

**Minutes of Australian Society for Biophysics General Meeting held in M1, Brisbane Exhibition Centre, South Bank, Brisbane on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2014**

Meeting opened at 18:15

**Chair:** F. Separovic

**Minutes:** A. Battle

**Attendance:** Andrew Battle, Pierre Moens, Stephen Holt, Anton Le Brun, Ingo Koeper, David Poger, Michael Thomas, Haibu Yu, Wah Soon Chow, Brett Hambly, Stefan Mann, Matthew Perry, Jamie Vandenberg, Adam Hill, Chai-Ann Ng, Derek Laver, Adelle Coster, Ben Corry, Megan O'Mara, Adam Mechler, Angela Dulhunty, Evelyne Deplazes, Charles Cranfield, Ray Norton, Gary Bryant, Marc Antoine Sani, Mibel Aguilar, Cyril Curtain, Boris Martinac, Peter Barry, Martha Enciso, Ron Clarke, Hans Coster, Frances Separovic

**Apologies:** Paul Smith and Alan Mark

**IUPAB 2014:** F. Separovic thanked Brett Hambly for his outstanding contribution to the success of the IUPAB meeting. Met with general acclaim from the floor. F Separovic also thanked Glenn King and Jamie Vandenberg for their contribution to the overall success of the meeting, also met with acclaim from the floor. ASN were also thanked for their contribution.

**President's Report:**

**Minutes of 2013 AGM:**

F. Separovic thanked G. Bryant for organising the last ASB meeting held at RMIT in Nov 2013, being the largest stand-alone ASB meeting, met with applause from the floor.

Move to accept Minutes: J. Vandenberg, Seconded: M. Aguilar. Carried by meeting.

Business arising: Public officer changed from president to secretary. C. Curtain- the public officer has to be changed in the constitution. The previous state government of Victoria made changes to the Associations act to include higher transparency in election of office bearers, control of membership records and that directors of associations now have similar responsibilities to directors of corporations.

**President's Address: F. Separovic:** IUPAB was the focus of the ASB during 2013-2014, with 164 Australians registered to attend the meeting.

**Financial Report: R. Clarke:** R. Clarke thanked A. Coster for assisting him in a smooth transition to the role of Treasurer.

*Membership:* 2013: 206 members, 2014: 183 members. The loss of member numbers resulted from the fact that there was no discount for ASB members to attend the IUPAB meeting. Currently have 106 paid members, and R. Clarke encouraged members to keep up to date with membership registration.

M. Aguilar asked about how members can see their membership status at the ASB. R. Clarke will email members when they are due for renewal of membership.

**Statement from previous ASB meeting:** R. Clarke also thanked G. Bryant for a successful ASB 2013 meeting. Meeting made a profit of \$20,035. Met with acclaim from the floor.

F. Separovic reminded the meeting that the financial accounts must be submitted yearly to the Consumer affairs Victoria.

Nett Income: \$27,112.64 in 2014. Account balances as of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014- \$48,702.45 in general account. Term deposit has \$70,024.48 includes those for the McAulay-Hope Prizes (F.S)

C. Curtain- society needs more transparency in reporting assets and liabilities. F.S responded by saying the society provides this information. She also commented that this information is also available to members and suggested the financial statement be re-circulated to members.

Moved E. Deplazes, seconded J. Anderson, motion carried.

**Business arising from the president's and treasurer's reports:** F.S- the treasurer is to look at the current state of the ASB term deposits

F. Separovic also suggested the inclusion of another members on the ASB executive. J. Vandenberg suggested as the Science and Technology Australia (STA) representative. Passed by the floor.

R. Norton –Steering committee from the Asian Biophysical Association (ABA), suggested a push to get local societies to provide travel grants for visits to ABA meetings.

B. Martinac- None of the societies have made a contribution to ABA. F. Separovic commented that they have not asked for a contribution from ASB. B. Martinac suggested members go to the web page and if they have any suggestions to pass these on.

R. Norton mentioned a bank account for payment has been set up by ABA.

General discussion from the floor about a joint meeting of ABA and other biophysical societies. R. Norton also mentioned that ABA is a forum for young scientists in the Asia Pacific and a joint meeting with the US Biophysical Society may dominate the meeting, as happened with a joint IUPAB/US Biophysical Society meeting (R. Norton).

### **Science Technology Australia (STA).**

J. Vandenberg- STA is the body representing all Australian Scientists, deep concerns with the lack of a Science Minister and reduced funding to the ARC and asked concerned members to write to them addressing specific problems that they may have had. e.g. Biomedical research falling between the gaps of ARC and NH&MRC. Concrete and specific examples are needed. Concerns can be sent to J. Vandenberg or directly to STA.

E. Deplazes asked about whether such questions include science education, eg the CSIRO science programme for school children, whose funding has been significantly cut. F. Separovic. mentioned that there is some support from the Australian Academy of Science here.

J. Vandenberg mentioned that besides education, STA provides career/mentoring opportunities for scientists, and discussion on this showed most societies have methods in place for such.

