

39th Annual Gibbs Conference on Biothermodynamics

Minutes: Business Meeting, September 29, 2025

Touch of Nature Environmental Center

Officers on the Board of Directors: Nick Fitzkee, President; Sarah Bondos, Past President; Ernie Fuentes, President-Elect; Karen Lewis, Treasurer; Andrew Herr, Secretary

Board Members-at-Large: Liskin Swint-Kruse

Current Organizers: Eda Koculi & Andrea Soranno

Other Past Organizers in Attendance: Dave Bain, Elisar Barbar, Doug Barrick, Janette Carey, Carlos Castañeda, Patricia Clark, Jack Correia, Trevor Creamer, Kathleen Hall, Loren Hough, Ron Koder, Hui-Ting Lee, Tim Lohman, Aaron Lucius, Krishna Mallela, Luis Marky, Janice Robertson, Madeline Shea, Scott Showalter, Ana Maria Soto

Conference Volunteers in Attendance: Tori Dunlap, Elizabeth Duran, Clarissa Durie, Emma Morrison

1. Call to Order: Nick Fitzkee

2. Report from the Gibbs39 Organizers: Eda Koculi and Andrea Soranno (and committee chairs)

Eda and Andrea presented statistics from this year's meeting. Several highlights included:

- There were 206 applications submitted and 192 attendees. Of these attendees, 112 were trainees, including 43 1st-time student attendees.
- We heard from 13 PI speakers and 13 trainee speakers from the platform as well as 7 trainee speakers during Saturday Night Thermo; the speakers were nicely balanced in terms of career stage, regular vs new attendees, geography, and gender.
- This year's meeting featured 116 posters from 79 labs at 70 institutions, presented by 99 trainees, 14 PIs, and 3 industry scientists.

Input from Committees:

- Fundraising committee: Fundraising was rather difficult this year due to uncertainties throughout the sector. A total of \$18,500 was raised for this year's meeting.
- Presentation logistics committee: Next year we recommend more communication about meeting ahead of time and holding a training session for committee members.
- Program book and branding committee: The consensus was that this year's program book turned out well. There was discussion by committee members that perhaps this committee would benefit from having a chair and that the committee is probably larger than necessary given new changes with the abstract uploading process that reduced the amount of editing required by the committee this year.
- Saturday Night Thermo co-organizers: SNT went well, with approximately 85 trainees attending, most of whom were students. There were two moderators, one student and 1 postdoc. The career panel featured two scientists from industry and a professor.

3. Financial Report: Karen Lewis, Treasurer

- Karen reported that overall, the Gibbs39 meeting cost \$58,252, with a few activity fees still to come. With registration fees, fundraising, and the donations from Jim Lee and Jack Correia, we should be easily within the budget for this year's meeting.
- We have continued to maintain a bank balance that would be sufficient to run a meeting without any additional income.

4. Call for nominations for Gibbs40 organizers

There were five nominations for individuals to serve as the Gibbs40 organizers. After a vote was taken, Loren Hough and Hui-Ting Lee were elected as the new Organizers for Gibbs40. Congratulations to Loren and Ting!

5. Election of 2025 Officers (President-Elect): led by Nick Fitzkee, President-Elect

- Aron Fenton was nominated for the office of President-Elect of the Gibbs Society and was elected by unanimous vote. Congratulations, Aron!!
- Andy Herr will serve for another 3-year term as Secretary.

6. Items from the Floor—Ernie Fuentes, President-Elect

- None noted