

27th Annual Gibbs Conference on Biothermodynamics
Minutes of the Business Meeting held on October 7, 2013
Touch of Nature Conference Center, Carbondale, IL

Respectfully submitted by Liskin Swint-Kruse

Attendees: *Organizers:* James Cole and Aron Fenton

Board in Attendance: Jack Correia, Madeline Shea, David Bain, George Makhatadze, Doug Barrick

Past Organizers in attendance: Dorothy Beckett, Patricia Clark, Trevor Creamer, Karen Fleming, Bertrand Garcia-Moreno, Kathleen Hall, Vince LiCata, Tim Lohman, Aaron Lucius, Luis Marky and Liskin Swint-Kruse.

The meeting was run by David Bain, President.

A. Report from the current organizers (Aron Fenton and James Cole): The total attendance this year was 188, of whom 65 were PIs. Two changes this year were a new platform for the online applications and the food vendors. A suggested improvement for the online applications is to streamline the abstract submission, which was required twice this year (at application and registration). Also, items like Gibbs mugs should be billed separately from registration or provided as a gift, due to university payment restrictions. Suggestions were made to start a shared Google drive or a Dropbox folder for documents. The food vendor used by TON in previous years was not available. The new food vendor was considered to be an improvement by many. At the close of the Monday morning session, the scientific vendors were introduced; they appreciated this opportunity. Vendor placement was between the bar and the posters in the main dining hall; they had good attendance. The organizers attempted to arrange for increased internet bandwidth, but in the end it was too complicated to arrange.

B. Report from Saturday Night Thermo (Vince LiCata and Liskin Swint-Kruse). The event was well-attended, with >70 trainees in attendance. The flash talk session stimulated good questions. Career panelists were Andrew Robertson, Catherine Royer, and Anna-Maria Soto. The trainees asked questions of the panelists both during and after the event. Suggestions were made for next year's panelists. Potential panelists from industry need to be invited at least 6 months in advance.

C. Election of officers: The Society members voted to elect Patricia Clark (Notre Dame University) as President-Elect. Liskin Swint-Kruse (The University of Kansas Medical Center) was elected Secretary for a 3 year term (2014 –2017).

D. Election of Organizers for the 28th Annual Conference. Andy Herr (University of Cincinnati College of Medicine) and Steve Whitten (Texas State University) were elected co-organizers for the 28th Annual Conference to be held Fall 2014. Susie Pedigo (University of Mississippi) was elected as co-organizer with Vince LiCata (Louisiana State University) of the "Saturday Night Thermo" event for trainees.

E. Treasurers Report by Jack Correia: On the tax statement in 2012, we reported a balance of \$48,144. This year's registration brought in \$35,526, coffee mugs brought in \$410, and donations were \$4600. Expenses are ~\$33,507. The net is \$7029 from the 2013 meeting, giving us a balance \$55,173. Next year, we should consider reducing registration costs for all. The organizers would have done so this year, but the quotes were not available for the new food vendor when the fees had to be set.

F. Discussion of Other Items of Business

The members discussed the possibility of inviting representatives from NIH and NSF to attend future meetings. A brief discussion centered on ensuring continuity of the Board of Directors; the current structure is working well and no changes were recommended.