

2011 Australian Society for Biophysics

Annual Conference General Meeting, December 5th 2011

Main Theatre, McKillop Building, University of Wollongong

Minutes:

Meeting Opened 12.29pm

Chair J. Vandenberg

Minutes P. Smith

26 Members in attendance,

5 apologies received.

Minutes of the 2011 AGM, VCCRI Sydney .

Minutes were received by members.

Move to accept the minutes B. Hambley seconded A. Coster.

Business arising: J Vandenberg explained the reasoning for holding the ASB AGM before the start of December to the meeting.

ASB Financial Report 2010 – 2011 officially accepted by the ASB Meeting quorum

Moved F. Separovic Seconded B. Hambley Carried by floor

Presidents Report:

Discussed recent history and future of ASB Annual Conferences. Listed Years, locations, organisation

2012 AuPS / ASB / NZPS at Uni of NSW December 02 to 05.

2013 ASB Organised – preparation for 2014 IUPAB Meeting. To be held in Melbourne, Organised by Protein Groups and Synchrotron Organisations. This was decided at previous AGMS as Beijing 2011 had strong Protein Structure input.

Discussed relationship between ASB and Asian Biophysics Community. For IUPAB success need the Asian Biophysics groups intimately involved. Discussed one relationship, Japanese Biophysics Society's complimentary attendance rights with ASB at meetings.

Discussion – B Martinac need renewal of this agreement,

Proposed to have similar agreements with other Asian Biophysics Societies

Encourage attendance for IUPAB 2014.

B Martinac will negotiate as part of the ABA Council.

FASTS – now known as STA – Science and Technology Australia

Discussed membership drive – encouragement of Students and Post Docs.

Discussed Communications with the Society Members – short communications as news letters. Called for assistance via volunteer input.

Discussed the Robertson Prize and Life Membership Awards for the year 2011.

Financial Report:

Discussed membership constant number over the year but were not the same people as continuing members. Encouraged the promotion to lapsed members for rejoining as well as the continual input of new members.

Input - B Martinac questioned the actual membership number in the report, recorded as 158 members, so fixed from the report.

Discussed Profit / Loss over prior years to 30-6-2011

Profit / loss on year 2009 / 2010 recorded as \$6000 loss due to effect of Joint meetings usually resulting as loss for the ASB and Prizes and Travel awards / arrangements for selected speakers not costed in the meeting accounts presented initially to ASB.

Promoted the Society's position of Student Travel Awards for many different conferences with relevance to ASB interests.

Input – F Separovic reported that a Joint Conference in Split Croatia had returned monies to the ASB.

Discussed IUPAB position with some finances held with the PCO gaining interest and used as a backup.

Discussed Financial position at the time of the ACGM with positions in previous years, fluctuations often due to Conference timings and financial positions for the ASB dependent on reporting stages of meetings.

Input – R Clarke encouraged the Student Travel Awards

F Separovic encouraged a Poster Prize other than the Student Travel Awards

A Coster Travel Award level dependent on Student budget – was available for all meetings associated with ASB

Move to accept Financial statement J Gehman, Seconded P Moens carried by floor.

ASB 2013

Discussion of location Melbourne and input organisations RMIT, Monash University and the Synchrotron.

Input – M Gee suggested a Day trip to the Synchrotron for the ASB

F Separovic and C dos Remedios both discussed the isolated location of Monash University

J Vandenberg volunteered collaboration with F Separovic over organisation.

IUPAB 2014 Report: B Hambley

Discussed dates for the Conference will be likely Aug 10 to 14 2014

Discussed likely delegate numbers to be between 1000 and 2000

Discussed history of the bid and the organisation for the conference so far, including PCO selection.

Discussed report to the IUPAB 2011 Beijing on current planning state.

Discussed future planning – asked for ASB input for Topics and speakers with up to 3 Nobel Speakers supported. Discussions for invitation should occur through 2012 with suggestions to J Vandenberg and B Hambley

Planning schedule for 2013 – Advertising the meeting at other conferences

B Hambley to supply Brochures and presentation slide show for support.

Discussed program development and for Volunteers to assist in Development

Program development headed by G king and J Vandenberg

Website development headed by P Moens

International Liaison headed by F Separovic

Required seminar and Social Program organisers.

Discussed location in Brisbane

Input - A Mark discussed timing of winter – whether swimming would be available.

C dos Remedios discussed reports from Beijing 2011 meeting Numbers from 4 months prior being ~ 1/3 of the final actual Conference numbers (~800 to 900 vs 2400 at meeting)

Discussed student arrangement, IUPAB refunded student registrations

Beijing was not a great financial success with IUPAB \$35000 used

Lessons learned – Hope for good weather and good venue

Satellite organisation needs to be in good Tourist spots where location advantages the meeting and leads into the IUPAB Congress

Need productive effort through 2012 for sponsors.

Input – A Mark ask for numbers predicted for break even, B Hambley gave an estimate of 900 delegates

C dos Remedios suggested to keep student costs low – use students as assistants through the Congress. Could use low registration for Volunteers within ASB.

FASTS report.

P Smith attended FASTS AGM – FASTS changed name to STA – Science and Technology Australia.

Discussed more Science Meets ... organisation

Science Meets Parliament – September

Science Meets Business – new to discuss interaction between Australian Science and how it can benefit Australian Business held in February

Discusses Financial Position and funding sources, likely Government reduction and to be Competitively funded across such organisations.

Discussed campaigns –

Respect of Science

Ranking of Journal ERA's and influence on Science

Syllabus development

Discussed the Science Meets Business, low level of Political input so less influence on Political system. Discussed Science input to Australian Business and Society and methods of fostering Economic Development.

Discussed the Role of Chief Scientists and their role in fostering the role of Interaction between Politics, business and the Science community.

Executive and ASB Positions

No nominations were forthcoming and all Delegates agreed to continue with their positions. See ASB website for Executive , State Representative and Co-Opted positions (Biophysics.org.au).

Business for which notice has been given.

Fluoro Workshop 2012 organisers asked for assistance from ASB.

Discussed support role and level of assistance for Student Awards.

Asked to run Financial through ASB.

All agreed to by floor of the meeting.

Other Business

Constitutional Matters.

Discussed a clause in the Constitution relating to the eligibility for one ASB member to be elected to the position of President on more than one occasion.

Clarification of wording is needed as Constitutional crisis may arise if future positions and changes are challenged due to current Constitution.

A notice was to be circulated to Membership concerning rewording of Constitution..

Google Groups – Online discussion groups and information dissemination pathway

New ASB Members invited to Join ASB groups.

Discussion of “Forums” – input of Spam - need to maintain Biophysical questions and topic consistency – suggested Moderator input.

Executive Forum – Executive can post and all members receive notifications

Open Discussion call for Moderator(s) on volunteer basis

F Separovic thanked Executive for role through year

P Smith congratulated F Separovic for Awards earned through 2012.

Meeting closed 1.16pm