

26th Annual Gibbs Conference on Biothermodynamics
Minutes of the Business Meeting held on September 24, 2012
Touch of Nature Conference Center, Carbondale, IL

Respectfully submitted by Margaret Daugherty

The 26th Gibbs Conference Celebratory Haiku
By Doug Barrick, Ph.D.

*Not just enthalpy,
but fluctuation thereof:
Heat capacity*

Attendees:

Organizers: Patricia L. Clark and Aaron L. Lucius

Board in Attendance (listed alphabetically): Douglas Barrick, David Bain, Jack Correia, Margaret Daugherty, Karen Fleming and Madeline Shea

Past Organizers in attendance: David Bain, Brian Baker, Elisar Barbar, Dorothy Beckett, Michael Brenowitz, Janette Cary, Clay Clark, Trevor Creamer, Enrico DiCera, Bertrand Garcia-Moreno, Michael Henzl, Vince Licata, George Makhatadze, Luis Marky, and Liskin Swint-Kruse.

The meeting was called to order by Current President Doug Barrick.

A). Treasurer's Report (Jack Correia).

Jack reminded us that the cost of registration was reduced this year as compared to last year. It had been increased for the 25th Annual meeting to cover special expenses associated with that particular meeting.

Jack provided a balance sheet that contained the main expenses accrued during organization of the current meeting. There is a beginning balance (1/1/12) of \$38,021.68, with a projected balance of ~\$48,100 after this meeting, once all expenses are paid. This is a net of ~\$10,000 which led to the discussion of whether it is better to save the money or whether there are better ways of organizing the meeting and appropriately utilizing some of the net income of the meeting. It was mentioned that the cost of abstract books have been donated by an organizers' home institution, and we might have to pick up those costs in the future (~\$2400 this year). The following ideas were discussed, with Jack Correia and Madeline Shea indication that a more detailed budget would be appropriate in order to make a fully-informed decision on the ideas that are presented below.

Reduction in registration costs across the board.
Reduction or elimination of the cost to the speakers (P.I. only)
Reduce costs across the board (including food) for all attendees.
The idea of a travel award to cover students was raised.
Reduce or eliminate on-site fees for students.

The idea of improving equipment was raised. Alan Teska (of TON) and Jack Correia had coordinated to improve the screen and projector that we used this year. The screen was bought by TON, and the projector and switch were provided (borrowed) from attendees. It was noted that it might be useful if we have our own projector and switch. Another idea with regards to equipment improvement was that it might be beneficial to invest in our own wireless microphone.

B). Report from the current organizers (Patricia Clark and Aaron Lucius).

The organizers reported that no one was turned away from the meeting (200 capacity). There were 192 applications with 187 payments being received. By doing the “left-over badge count”, there were only a few who did not attend the meeting.

The number of talks at the meeting was discussed. There were 30 talks this year, which was a slight increase from past years. The following recommendations were made – reduce the number of talks to 25 and extend the refreshment breaks to 30 minutes to accommodate the flow of attendees through the coffee line. The idea of reintroducing the post-session discussion section was favorably received. The length of the “big” lectures was modeled on the program from the 24th Annual meeting, which was a shorter talk than we saw at the 25th Annual meeting. The distribution of talks was 1:1 with regards to professor:trainees.

E). Election of President-Elect:

The Society members voted to elect George Makhatadze (RPI) as President-Elect.

F). Selection of organizers for the 27th Gibbs Conference on Biothermodynamics, 2013.

Jim Cole (University of Connecticut) and Aron Fenton (University of Kansas Medical Center) were elected to be organizers for the upcoming conference. The chosen dates for the upcoming 27th Conference will be chosen to avoid conflict with local events and religious holidays.

G). New business.

It was recommended that we include in the registration information that posters should not exceed 4 feet in length.

It was highly recommended that we encourage all to visit our vendors.

H). Board of Directors for 2012-2013, listed alphabetically

Douglas Barrick, Past President
David Bain, President
John J. Correia, Treasurer
Margaret Daugherty, Secretary
Michael L. Johnson, Vice President
George Makhatadze, President Elect
Madeline Shea

President Doug Barrick adjourned the meeting.