

23rd Annual Gibbs Conference on Biothermodynamics
Minutes of the Business Meeting held on October 5, 2009
Touch of Nature Conference Center, Carbondale, IL
Addenda (3 items)

Respectfully submitted by Margaret A. Daugherty

Attendees:

Organizers: Liskin Swint-Kruse and Nathan Baker

Board: Jack Correia, Madeline Shea and Michael Johnson

Past Organizers in attendance: David Bain, Brian Baker, Doug Barrick, Dorothy Beckett, Michael Brenowitz, Jannette Carey, Brad Chaires, Clay Clark, Trevor Creamer, Peggy Daugherty, Karen Fleming, Bertrand Garcia-Moreno, Michael Henzl, Tim Lohman and Luis Marky.

The meeting was run by Jack Correia.

A. Report from the current organizers (Liskin Swint-Kruse and Nathan Baker):

The organizers reported that 190 individuals officially registered, and with withdrawals and subsequent arrivals ~190 attended the meeting. Approximately 10-15 individuals were turned down – in the case of multiple students from one lab, they had the PI of the lab help to choose the appropriate attendees.

The strategy of cutting costs by ordering food for 170 people appeared to be effective.

There appears to be an approximately \$3000 profit from the meeting, but not all bills have been paid.

The newer poster session arrangement (placement of posters/alcohol on the upper level of the mess hall) also improved flow and traffic during the poster session.

It was decided to retain the fee structure for registration that was used this year.

It is recommended that the organizers emphasize in the upcoming “Call for Abstracts” that everyone (invited speakers, advertisers) MUST register for the meeting.

The newly implemented web registration was a success, with only a few institutions not permitting Paypal payments. The web registration will be maintained. The registration is not tied to a home institution, so that it should be easily portable to new organizers.

B. Report from Jack Correia - plans for *Biophysical Chemistry* tribute edition

The 25th anniversary edition volume has been approved by Enrico Di Cera for ~25 chapters in the volume. Jack proposes that invitations be extended to individuals by May 2010 with submissions prior to, or at the latest, by Jan 2011. The volume will be separate from the talks given at the meeting. The goal is to have the editions available at the 2011 Gibbs Conference.

The volume is proposed to have 2 “historical” chapters. It was suggested that the remainder of the submissions, include as part of the chapter, incorporation of some ideas of how the Gibbs Conference influenced the research (i.e., to enable the branding of the Conference). Madeline proposed that some of the chapters be collaborative chapters.

Editors need to be chosen for this process. The Board of Directors will continue the conversations on this process and a decision will be made by the time of Biophysical Society meeting.

With regards to the edition, there needs to be some clarification of the review process of the submitted papers. Additionally, there appears to be some flexibility in the number of chapters.

As an update to this section: Jack Correia has contacted Enrico Di Cera and the following issues have been clarified. 1) submit 30-35 manuscripts directly to Enrico; 2) he will assign them for review to the editors for a single review; 3) he makes final decision about acceptance; 4) Editors will be members of the board (Correia, Johnson, Shea, Marky, Garcia-Moreno) plus Tim Lohman and Brad Chaires. Both Brad & Tim serve on the Advisory editorial board of Biophys Chem. 5) Efforts are in progress to construct a list of authors who will be invited to submit titles to be considered for the 30-35 submissions.) 6) There will be one historical chapter tentatively planned to be written by Madeline Shea and Mike Brenowitz.

C. Election of President-Elect:

The Society members voted to elect Karen Fleming (Johns Hopkins University) as President-Elect.

D. Selection of organizers for the 24th Gibbs Conference on Biothermodynamics, 2010.

Vince Licata (Louisiana State University) and Elisar Barbar (Oregon State University) were elected to be organizers for the upcoming conference. The chosen dates for the upcoming 24th Conference will be chosen to avoid conflict with local events.

E. Discussion of Other Items of Business

1. Proposing new organizers for upcoming meetings: it is *incumbent* upon the past organizers to solicit potential organizers and bring their names to the Business Meeting. The general agreement was that continuity in attendance (hence support of the meeting) was a stipulation of being nominated.

