

Minutes of the Australian Society for Biophysics General Meeting held in Matthews C Lecture Theatre, The University of New South Wales, Kensington, Tuesday the 4th December 2012

Meeting opened at 12:18

Chair: J. Vandenberg

Minutes: A. Battle

Apologies: Hans Coster

Attendance: Megan O'Mara, Tamsyn Hilder, Jamie Vandenberg, Ben Corry, Michael Thomas, Evelyne Deplazes, Glenn King, Pierre Moens, Peter Barry, Adam Mechler, Ray Norton, Boris Martinac, Haibo Yu, Brett Cromer, Alan Mark, Adelle Coster, Frances Separovic, Ron Clarke, Louise Brown, Andrew Battle, Cyril Curtain, Marc-Antoine Sant, Adam Gehman

Minutes of 2011 AGM.

No business arising.

Move to accept Minutes A. Coster, Seconded B. Corry

A. Coster added that A. Battle sitting in for P. Smith as secretary.

J. Vandenberg: † AGM held at Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute on 30th November to discuss financial statement (8 in attendance).

Financial Statement: A. Coster

Financial statements as of 30th June 2012

Member update: increasing trend continuing, 198 full members (2011). Encouragement of lapsed members to rejoin the society- no need for nomination nor penalty to rejoin

Discussed the ASB 2011 joint meeting in Wollongong - profitable to ASB.

Discussed the Fluorescence workshop held by Pierre Moens- also profitable. One transaction still outstanding.

Pierre commended for a great workshop.

Membrane transporters workshop to be held 6th December 2012. Transactions are positive; this workshop also making a profit.

B. Martinac inquired about travel awards for PhD students in particular and suggested the society encourage such awards for students to attend ASB conferences.

No one has applied for such an award to attend the AuPS/ASB meeting at UNSW 2012. A. Coster noted many students registered and paid for by supervisors. Few self-paid.

P. Moens thanked Adele for overseeing the finances for the Fluoro Workshop.

Discussed matters in the balance sheet: GST included this year due to requirement of organising committee of IUPAB 2014 who pays GST.

Accept financial report. Moved B. Martinac. Seconded G. King.

President's Report.

Function of society: J. Vandenberg thanked A. Coster for setting up Google Groups for the Biophysics News, which is well utilised. Called for re-establishment of a formal newsletter to be discussed with incoming secretary.

Forum effective for publishing awards - suggestion to let the executive know and publish these awards, including successful grants obtained by society members, given the shift in focus toward more translational research and away from fundamental research.

Encouraged members to write to their local Federal MP to highlight the need for continued basic fundamental science funding - minimum 50 letters from different people are needed before the campaign is noticed.

Meetings: Adelaide 2010 - Joint AuPS, Wollongong 2011 - Joint with RACI Physical Chemistry division. The latter meeting was in particular useful, increasing the membership base of ASB; thanks were expressed to R. Clarke who was the major instigator of this meeting. Suggestion made for another joint meeting with them in a few years time, and to encourage workshops with various groups, due to previous successes.

IUPAB: instead of satellite meetings, hold workshops (1-1.5 days) and encourage that every possible subdivision of Biophysics is represented at IUPAB, including "big name" speakers. Other society members with overlap/interest in Biophysics are strongly encouraged to attend.

G. King raised that the Society of Clinical Experimental Pharmacology and Therapeutics is to be held at the same time and requested this does not happen again.

Awards: Robertson Award - last awarded to B. Martinac in 2011. Award is by nomination, encourage people who are suitable to nominate for the prize so as not to lapse too much.

McAulay-Hope prize - inaugural winner 2010, R. Clarke, no nominations this year.

Young Investigator Award - Several applicants this year.

A. Coster suggested a new award for mid-career researchers, who would give an invited lecture at an ASB conference.

R. Norton asked whether the bar was set too high for the McAulay-Hope prize. The general consensus was to advertise this award more widely.

J. Vandenberg expressed thanks to the other members of the executive for help during his term as president including P. Smith (Secretary 2004-2012). Particular thanks were expressed to A. Coster as Treasurer for overseeing an increase in member numbers with the ASB going from strength to strength. This was met by general acclaim from the floor.

IUPAB - B. Hambly, conference chair, prepared a presentation on the IUPAB that was delivered by J. Vandenberg and will be sent to all members.

A minimum of 900 delegates are the break even point for conference.

7 major themes in the conference; ASB member identified to be nominally in charge of each those themes. Will include senior members from international bodies, a wide range of speakers from around the world, and younger speakers.

