

## **32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Gibbs Conference on Biothermodynamics**

Minutes: Business Meeting, October 8, 2018

Touch of Nature Conference Center, Carbondale, IL

Organizers in Attendance: David Draper and Chiwook Park

Board members in Attendance: Clay Clark-President, Brian Baker-President Elect, James Cole-Past President, Aron Fenton-Treasurer, Liskin Swint-Kruse-Secretary, Madeline Shea, Vince LiCata

Former Organizers in Attendance: Patricia Clark, Sarah Bondos, Nick Fitzkee, Doug Barrick, Luis Marky, Tim Lohman, Aaron Lucius, Scott Showalter, Jim C. Lee, Michael Brenowitz, Andrew Herr, Steve Whitten, Kathleen Hall, Ernesto Fuentes, Dave Bain, Dick Sheardy, Ana Maria Soto, Karen Fleming, Jack Correia, Dorothy Beckett, Jannette Carey

- I. Call to Order: Brian Baker, president-elect on behalf of Clay Clark, President
- II. Report from the Organizers: Chiwook Park and David Draper

This year, the Gibbs Conference had 195 applications, 186 registered, and 183 attended/paid. Of these, 87 were PIs, 11 were post docs, and 85 were students; 109 were men and 79 were women. We should encourage PIs to sign up all of their students. We do not track minority registrations but might consider doing that for the future.

Fund raising totaled \$7650, with one more donation pending. We used a new caterer, which was generally well received, although coffee from the coffee shop vendor was preferred over that of the caterer. We also need to communicate a request for local orchard apples or find a volunteer to pick them up. New badge holders were bought because the recycled badges had become very mismatched; also, the cost of shipping badges among organizers is more than the cost of purchasing new ones.

The new sounds system in TON is a big improvement. We did NOT cut off questions/discussion this year and it worked well. It helped to not schedule so many talks per session and speakers were very good about finishing on time. The student moderators were well-trained to time the session, stand when time was over, and facilitate questions.
- III. Report from the Organizers of Saturday Night Thermo: Vince LiCata (Susan Pedigo had to leave early)

This year, 71 students registered online and 55 attended; this is about the same ratio as previous years. We had the usual trouble with sound/microphone, but the new talk format (Pechakucha) was well rehearsed by the presenters. Attendees will be surveyed as to their opinions about it. The career panel participants received many questions; they were Nasrin Mirsaleh-Kohan (Texas Women's University) Stefanie Kall (NanoTemper Technologies), and Julie DeSa Lorenz (Olis).
- IV. Financial Report: Aron Fenton, Treasurer

Overall, the meeting should be "in the black" this year. Food costs dropped dramatically and this caterer stayed true to their quote. TON costs are still up in the air. Thanks to Nick Fitzkee for figuring out and assuming responsibility for the PayPal account. Extra Tshirts and mugs will be for sale. Left over "swag" from prior years is in the TON closet and will be distributed to attendees tomorrow.
- V. Election of 2019 (Gibbs33) organizers: led by Clay Clark, President  
Matt Auton (Mayo College of Medicine) and Carlos Castañeda (Syracuse University) were elected co-organizers for the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Gibbs Conference in 2019.
- VI. Election of 2019 president-elect: led by Brian Baker, President-Elect

Kathleen Hall (Washington University in St. Louis) was chosen President-Elect.

VII. New business

Development of Gibbs Conference Code of Conduct - Karen Fleming

Constructive discussion was held about adopting an official code of conduct for attendees at Gibbs Conferences. Because of our university roles, all faculty are mandatory Title IX reporters. A motion was made and passed to adopt the language of the conduct code below. The president will open each meeting by reading this statement. During online registration, each participant must agree to follow this code and the "Confidentiality Statement" by clicking a checkbox. The code of conduct will also be included in the Gibbs program next to the "Confidentiality Statement", and be placed on our website.

**Code of Conduct:** The Gibbs Society of Biological Thermodynamics is committed to providing a safe and productive environment that fosters open dialogue and the exchange of scientific ideas, promotes equal opportunities and treatment for all participants, and is free of harassment and discrimination. Harassment includes speech or behavior that is not welcome or is personally offensive, whether it is based on ethnicity, gender, religion, age, body size, disability, veteran status, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other reason. It includes stalking, unnecessary touching, and unwelcome attention. Behavior that is acceptable to one person may not be acceptable to another, so use discretion to be sure that respect is communicated. Harassment intended in a joking manner still constitutes unacceptable behavior. Anyone experiencing conduct that violates this Code should report this conduct to any member of the GIBBS Board.

Note: The current "Confidentiality Statement" reads as follows: "Please remember that the abstracts for this meeting are confidential material and may contain unpublished results. They will not be posted online. Please ask permission from the authors before taking photos of posters. Please do not record the talks unless a speaker has given you permission."

See the Appendix below for a list of links to related online resources.

VIII. Items from the floor – Brian Baker, President Elect

Considerable discussion was held regarding the future of the meeting and society. Future organizers are encouraged to invite young PIs to be speakers. We may be able to raise funds to offset travel costs from NIH, although NIGMS has stopped participating; NSF might have funds too. For applications, we may need to track minority applicants/attendees. Future organizers could reconnect with prior attendees who haven't come in a few years. Anyone can send names to the Board to be added to the mailing list (which is maintained by Liskin Swint-Kruse, Secretary). Jack Correia noted that the mission of the Gibbs Society is the "training of future biothermodynamicists" and we should always keep in mind ways to fulfill that mission.

## Appendix

Links to information on June 2018 Report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine

***SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF WOMEN - Climate, Culture, and Consequences in Academic Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine***

Download full report for free <https://www.nap.edu/download/24994>

## National Academies Report Resources

<https://www.nap.edu/catalog/24994/sexual-harassment-of-women-climate-culture-and-consequences-in-academic>

## Report Summary (4pp)

<https://www.nap.edu/resource/24994/Sexual%20Harassment%20of%20Women%20ReportHighlights.pdf>

## Highlights for Federal Policy Makers (2 pp)

<https://www.nap.edu/resource/24994/Sexual%20Harassment%20of%20Women%20ReportHighlights-Federal%20Policy%20Makers.pdf>

## Consensus Report Slides

[http://sites.nationalacademies.org/cs/groups/shstudysite/documents/webpage/shstudy\\_187268.pdf](http://sites.nationalacademies.org/cs/groups/shstudysite/documents/webpage/shstudy_187268.pdf)

## Infographics

Permission is granted to reproduce these figures with no additions or alterations, for educational, noncommercial use.

Prevention: <https://www.nap.edu/visualizations/sexual-harassment-of-women/>

Iceberg of forms of harassment: [https://www.nap.edu/visualizations/sexual-harassment-iceberg/iceberg\\_infographic.jpg](https://www.nap.edu/visualizations/sexual-harassment-iceberg/iceberg_infographic.jpg)

## Conduct Codes & Commentary from other Societies

**BPS** <https://www.biophysics.org/about-bps/governance/code-of-conduct>

### AAAS

<https://www.aaas.org/sites/default/files/Meetings%20Code%20of%20Conduct%205%204%20184.pdf>

**ASBMB** <http://www.asbmb.org/asbmbtoday/201809/Feature/Harassment>

<https://www.biophysics.org/blog/pipeline-leaks-require-institutional-transformation>