

BRITISH BIOPHYSICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the 95th Committee Meeting held on Thursday 9th January 1992 at 1.00 p.m. at Birkbeck College.

Present: PMB, GB, NB, MF, KRF, SEH, ACTN, DO, GCKR (in the chair), MS, JT.

Apologies for absence: WF, DWLH, SH, GM.

The chairman welcomed Prof. Janet Thornton and Dr. Mark Sansom as new committee members.

Dr. Barry Levine and Dr. Andy Bates were present to report on the Easter and Christmas meetings for 1992, these parts of the agenda were taken first.

92/01 The minutes of the 94th committee meeting were accepted.

92/02 Matters arising

Opportunities and careers in Biophysics (91/17). There had been no further progress. It was intended to use the American Biophysical Society's brochure, inserting a flier relevant to activities in the UK. PMB would contact Henry Rattle to enquire about a circulation list, and would obtain quotes for the number of brochures that would be required. It was suggested that if this was to be circulated widely to schools then funds might be obtained from various educational trusts (Leverhulme, Nuffield, Wellcome) as well as support from industry.

Directory of Members (91/17). The existing membership list supplied by DWLH was in a lengthy format and had not been sent with the Dec. Newsletter. KRF would enquire about the format of the database and how easily this might be modified. A notice would be included in the next Newsletter asking for amendments to the address label together with telephone, Fax, Email etc. which could be added. This would be accompanied by a statement that the full membership list would be circulated in the December Newsletter.

Emeritus/ Honorary members (91/17) Various suggestions were discussed including the possibility of abolishing the title of Emeritus member, but giving retired members free subscription. A decision was deferred to the next meeting so that the rule book could be consulted. A list of proposals for honorary membership would be taken at the next meeting. KRF would circulate committee members with the existing membership list to jog memories of eminent biophysicists.

Royal Society (91/18). Representatives from the RS had been unable to attend the meeting but suggested other dates which proved unsuitable. ACTN asked that the meeting should be before the IUPAB council meeting in mid-February. KRF to arrange dates.

Current Biology Ltd (91/18) had accepted the conditions for including a review of "Macromolecular Structure 1991" in the newsletter and had paid £150 for the inclusion of a flier. ACTN had written a review.

92/03 Honorary Secretary's report

Annual Reviews Inc. Had written concerning a contract between the BBS and annual reviews (signed by S. Neidle in 1986) but never taken up. In this Annual Reviews

would offer any of the Annual Review series to the BBS at 30% discount. We could then offer these to members at a higher rate (say 20-25% discount). Annual Reviews would mail these directly to the members. It was felt that we should take up the offer but check with the Biochem. Soc. (who ran a similar scheme) concerning its success, the discount they offer and the number of different reviews taken.

Institute of Biology. Following the amalgamation of the Institute of Biology with the Biological Council we had been asked to reaffiliate with the IOB. The current subscription was £25 but was likely to rise in the coming years. It was agreed that we should affiliate and also enquire about their facilities and rates for administrative assistance.

92/04 Honorary Treasurer's report. DWLH had apologised for absence; there was no report.

92/05 Honorary Meetings Secretary's report

December 1991 The meeting had been a great success. There were 180 participants, gaining 130 new members as a result of a membership offer with registration. Most people had registered in the last 8 weeks. There would probably be a £3000 surplus which would be used to reimburse part of the cost of post-graduate students attending. We would formally write to David Blow thanking him for the meeting, and also to Roche Products. David Blow would be asked to provide a review of the meeting for the Newsletter.

March 1992 - Marseille (taken at the beginning of the meeting). Barry Levine presented the budget and plans for the joint meeting with the French Biophysical Society. There appeared to be a good selection of speakers most of whom would come from Europe. 100 miniposters had been received to date (15 from UK). 20 industrial concerns had been approached for money, with only one positive reply (ICI pharmaceuticals). The maximum total financial liability would be £5000; it was to be suggested that any shortfall would be shared between the BBS and the FBS in the same proportion as participation in the meeting. In any case it was hoped that the French would be able to raise (CNRS?) money to offset any deficit.

December 1992 - Leicester (taken at the beginning of the meeting) Andy Bates presented a draft budget for the meeting on "Proteins and DNA topology". Speakers had been invited and many had accepted. Accommodation etc. had been booked. It was planned for 100 people, maximum 150. Sponsorship would be sought. A poster had been prepared and would be circulated on the BBS poster mailing list.

Registration would probably be £40 with a reduction for students. The Royal Society would be approached for sponsorship.

Study weekend on Metalloproteins. The situation was very unclear, even the dates keep changing. MF had failed to contact Dr. Hasnain. GM had also written expressing his concern over the need for such a meeting. Much more concrete information was required before we could agree to the meeting going ahead. At this late stage it might be better to suggest an alternative meeting in 1993 or 1994. MF to clarify the situation with Hasnain.

Peptide Ligands as Protein Analogues One day discussion meeting 16 Nov. 1992 to be held at NIMR. The molecular enzymology group of the Biochem. Soc. had contributed £400. It was agreed to increase the BBS contribution to £400. There was some concern over who was sponsoring the meeting- BBS/NIMR/Molecular Enzymology - which needed clarifying. In view of the number of US speakers other sponsorship would be necessary.

Spring 1993 Joint meeting with the Biological Structures Group of the British Crystallographic Association, 29 March - 2 April. The problems with the BCA had been sorted out. DWLH had been dealing with the details of joint sponsorship. The Thursday and Friday would be the joint BBS/BSG part of the meeting, we would be responsible for expenses on the Friday. The scientific programme had yet to be decided - John Squire was in charge. Comparison of crystallography with NMR might only need one day, allowing more space for other structural reports.

December 1993 "Oligosaccharides and Recognition" was suggested. GCKR would contact Steve Homans (Dundee) about the possibility. The location should be London and would also require a local. An alternative topic on Molecular Biology & Electrophysiology was also discussed (MS, DO). To be considered further at the next meeting.

92/06 AGM Since the secretary had been unable to attend the AGM, draft minutes were circulated and amended.

92/07 AOB

PB suggested that we enquire of the Biochem. Soc. and IOB concerning facilities for society and committee purposes. Could they provide organisational/secretarial assistance? Enquiries would be made by the next meeting.

ACTN would be attending the IUPAB council meeting on 20th February.

92/08 Date of the next meeting. Thursday 14th May 1992, venue to be arranged (possibly at the Biochem. Soc.)