

**20<sup>th</sup> Annual Gibbs Conference on Biothermodynamics**  
**Touch of Nature Conference Center, Carbondale, IL**  
**Business Meeting Notes**

Meeting Date: October 9, 2006

**Attendance**

Organizers: Karen Fleming and Rohit Pappu

Secretary: Peggy Daugherty

Former Organizers (listed alphabetically): Doug Barrick, Dorothy Beckett (President), Michael Brenowitz, Brad Chaires (President Elect), Jack Correia, Vince Hilser, Mike Johnson (Treasurer), Tim Lohman, George Makhatadze, Luis Markey, Mike Mossing, Madeline Shea, Dick Sheardy, John Shriver

**A. Composition of Board of Directors**

Jack Correia announced changes to the Executive Board of Directors for the Gibbs Society on Biological Thermodynamics. The Executive Board was initially formed with 4 members comprised of Gary Ackers, Jack Correia, Michael Johnson and Peggy Daugherty. The Executive Board is evolving to reflect changes with the Society. The Executive Board will now consist of 5 members, three members will be permanent members and two members will be revolving members. The three permanent members of the Board will be Mike Johnson, Jack Correia and Madeline Shea. The two revolving members will consist of the past and current Society Presidents, whose role will be to serve as an advisory board to the meeting organizers. In the coming year, this will involve Dorothy Beckett and Brad Chaires.

**B. Organizer's Report**

Karen Fleming, as the current organizer of the conference, discussed some issues with organization of the meeting, which are summarized below.

1). There is a current document that is passed from organizers from year to year. She suggests that this "organizers guide" be updated, specifically with regards to Vendor Sponsorship. This guide will be maintained and updated annually by the Oversight Committee of the Board.

2). The meeting has become very large in the past few years. This year, it became seriously oversubscribed. As a cap, the organizers (Karen and Rohit) had to institute a limit of 5 attendees per lab (including P.I.). In order to cap the meeting at 170 attendees, it was voted that this limit would stand, and that registration would be changed to an application process. The process would consist of the following deadlines:

August 1: Abstract/Registration Due  
Sept 1: Notification of acceptance of abstract  
Sept 15: Payment Due

These deadlines would provide attendees with appropriate time to arrange for travel.

An applicant who did not meet the abstract and payment deadlines would risk forfeit of the opportunity to attend the meeting.

The payment deadline was emphasized because checks need to be written to Touch of Nature prior to the meeting for meals, etc.

### **C. Gibbs Website**

The issue of having one centralized website was addressed. Mike Johnson has a website dedicated to the Society (<http://mljohnson.pharm.virginia.edu/gibbs-society/corporate.html>). In order to maintain site security, each set of organizers should create a specific website for the annual meeting. Mike will create a link to this site. *It was emphasized that organizers need to officially close their websites at the end of each meeting, in order to maintain fluidity in registration.* The on-line registration forms from this year worked well, however it was agreed that a confirmation should be sent to recipients. Additionally, it was suggested that Mike keep the central database of information for all attendees to be shared with current organizers.

### **D. Election of President**

The Society voted on the next President of the Gibbs Society. This will be Tim Lohman.

### **E. Election of Organizers for 2007 meeting**

The Society voted on the organizers for the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual conference. These are Brian Baker and Michael Henzl.