### **McAulay-Hope and Bob Robertson Prizes:**

J. Vandenberg.- Traditionally the decision for prizes was not announced until the ASB meeting, announced early this year for advertisement by IUPAB. Suggested to change permanently by keeping the usual selection process but advertising the outcome well in advance of the next meeting. Moved J. Vandenberg, Seconded A. Battle. Carried by floor.

**IUPAB Congress:** B. Hambly. 800 registrants, very confident that the IUPAB will run at a small profit.

F.S- 200 students attended, mostly sponsored by IUPAB. Thanked B. Hambly for a successful meeting.

R. Norton inquired as to where any profit will go. B. Hambly- Profit split 50/50 between IUPAB and ASB. F. Separovic suggested using any profit to fund Early Career researchers to attend such meetings.

**Pan Pacific Meeting:**

P. Moens: Biophysics meeting in Hawaii for a Pan Pacific Biophysics meeting (and in the long term a US Biophysical Society meeting). Good convention centre, good location. Suggested time frame for Pan Pacific Biophysics meeting in 4-5 years time.

R. Norton asked about the expected level of support from the ASB. P. Moens that the ASB would support this meeting and members from the society would attend the meeting, that is, support from ASB to back up the organisation.

R. Norton- Financial contribution?- P. Moens, No

F. Separovic asked what year this would be held. P. Moens- no direct date, but anticipated in 4-5 years time. F. Separovic concerned that it would be yet another meeting, given the large number of Biophysics meetings held already- dilute attendance?

B. Corry- Better to convince US Biophysical Society to hold meeting in Hawaii?

P. Moens to explore the possibility of holding ASB joint with this meeting, as well as timeframes.

C. Curtain raised possibility of holding meeting in Tahiti

**ASB Meeting 2015:**

40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Society, 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the society held at The University of New England, Armidale. Meeting timeframe in 2015 late November.

A. Dulhunty- Joint meeting in 2015 with s AUPS in Hobart? A. Coster mentioned that ASB usually hold joint meetings every two years.

B. Martinac suggested standalone meeting due to the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Society. Floor agreed.

B. Martinac proposed meeting be held at the University Of New England, Armidale, NSW. Seconded: C. Cranfield. Floor in agreement.

P. Moens indicated airfares are expensive, and accommodation can be organised at the University Colleges. There are many motels, all with reasonable prices.

**Election of Office Bearers:**

F. Separovic stepping down as President, P. Moens to become President. P. Moens nominated A. Coster for role of President Elect. Seconded B. Hambly. Accepted A. Coster. No other proposals. Acclaim from floor.

Secretary- A. Battle; R. Clarke -Treasurer

**State Representatives:**

ACT: N. Beard, Proposed A. Dulhunty, Seconded J. Vandenberg. No other nominations.

NSW: A. Hill, Proposed C. Cranfield, Seconded E. Deplazes. No other nominations.

VIC: M. Sane. Nominated F. Separavoic, Seconded A. Mechler.

QLD: M. O'Mara, Nominated A. Coster, Seconded A. Battle

TAS: D. Gell. Nominated J. Vandenberg, Seconded M. O'Mara

WA: M. Thomas. Nominated H. Yu, Seconded P. Moens

SA: I. Koeper. Nominated A. LeBrun, Seconded R. Clarke

NZ: J. Allison. Nominated M. O'Mara, Seconded E. Deplazes. M'O Mara to contact J. Alison to discuss role.

**ASB webpage:** A. Coster- congratulated E. Deplazes on the redesign of the ASB website. E. Deplazes mentioned to send her information promoting members activities, including research areas, media reports, news articles, photos of members at conferences etc. to showcase ASB Member's research. F. Separavoic congratulated E. Deplazes on the redesign of the webpage, met with applause from the floor.

**Other Business:**

R. Norton- Asian Biophysics Association-started out with representatives from China, Taiwan, Korea and Japan, Australia, India and Hong became members 10 years ago. Next meeting Hangzhu, (near Shanghai) 9-12<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

Any information regarding this to be sent to the secretary.

B. Martinac. Biophysical Society of Japan has an online Journal of Biophysics, and would like support for this Journal. Any ASB member can submit publications before the end of the year without journal publishing charges.

J. Vandenberg acknowledged F. Separovic's term as President. Met with acclaim from the floor.

**Meeting closed 19:05**

### **Addendum to meeting: Brief History of ASB**

H. Coster- Working A. Hope's Lab at Sydney University- proposed to A. Hope that they form a society of their own, as biophysicists used to meet as part of the Australian Institute of Physics, having a Biophysics Branch. A meeting was therefore held on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 1975 at La Trobe University, where interested parties decided to form the Australian Society for Biophysics. The 1<sup>st</sup> annual meeting was held the following year at the University of New England, Armidale.

Suggested one of the criteria was to simply have an interest in biophysics. F.S: A. Hope and A. Walker.

A. Coster suggested including the minutes of the inaugural meeting in the 2015 meeting booklet. Agreed by floor.