

Minutes of the 2004 Annual General Meeting of the Australian Society for Biophysics Inc.

The 2004 Annual General meeting of the Australian Society for Biophysics Inc. was held at the Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle at 5.30 p.m. on Friday 1st October.

The meeting was opened by the President Peter Barry. Twenty nine members were present (signed in minute book)

Apologies were received from Frances Separovic, Peter Gage, Joe Kourie, David Keizer, Louise Brown, Cris Dos Remedios and Paul Smith

Minutes of 2003 Annual General Meeting were confirmed on the motion of Hans Coster, seconded Adelle Coster.

Business arising from the minutes

IUPAB proposal for e-journal. In the absence of Cris Dos Remedios, The President reported that this appeared to be dead in the water. The Secretary commented that major changes were looming in the entire scientific publication area with many of the high-impact journals moving to 95% electronic publication, with a pay per view business model for non-subscribers.

Fee increases. It was decided to hold over discussion until the Treasurer's report.

President's Address

The President delivered the following address

“First of all, I would like to thank Boris Martinac for all the work he has done in putting together an absolutely superb conference. In addition to the excellent scientific program, the level and detail of organisation were absolutely outstanding from very early stages. Thanks should also go to Boris' team of able helpers, especially Livia Hool and Jackie Wilce.

I would also like to thank Adelle Coster for the excellent job she has done as ASB Treasurer during this last year, having taken over from Frances Separovic, who herself had done a major job in bringing the accounts and membership roll into good shape. Adelle has now organised more direct conference registrations, even internet banking with two signatures with our bank accounts in Sydney and Melbourne, almost a first for the Commonwealth Bank. This of course has been in addition to the outstanding job she is doing with our website - in both upgrading it and keeping it up-to-date. Also, please consider submitting any interesting and colourful images from your own work that could be included on the ASB website and send these to Adelle.

In addition, I would like to thank Hans Coster; Leann Tilley; Ray Norton and Alex Hope who comprise the Bob Robertson Medal Award Committee, along with Cyril Curtain as the non-voting secretary. Also I would like to thank Hans Coster; Leann Tilley; Ray Norton and Adelle Coster, who comprise the Young Biophysicist Award Committee, again along with Cyril Curtain as the non-voting secretary. In addition, I would like to thank Derek Laver and Mary Beilby, who assessed the Student Awards. I would like to express my congratulations to Peter Gage on being awarded the Bob Robertson Medal and the other awardees, who will be announced tomorrow (*Note added later: the awardees were Dr Matthew Perugini, who was later awarded the Young Biophysicist Award, and Miss Thom Nguyen, Mr Geoffrey Kwai-Wai Kong and Miss Megan O'Mara who later received the student presentation awards*).

On other matters, this year the Society has sponsored two workshops:

(1) The first Workshop on Membrane Protein Structure Determination was held on Feb. 6th, 2004, at the Walter and Eliza Hall in Melbourne and was organised Ray Norton, Mibel Aguilar, Michael Parker and Frances Separovic. It included 3 overseas speakers and was attended by about 100 people and was very successful.

(2) The second one, Fluoro 2004, was held at the Marine Science Centre in the University of New England's Coff's Harbour Campus last week from Sun. 19th – Thurs. 23rd, Sept. It was organised by Pierre Moens, together with Brett Hambly and Cris dos Remedios. As we have heard about 65? people attended it and it was also very successful.

In addition, there were two Computational Biology Workshops in June at the University of Western Australia organised by Dr Jackie Wilce from here.

Australian Academy of Science and National Committee for Biomedical Sciences

This is a reminder that the [ASB](#) has one representative on the [National Committee for the Biomedical Sciences, NCBMS](#), (currently me, period of office 2003-2005) and the [Chair](#) of the Committee is [Professor Philip Kuchel](#), also an ASB member and a former ASB President. The Committee met physically in Canberra in 2003, and communicated by email in 2004. With the new arrangement, the Academy is still directly paying our subscription to IUPAB. However, in spite of very considerable lobbying, the Academy no longer helps to cover part of the cost of travel of IUPAB exec and council members to IUPAB exec and council meetings between congresses. Nor does it any longer provide seed grants for workshops.

ASB 2005 meeting will be in Canberra in combination with the AuPS. Dr Paul Smith will be the local secretary, with help from Angela Dulhunty and others. Dates are still being discussed. At present it seems most likely to be in late September, to give people time to recover from IUPS in San Diego (March 31 – April 5) and IUPAB (Aug. 27 – Sep. 1).

ASB 2006, probably should be in Sydney or Brisbane.

35th IUPS 2005 Congress – “From Genomes to Functions” The Congress will be held in San Diego, CA., March 31-April 5, 2005. N.B. deadline for abstract submission will be: Wed Nov 3, 2004.

15th IUPAB 2005 Congress . The next International Biophysics Congress will be held in Montpellier, France, on Aug. 27 to Sept. 1, 2005 as a IUPAB, 15th Congress) and the European Biophysical Societies' Association (EBSA, 5th Congress). Note, the deadline for Abstract Submission will be Apr. 15th, 2005. Currently, Cris dos Remedios is one of the two Vice Presidents of IUPAB and Frances Separovic is a Council member.

The IUPAB 2008 Congress will be in Long Beach, near Los Angeles, California.

Bids for hosting IUPAB 2011 and 2014 are open and the question was whether ASB should put in a bid. Our feeling was that 2011 was possibly a bit soon as a tentative bid would need to be put in next year, but that this is a huge undertaking but that it may be worth thinking ahead for 2014.

I would also like to thank the rest of the Exec for their support while I have been President over the last two years, particularly Ray Norton, Cyril Curtain and Boris Martinac, for all their excellent advice and help. It has been a real pleasure working with each of you. I therefore wish Boris Martinac all the best for his next two years as President.”

This report was received on the motion of Ray Norton and David Saint.

Treasurer's Report

Detailed report is appended to these minutes[‡]. Briefly, the Society's finances are in a healthy condition. There was a \$1400 surplus on the 2003 Adelaide meeting. Membership stands at 142, with 54 renewals and 22 new members. However the Society has lost contact with 24 members. Commenting on methods of payment, the Treasurer reported that there was good response to the to the introduction of bank transfers, credit cards were popular, but we lacked a secure system for electronic processing and cheques were unpopular. Consideration of fee increases had been put on notice at the Adelaide meeting. It is suggested that full membership be raised from \$35 to \$40 p.a. with a 5 year subscription available for either \$180, or \$190. After come discussion this was fixed at \$180. Concomitantly, the student and retired fee should be raised from \$15 to \$20, with a possible three year option to be decided by the committee.

The report was adopted on the motion of Ray Norton and Boris Martinac.

[‡] The treasurer's report is not available in the online minutes. For a copy please contact the treasurer@biophysics.org.au

Election of Office Bearers

The following members of the executive and council for 2004-5 were elected

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The newly elected President, Boris Martinac, then took the chair.

General business

No notices of motion had been received to some time was given to general discussion. The question of a Student Representative, first raised at the 2003 meeting was aired. It was agreed that such a position would be most appropriately associated with the organising committee for each conference to coordinate student activities.

IUPAB in Australia. The Secretary commented that he had been contacted by both the Brisbane and Cairns Convention Centres concerning this event and wondered where they got their information from. The President promised to bring back information for a proposed 2014 bid from the Montpellier meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 6.10 p.m.