2. Choice of organizers: Past organizers may be tapped to help organize upcoming meetings. It was suggested that a more established faculty member be paired with a junior faculty member. Additionally, it was suggested that “grooming” of junior faculty members be more transparent.

Addenda to the Business Meeting Notes

The following items were incorporated based on conversations that were initiated after the business meeting, or materials that became available later.

1. Treasurer's Report (submitted by Michael L. Johnson). Submitted 10/26/09.

As of Jan 1 we had \$21,377.62 in the bank.

I paid \$110 in corporation and lawyer fees in January.

I think that we will receive about \$500 in interest this year.

Liskin thinks that the meeting will show a profit of about \$3,566.41

Thus, I think we will end the year at \$25,334.03, more or less.

2. Use of any type of recording device during sessions:

Work that is presented at the Gibbs Conference on Biothermodynamics may represent unpublished work. We expect that all attendees will respect the intellectual property of others at the meeting. This means that the recording of scientific information that is presented is forbidden unless prior permission is obtained from the authors of the work. This should be stated explicitly and prominently during promotion of the upcoming conferences and in the conference program.

As an FYI: The following statement is found on the website for the Gordon Research Conference (www.grc.org).

“To encourage open communication, each member of a Conference agrees that any information presented at a Gordon Research Conference, whether in a formal talk, poster session, or discussion, is a private communication from the individual making the contribution and is presented with the restriction that such information is not for public use. The recording of lectures by any means, the photography of slide or poster material, and printed reference to Gordon Research Conferences papers and discussion is prohibited. Scientific publications are not to be prepared as emanating from the Conferences. Authors are requested to omit references to the Conferences in any publication. Guests are not permitted to attend the Conference lectures and discussion sessions. Each member of a Conference acknowledges and agrees to these restrictions when registration is accepted and as a condition of being permitted to attend a Conference. Although Gordon Research Conference staff will take reasonable steps to enforce the restrictions against recording and photographing Conference presentations, each member of a Conference assumes sole responsibility for the protection and preservation of any intellectual property rights in such member's contributions to a Conference. “

3. Gary K. Ackers Lecture in Biothermodynamics

The *Ackers Lecture* is a new addition to the Gibbs Conference. In this first year, the speaker, Michael Brenowitz (Einstein), was chosen by the Gibbs Board (Correia, Johnson and Shea) in consultation with Jim Lee and Wayne Bolen. This group also contributed a piece about Gary Ackers's career that was included in the conference program. The Ackers Lecturer was provided a time slot equivalent to that allotted to the Keynote Lecturer who had been selected by the organizers.

In the future, anyone may nominate an individual to be the *Ackers Lecturer*, but an explicit Call for Nominations will go to the newly selected and past organizers of the Gibbs Conference. Madeline offered to organize this for the 2010 conference. The note below will be sent in early December 2009. The Selection Committee will make the final decision and communicate it to the organizers of the 2010 conference for their consideration as they draft a program of speakers.

It is recognized that it will be beneficial to draw up some guidelines for the selection process (to distribute with the call for nominations in the future), to solicit nominations earlier so that each year the new organizers will have that information early in their deliberations, and to consider a rotation of members of the Selection Committee.

To all organizers of the Gibbs Conference:

The first *Ackers Lecture in Biothermodynamics* was presented at the Gibbs Conference this fall by Michael Brenowitz (Einstein College of Medicine). We are soliciting nominations for an individual to present the second *Ackers Lecture in Biothermodynamics* at the Gibbs Conference in the fall of 2010.

If you would like to nominate a scientist to present this lecture, please forward your suggestion to me (madeline-shea@uiowa.edu) by December 18, 2009. These will be considered by the Ackers Lecture Selection Committee*, and the Lecturer will be announced in early 2010.

Nominations should include the name and institutional affiliation of the nominee. We would appreciate your forwarding a pertinent website address for the individual, too.

For your reference, most past Keynote speakers are listed on the Gibbs website <http://mljohnson.pharm.virginia.edu/gibbs-society/meetings.html>.

Thank you,
Madeline A. Shea

* Committee members are Jack Correia, Bertrand Garcia-Moreno E. (Gibbs Society President), Mike Johnson, Jim Lee, Luis Marky (Gibbs Society Past-President), Madeline Shea and Wayne Bolen.