

28th Annual Gibbs Conference on Biothermodynamics
Minutes of the Business Meeting held on September 22, 2014
Touch of Nature Conference Center, Carbondale, IL

Respectfully submitted by Liskin Swint-Kruse

Attendees: *Organizers:* Andrew Herr and Steven Whitten

Board in Attendance: Patricia Clark, David Bain, Liskin Swint-Kruse, Jack Correia, Madeline Shea

Past Organizers in attendance: Doug Barrick, Karen Fleming, Treavor Creamer, Clay Clark, Kathleen Hall, Timothy Lohman, Vince LiCata, Michael Brenowitz, Dorothy Beckett, Brian Baker, Aron Fenton, Jim Cole, Jeannette Carey, Luis Marky, Aaron Lucius

The meeting was run by Jack Correia, Treasurer and Madeline Shea, Board Member.

A. Report from the current organizers (Andrew Herr and Steven Whitten with comments from Jack Correia). This year's meeting was subscribed to capacity. 203 attendees paid, ~5 did not come. We did not turn anyone away, but some of the larger labs went on a temporary waitlist after the application stage.

If we continue to be at the attendee limit, we need to make sure that the "accept" email is not shared. ~10 people registered who did not apply. Jack noted that the application has been moved from Google docs to jotform; Jack will get access to this account along with Nathan Baker to add a password. In future years, the organizers will not need to change the application or registration forms. Some things need to be tweaked for next year ("diet restrictions" was missing from registration; those that pay with check need a "dummy" registration since they aren't using Paypal.)

We gave out free hats and mugs this year (attendees choice of one); not many were left over and the remainders were sold for \$5 each. Jack noted that the leftover 25th anniversary steins were found this year; many were sold for \$10 each for a total of ~\$500.

The program book was printed at Staples in Carbondale for ~\$2000. We could open a business account that might be cheaper in future years, and this venue makes the books easy to pick up (especially if the organizers need to fly). Other printing quotes were up to \$5000. We should strongly consider using them every year. They can also print posters.

We used the same caterer as last year, but the main dish ran out at the first dinner. In subsequent meals, the caterers served in order to control (small) portions, which greatly slowed down the line. More people may be staying to eat on campus, or more students might have attended this year. Next year we need to ask for more food and/or we should increase the number of people estimated. This year there was a new owner of the coffee shop and there

were communication problems. In future years, Alan Teska at TON can be the contact for the food vendor and coffee vendors rather than the organizers.

Sponsorship requests raised \$3500 + \$2000 from Texas State University for printing the programs. The issue of paying for vendor representatives was revisited. The policy is to pay if they eat or attend talks, don't pay if they only man the displays.

Internet availability was even worse than usual this year. Due to SIU policies, there is not much we can do about it. We will keep asking. Many attendees might be connecting three devices at once (phone, laptop, tablet); we will ask them to disconnect when not in use. We could contribute some money to TON if there was something to buy. Others noted that the lack of internet facilitates science discussions and mingling.

B. Treasurer's Report (Jack Correia): The meeting was close to the break-even point this year (~\$31,000 from registration fees, \$5500 in donations, ~\$35,670 in expenses.) The Society has \$55,173 in reserves. Since this is more than required to host a full meeting, this year we cut registration prices and gave free cups/hats (this also resolved university issues that arise from bundling extra fees for cups/hats with the registration cost). PI speakers got a discount this year; they usually pay full price. Next year, requesting more food will raise our costs.

C. Election of new organizers. Ernesto Fuentes (University of Iowa) and James Horn (Northern Illinois University) were elected organizers for the 2015 meeting.

D. Selection of president-elect. Vince LiCata was chosen to be president-elect. Patricia Clark is now the current president and George Makahatdze is now past-president.

E. Report from Saturday Night Thermo (Vince LiCata). This year's event was run by Vince LiCata and Susan Pedigo; they are willing to run it again next year. Ninety-two trainees attended the flash talks and most stayed for the career panel. Please send suggestions to the Vince and Susie for next year's panelists.

F. Miscellaneous.

- Mike Johnson's official VP term has expired. This term was extended by general consensus.
- We will send the PI mailing list out to all former organizers for suggested names to add.
- The role of the Gibbs community in the Biophysical Society Annual meeting was discussed. One option is to make an effort to re-join the Molecular Biophysics subgroup. Several Gibbs regulars are active in other subgroups. We could also submit ideas for symposia and self-organized sessions (8 talks). Karen Fleming indicated that such proposals should be sent in several years in a row.