

BRITISH BIOPHYSICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the 99th Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 18th May 1993 at 1.00 p.m. at the Biochemical Society, 59 Portland Place.

Present: P.Bayley, G.Bedford, M.Ferenczi, K.Fox, S.Harding, S.Homans, D.Hukins, R.L Leatherbarrow, A.North, W.Hunter, G.Roberts, P.Murray-Rust, A.Rees, J.Thornton.
In attendance for item 93/12: Dr. Len Fisher (Faraday Division of the RSC)

93/10 **Apologies for absence:** G.Moore, D.Ogden, M.Sansom

93/11 The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

93/12 **Relations with the RSC and the Faraday Society**

Dr. Len Fisher from the Faraday Division of the Royal Society of Chemistry explained the reasoning behind their proposal to establish a Biophysical Chemistry subgroup. The background was that LF had joined the editorial board of Faraday Transactions (concerned with physical chemistry and chemical physics) with a responsibility for increasing the interest in biophysical chemistry. A special biophysical chemistry issue has been prepared for next month. There has been a large response to the request for papers, as a result it was suggested that they form a biophysical chemistry subgroup within the Faraday Division. He felt that most members of this subgroup would come from the within the Faraday Division. This would increase the profile of biophysics. In order formally to establish a subgroup sufficient signatures needed to be collected and the proposal submitted to the Faraday committee. To this end a small meeting on Molecular Forces and Biological Interaction had been organised for September 1993. He expected the subgroup to be formally constituted in January 1994.

Several concerns about this proposal were expressed

- i) The Faraday division (4000 members) and the RSC are much larger than the BBS. It was feared that the new subgroup would have access to large resources with which the BBS could not compete. LF pointed out that each of the subgroups were fully autonomous and were not bailed out by the Faraday Division or the RSC. He imagined that the subgroup would have about 150 members.
- ii) There would be significant overlap with other groups, such as the Techniques group of the Biochemical Society and the Biological Methods group of the RSC.
- iii) Overlap of membership. LF claimed that most of the members of the Faraday Society did not belong to the BBS.
- iv) Organisation of meetings. It was felt that there were already sufficient scientific meetings, and that additional meetings would lead to further fragmentation. These would also compete for funding. On average subgroups hold 0.7 meetings per year.

It seemed that the formation of this subgroup was certain to go ahead, and we should ensure maximum cooperation with the BBS. It was therefore proposed that:

- 1) There should be reciprocal committee membership. LF would be coopted onto the BBS committee as representative of the biophysical subgroup, for 1 year in the first instance. GCKR would attend the committee meetings of the biophysics subgroup. (Next meeting to be arranged in September 1993).
- 2) A joint meeting should be planned for the first available slot (Easter 1995).

There was further discussion of whether the new subgroup should be formally associated with the BBS with members belonging to both societies. This would be analogous to the position of the Techniques group of the Biochemical Society. This possibility would be explored at a future meeting.

93/13 All matters arising from the previous meeting were dealt with under separate reports.

93/14 Honorary Secretary's Report

- i) *Institute of Biology*. Our fees for affiliation to the IOB had been set at those for a small society" at £220. This might rise significantly in future years. RL had attended and meeting of societies affiliated to the IOB at which other societies had expressed concern about the level of the affiliation fee. This was now under review. Our affiliation allows us to use the IOB facilities and administrative services (both at a price). It was felt that, although we did not use these at present, they could become useful in the future and that, for the present, we should remain affiliated to the IOB, but review the situation next year.
- ii) *BBS Bursaries for student attendance at the IUPAB meeting*. One application had been received, and a bursary awarded. The candidate had since withdrawn, having received funding from IUPAB itself.
- iii) *Student Biochemical Societies*. (93/07) KRF would place a notice in the next Newsletter advertising support of up to £100 to relevant student societies for British Biophysical Society Lectures.

93/15 IUPAB General Assembly

- i) *UK delegates to the IUPAB General Assembly*: MS and PMB were confirmed as UK delegates. KRF would notify the Royal Society
- ii) ACTN had been nominated as Secretary General of IUPAB.

93/16 Honorary Treasurer's report

- i) DWLH reported that the BBS had £7800 in the current account and proposed transferring £2000 to the National Savings account
- ii) The joint meeting with the BCA had incurred a loss of £1400. This unfortunate loss occurred despite it well funded meeting which appeared to have sufficient money in hand. The loss had occurred because of the excessive expenses of a few speakers. DWLH stressed that speakers' expenses should be negotiated at the time of invitation and that the instruction to meeting organisers should be modified to emphasize this point. There was a question of whether the loss would be divided between the BCA and the BBS. It was pointed out that the BCA had already put £800 into the meeting. DWLH would write to the BCA informing them of the loss.
- iii) The database was complete. This compilation had revealed that about 200 members were currently not paying subscriptions! This occurred partly because of the policy of recruiting members via reduced registration fees at meeting. It was agreed that in future reduced registration fess would be available for those joining the BBS and filling in a bankers order form.
- iv) DWLH and KRF notified the committee that they intended to stand down as treasurer and secretary at the next AGM.

93/17 Honorary Meeting Secretary's report

- i) *April 1993* Joint meeting with the BCA had made a loss of £1400. The meeting had been a scientific success. SEH would write thanking Mark Carr for organising the meeting.

KRF would obtain a report for inclusion in the next Newsletter.

- ii) *July 1993* Stephen Neidle had proposed a one day discussion meeting on "40 Years of DNA Structure" to be held in London during July, to be centred around the visit of Prof. Helen Berman. He had asked for £500-£600 for the BBS, which had been informally promised in March. No further details had since been received. SN was away until the beginning of June. KRF would try to contact SN to obtain information before the next newsletter as a condition of going ahead with BBS support. GCKR would contact Julia Goodfellow who was also thought to be involved in the organisation. In view of the cancellation of the Christmas meeting (see iii. below) they might be encouraged to hold a larger meeting later in the year, which would be given greater BBS support.
- iii) *December 1993* Oligosaccharides, had been cancelled due to a clash with a similar Biochem. Soc. meeting. This would now be held in December 1994.
- iv) *January 1994* MF presented a proposal for a one day meeting on "Biological Interactions and Processes in the Crystal Lattice" to be held at NIMR, 5th January 1994. This would be organised by Guy Dodson and David Trentham. This would precede the Daresbury meeting on 6/7 Jan. The BBS would contribute up to £500.
- v) *April 1994*. Structure and Function of Ion Channels. Would now be held 14-15 April 1994, in Liverpool (David Ogden, Mark Sansom). This would be joint with the Ion channel special interest group of the Physiological Society and would follow the Easter meeting of the Phys. Soc. A provisional programme was presented. A budget would be required for the next committee meeting.
- vi) *December 1994* Oligosaccharides (Steve Homans, Liz Hounsell) Middlesex Hospital, postponed from 1993.
- vii) *Easter 1995* Joint meeting with the Faraday Society Biophysical chemistry subgroup.
- viii) *Topics for future meetings*. Suggestions were "drug design" and "biophysical methods for studying membranes and membrane proteins".

93/18 **Any other business**

- i) GCKR had received an enquiry from Tony Watts about the possibility of holding a joint meeting with the Australian Biophysical Society, in Australia. GCKR would obtain a contact name with the ABS.
- ii) PMB confirmed that MS would be the UK delegate at the EBSA congress to be held during the Budapest meeting. Possible items to be considered might be the organisation of a European Biophysical meeting and the formation of a European Biophysical Society.

93/19 **Date of the next meeting** Thursday 30th September 1993, Biochemical Society.