

**30<sup>th</sup> Annual Gibbs Conference on Biothermodynamics**  
Minutes of the Business Meeting held on September 26, 2016  
Touch of Nature Conference Center, Carbondale, IL

Respectfully submitted by Liskin Swint-Kruse

**Attendees:** *Organizers:* Sarah Bondos and Nick Fitzkee

*Board in Attendance:* Jack Correia, Madeline Shea, Vince LiCata, James Cole, Liskin Swint-Kruse, Patricia Clark

*Past Organizers in attendance:* Tim Lohman, Elisar Barbar, Brian Baker, Dave Bain, Luis Marky, Jeanette Carey, Clay Clark, Dorothy Beckett, Michael Brenowitz, Jim Horn, Aron Fenton, Steve Whitten, Dick Sheardy, Aaron Lucius, Doug Barrick, Kathleen Hall, Glen Ramsay, Andy Herr

The meeting was run by Vince LiCata, President

#### Report from the Organizers

- Fundraising started in May. Next, an earlier start may be better because costs are going up.
- Most increased costs came from increased food costs. It would be helpful to know the financial targets in advance. [Note: Jack Correia later presented a spreadsheet with historical costs.]
- We have a perennial problem with donors not realizing that registration is separate from the donation. Next year, it may be helpful to change the solicitation letter.
- At this year's conference, ~206 attendees represented 99 labs; 89 PIs were in attendance, which is higher than previous years (and resulted in a larger PI: trainee ratio). 240 applicants applied, and the organizers used the following criteria to cap attendance: max of 4 attendees per lab, requested volunteers, then chose students who submitted abstracts over those who did not. Many "sometime" labs came; many recent new invites came with students; many old-timers brought new colleagues. We will watch this trend to see whether this was a unique year.

#### Food: Group Discussion

- Caterers were too cautious with the food portions resulting in lots of leftovers. We'd like to also know where the leftovers are going (and not thrown away).
- The cost of food is going up significantly over the past few years. The added vegetarian portions to this year's orders may not have been offset by a lower number of non-vegetarian portions.
- The coffee vendor was unresponsive to most requests; we may need to switch to the food caterer for coffee (and it will likely be more expensive).

#### Saturday Night Thermo: Vince LiCata, co-organized by Susie Pedigo

- This was a well-attended event with high quality presentations. 80 trainees were present for pizza, 85 attended the flashtalks, and 68 stayed for the career panel.

#### Finance: Jack Correia

- Jack presented a spreadsheet containing the past 5 year's costs. Cost increases are mainly from food costs. Mugs/hats have not gone up that much. The program was printed locally in

Carbondale at Staples; we have a business account with them (Sarah Bondos has details). From this year's conference, we will have a deficit of ~\$5000. We paid travel for two people. Next year, if we raise fees by \$25 each, it will cover the deficit.

Future directions: Madeline Shea, Jack Correia, Group Discussion

- Jack Correia noted that this is the 30<sup>th</sup> meeting and asked how we want this group to look at the 60<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Dorothy Beckett suggested we focus on advocacy, especially for medium-priced instrument purchases. Grants are available for big instruments, but the medium level falls through the cracks. Also, our trainees would be good fits for "alternative careers" running core facilities. Doug Barrick suggested that schools with successful cores could put together a white paper about how they do it and what the benefits are. Jack Correia noted that the Mississippi Biophysical Consortium provides another model for shared instrumentation. Jim Cole noted that we could organize instrument sharing among the Gibbs community.

Election for next year's organizers: Vince LiCata.

- Anna Maria Soto and Scott Showalter were chosen as organizers for next year's conference.

Election of president and vice-president, secretary: Vince LiCata

- Clay Clark was chosen as president-elect.
- Jack Correia announced that this will be his last year as Treasurer and permanent board member. The Board is working on a succession plan for treasurer.
- The by-laws should be amended to have a succession plan for permanent board members.
- Liskin Swint-Kruse agreed to a second three year term as secretary.

New business:

- Vince LiCata gave an update on internet connectivity at Touch of Nature. We are giving ToN \$2000 to help upgrade wireless connections. It was supposed to be finished this year, but they couldn't complete the last half-mile. It should be completed next year, and the installation costs (\$2000) will be on next year's bill.
- Dorothy Beckett and Glen Ramsey announced that Jack Aviv passed away in August. Glen will make an announcement about that to the whole conference on Tuesday morning. It would be nice if the society wrote something to the family.
- NSF funded attendees can request funds for the Gibbs conference via a special mechanisms.
- A fee increase of \$25 per attendee was approved for next year.