors.

Dec. 1991 David Blow had agreed to organise the scientific programme on "Protein Engineering, Structural Predictions and Ligand Interactions" Neera Borkakoti would assist in other aspects of the organisation. Various possible venues in London were considered (including Imperial and UC). PB suggested the possibility of attaching a workshop. A draft programme would be presented at the next meeting.

April 1992. There was still the possibility of another joint Anglo-French meeting which would have to be held in

the Marseille region. Calcium binding proteins is a possible topic.

Ideas for meeting after April 1992 would be considered at the next committee meeting.

- 3) One day meeting. PB to organise a one day meeting on video microscopy sometime in the Autumn at Mill Hill.

The peptide and protein group (Biochemistry & Chemistry) were holding a meeting on Peptide and Protein NMR in April 1991, Leicester. Would we be associated with the meeting? This would have no large financial implications and could be funded as for a one day meeting. Agreed to set aside money nearer the time.

90/06 AOB PB asked if the EBSA membership directory could be made available to members

90/07 Date of the next meeting Thursday 4th October, Birkbeck.