

21<sup>st</sup> Annual Gibbs Conference on Biothermodynamics  
Touch of Nature Conference Center, Carbondale, IL  
Business Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: October 1, 2007

**Attendance**

Organizers: Brian Baker and Michael Henzl

Secretary: Peggy Daugherty

Former Organizers (listed alphabetically): Doug Barrick, Dorothy Beckett, Wayne Bolen, Brad Chaires (President), Clay Clark, Jack Correia, Trevor Creamer, Karen Fleming, Bertrand Garcia-Moreno, Vince Hilser, Mike Johnson (Treasurer), Tim Lohman (President Elect), George Makhatadze, Luis Markey, Rohit Pappu, Madeline Shea, Dick Sheardy, George Turner.

The meeting was run by Jack Correia.

A. Organizer's Report by Brian Baker

1. There was concern about the lack of responses to meeting deadlines. The deadline for this meeting for registration and abstracts was August 20. It was clear that the meeting information from the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Gibbs Conference on October 7, 2007 was not adequately communicated with the organizers concerning fundamental changes to the organizational process.

To paraphrase those meeting notes: Registration would be changed to an application process. The process would consist of the following deadlines to ensure adequate time for attendees to arrange travel:

August 1: Abstract/Registration Due

Sept 1: Notification of acceptance of abstract

Sept 15: Payment Due

2. The cap on the meeting size was changed to be more flexible. The final number of attendees should be between 170 and 215 people. There should be communication between the Board of Directors and the Organizers to set the cap at each meeting. It was clear to all attendees that the increase in attendees had an impact on the flow of movement in the dining halls and poster sessions. It was recommended that poster sessions be moved to include space in the dining hall, along with strategically placing the bar to encourage flow to that space. If weather permits the bar can be placed outside of the dining hall as it was this year.

3. It was reported that there was originally a lack of students and post-docs who were willing to give oral presentations. No one else seemed to indicate that this was a problem at past meetings, however it was suggested that a specific solicitation for such speakers should be included in future emails.

4. Fundraising was successful at this meeting, with ~\$5000 being raised.
5. The format of how we handle the question session at the end of each talk was raised. The general consensus is that this meeting is informal and that the audience and speaker should have the opportunity to interact to the fullest. It was suggested that there be no cap on the question part of a presentation – in fact, that it should be emphasized to speakers that this time should be included in their total talk time. Student moderators were to be informed of this change.
6. The cost of printing the program guide was raised. Printing at a business like Kinko's can be expensive (~\$5000), +whereas university costs can be significantly lower (~\$1600). It was suggested that members of this group check to see what university or other printing companies' costs are, and to work out mechanisms to lower costs.

#### B. Treasurer's Report

Michael Johnson reported that prior to this meeting this was ~\$20,000 in the bank. There is currently ~\$48,000 in the bank. However, numerous meeting expenses still had to be paid. He reminded us that although the Gibbs Society had federal tax exemption status, we still had to pay the state of Illinois tax on food.

#### C. Election of Organizers for the 2008 meeting.

Jannette Carey and David Bain were elected to be organizers for the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual conference.

#### D. Election of President-Elect

The Society voted to elect Luis Marky.

#### E. Miscellaneous items

The Society unanimously rejected the idea that organizers not pay meeting fees, however, expenses related to the organization of the meeting will be reimbursed fully.

The Society voted that retired faculty were to be waived the meeting fee, but would still be required to pay food costs (no free lunch for anyone).

The Board of Directors indicated that they would update and organize the infamous "Organizer's Guide" that has been traditionally passed between organizers through the years. A major goal of the Board of Directors is to better facilitate and communicate changes in meeting structure that occur as the meeting evolves.