

38th Annual Gibbs Conference on Biothermodynamics

Minutes: Business Meeting, September 30, 2024

Touch of Nature Environmental Center

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

Board Members-at-Large: Vince LiCata, Madeline Shea

Current Organizers: Janice Robertson & Lauren Porter

Other Past Organizers in Attendance: David Bain, Doug Barrick, Jannette Carey, Carlos Castañeda, Clay Clark, Patricia Clark, Jack Correia, Trevor Creamer, Peggy Daugherty, Aron Fenton (Vice President), Karen Fleming, Ernie Fuentes, Kathleen Hall, Tim Lohman, George Makhadze, Krishna Mallela, Luis Marky, Ana-Maria Soto, Liskin Swint-Kruse, Tonya Zeczycki

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

1. Call to Order: Sarah Bondos

2. Report from the Gibbs38 Organizers: Janice Robertson and Lauren Porter (and committee chairs)

Janice and Lauren presented statistics from this year's meeting. Several highlights included:

- There were 224 applications submitted and 213 attendees, including 63 first-time student attendees. Attendees came from 114 labs at 67 institutions that quite literally spanned the width of the entire country.
- We heard from 13 PI speakers and 13 trainee speakers from the platform and another 7 trainee speakers during Sunday Night Thermo, with a nice balance in terms of career stage, regular vs new attendees, and gender.
- This year there were 123 posters from 79 labs at 70 different institutions, including 19 presented by PIs and 3 from industry scientists.

Input from Committee chairs:

- Fundraising committee: Fundraising went very well this year, with a total of \$24,700 in solicited funds. The committee successfully applied for NSF funding again this year. Tonya Zeczycki suggested that the fundraising committee should send out emails seeking sponsorship very early in the planning cycle since some companies start this process way ahead of time; this year the committee started emailing in January. The committee raised the possibility of NIGMS funding for Gibbs and will get in touch with NIGMS staff to find out more.
- Local arrangements committee: Carlos Castañeda asked for suggestions if anyone has new ideas for activities that could be planned during Gibbs. This year people enjoyed visiting the winery. There was a discussion about the possibility and the associated challenges of renting a bus or van for transport to off-site venues in future years. One person asked about the possibility of archery at TON, and Karen Lewis pointed out that this may be an option for an additional fee; she will ask for a menu of options for next year's meeting. Tori Dunlap pointed out that it would be great to find venues that allow group reservations in the future.

- Poster committee: Clarissa Durie reported that the poster sessions went well. There were several instances of people failing to follow the instructions when submitting poster abstracts, so it has been suggested that next year abstracts will be rejected if directions have not been followed, with 1 chance for the person to resubmit a corrected abstract.
- Presentation logistics committee: Kurt Piepenbrink and Elizabeth Duran reported that the rented microphones worked very well, but there were many issues with the remotes this year. We will likely need to replace these, since many of them only worked at very close range (within 18").
- Program book committee: Madeline Shea mentioned that Staples in Carbondale complained that they received the program book order too early this year. One possibility to consider next time would be to order the program book to be printed ahead in St. Louis and have someone local pick up the books and transport them down.
- Saturday Night Thermo co-organizers: Vince LiCata and Ana-Maria Soto reported that SNT went smoothly this year. One speaker had to cancel attending at the last minute but was able to present remotely via Zoom.

3. Report on new Jotform Application and Registration webforms: Madeline Shea

Madeline informed us that a lot of people didn't follow the instructions and personal data (name, institution, etc.) were wrong or inconsistent between the two surveys. It would help if we could connect the Registration to be a continuation of the Application. She also suggested that, to save space in the poster abstracts, the header info should only include the presenter's name, the lab (PI) name, and their institution. All other collaborators can be listed on the poster but don't need to be listed within the abstract which would give more room for science. Others pointed out that some participants will need to have their name and institution associated with the title of the abstract to be reimbursed for registration, so it was suggested that the name & institution for each coauthor be included in the public list of posters for each night (Sunday, Monday).

4. Financial Report: Karen Lewis, Treasurer

Karen reported that overall, the Gibbs38 meeting cost \$60,212.00. With registration fees, fundraising, the NSF grant, and the donations from Jim Lee and Jack Correia, we should be easily within the budget for this year's meeting.

5. Revision of application and registration surveys: Madeline Shea

Madeline gave an overview of work that she, Jim Horn, and Tonya Zeczycki did to revise the surveys. Highlights of the changes that were made to make things easier for Organizers and the Program Book committee include:

- Moved the Application form to Jotform (from Google Forms) so it could accept abstracts (to get them earlier), collected pronouns for name badges, and streamlined the Jotform registration.
- Provided applicants/registrants and their PI with detailed email responses after submission. These included a link to allow the presenter (or PI) to edit their abstract post-submission up until July 1.
- Took advantage of Jotform's pre-made summary slides for conference stats.

6. 2024 Revision to Gibbs Bylaws

The Board made revisions this year to the Gibbs Bylaws by adding language describing the Gibbs Society Code of Conduct and the Gibbs Society Confidentiality Statement. The current bylaws can be found on the Gibbs Society website under the heading "Documents" (gibbssociety.org).

7. Call for nominations for Gibbs39 organizers

There were five nominations for individuals to serve as the Gibbs39 organizers. After a vote was taken, Eda Koculi and Andrea Soranno were elected as the new Organizers for Gibbs39. Congratulations to Eda and Andrea!

8. Election of 2024 Officers (President-Elect): led by Nick Fitzkee, President-Elect

Nominations were put forward for the office of President-Elect of the Gibbs Society. After the vote, Ernie Fuentes was elected as the new President-Elect. Congratulations, Ernie!!

9. Items from the Floor—Nick Fitzkee, President-Elect

- Several people mentioned that there is a lot of waste generated at meals. Karen Lewis had been told by the caterer that there is a huge cost for reusable dishes and utensils, etc. Touch of Nature had promised compost bins, but we did not see any. Karen will discuss this with ToN and make it a point of emphasis for next year.
- Someone pointed out that their university blocks any emails with a Jotform link. It was suggested that the Secretary should send out a 'warning' email ahead of time letting all recipients know to look for a following email containing the registration link.