Have 4-5 Plenary lecturers.

Symposia sessions: chair to be a senior researcher, and will subsidise up-and-coming researchers to present at IUPAB. Members of ASB to send conference executive the name and brief Bio of person they consider appropriate to present at IUPAB.

Conference Advertising - suggestion for ASB members to place conference details at end of a presentation and in email signature to advertise IUPAB. A further suggestion was for Society members to advertise IUPAB when at other meetings through flyers, etc.

Invitation has been given to ASB to send representatives to international biophysics society meetings.

P. Moens and C. dos Remedios are the committee chairs of sponsors and exhibitors; contact them regarding suggestions. Encourage departments, institutes to sponsor a speaker at the conference or workshop sessions.

IUPAB will be providing travel scholarships for students from developing countries to attend.

Budget - Mike Pickford from ASN Events is the PCO organising the conference and the website is now active. Brisbane Marketing also providing substantial support.

September 2012 - meeting IUPAB council. Registration ~\$695 full, ~\$395 student, late registration higher.

Potential international arrivals at Gold Coast airport then on to Brisbane. Local students to assist, and be given substantial registration discounts. However, they should be able to attend sessions also.

Satellites/symposiums can be held at/near attractive venues around Brisbane city.

Marketing Brisbane is already involved but for full benefit, 1500 guests are required.

A. Mark suggested the conference dinner be held the evening after the sightseeing afternoon; consensus Wednesday the better night.

Partner organisations to sponsor session, or organise a workshop; e.g. Australian Institute of Physics, CSIRO, centres of excellence.

J. Vandenberg mentioned that a cardiovascular and genetics conference is to be held at the same time and place as IUPAB, so potential for overlap with them

Satellite meetings and workshops - General discussion on the pros and cons of satellite meetings, including number of meetings and time of meetings (during or outside of the main IUPAB meeting); danger of too many, potentially resulting in a fragmented meeting; possibly incorporate these into the main meeting.

T. Hilder, workshop for students/ECR only; Gordon Conference example: postdocs chair session, but students only present. Was met with agreement.

M. O'Mara volunteered to act as organiser of a membrane transporters symposium.

(Science Technology Australia) STA - A. Dulhunty. Email forwarded to ASB members by J. Vandenberg. Members encouraged to read this email. A document is being prepared for 2013 federal elections to circulate to parliamentary members highlighting the importance of science and maths in Australia. CEO of STA has access to politicians - encourage ASB members to talk to STA, who will directly talk to politicians/political advisors.

Ian Chubb - job to make government aware of science. Wishes to formulate priorities which would appeal to the public. ASB members to monitor progress.

Drop-off in PhD students. Documents being prepared to make government aware of the advantages of employing PhDs.

Legal Matters - C. Curtain discussed changes in the laws of Volunteering Victoria; the rules have changed substantially and suggested for the ASB to compare the old and new model to identify the differences between the two. Raised concerns about the direct liability arising and the possibility of liability insurance. Suggestion to obtain professional advice. J. Vandenberg suggested a sub-committee be set up to investigate these issue, consisting of the ASB secretary, J. Vandenberg and F. Separovic.

Election of Officials:

Jamie Vandenberg outgoing, Frances Separovic to take over as president. New Vice-President, Secretary and State Representative for ACT required.

Frances Separovic nominated Pierre Moens, seconded Adelle Coster. Accepted by Pierre Moens who was congratulated by the floor.

Adelle Coster nominated Andrew Battle as secretary, seconded Boris Martinac. Accepted by Andrew Battle. Floor congratulated new secretary.

ACT State representative. Frances Separovic nominated Ben Corry, Seconded Andrew Battle, Accepted by Ben Corry.

ASB Banking Authorities:

Andrew Battle, Adelle Coster, and Frances Separovic to be elected signatories for banking transactions of the ASB.

Any two of the authorised signatories must operate jointly on the account.

ASB2013 - RMIT- Dates, end Nov-Dec suggested. Recommended society members from Asian Biophysical societies be invited to attend ASB2013.

P. Barry - no ASB meeting in 2014

B. Martinac and R. Norton are our representatives for Korean Biophysics conference. Suggestion for ASB members/students to attend and present at Korean meeting.

Life Membership of C. Curtain. Formal certificate presented to C. Curtain by J. Vandenberg which was met by general acclaim from the floor.

F. Separovic formally thanked J. Vandenberg for his service as President of the ASB, which was met by general acclaim from the floor.

Meeting closed 13:20