

### **33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Gibbs Conference on Biothermodynamics**

Minutes: Business Meeting, October 7, 2019

Touch of Nature Conference Center, Carbondale, IL

Officers: Brian Baker, President; Clay Clark, Past-President; Kathleen Hall, President-Elect; Aron Fenton, Treasurer; Liskin Swint-Kruse, Secretary

Long-Term Board Members: Vince LiCata, Madeline Shea

Former/Current Organizers in Attendance: Matt Auton, David Bain, Doug Barrick, Dorothy Beckett, Sarah Bondos, Jannette Carey, Carlos Castañeda, Brad Chaires, Patricia Clark, David Draper, Nick Fitzkee, Karen Fleming, Bertrand Garcia-Moreno E., Andy Herr, Jim Horn, Tim Lohman, Aaron Lucius, Luis Marky, Chiwook Park, Ana-Maria Soto, Steve Whitten

I. Call to Order: Brian Baker, President

II. Report from the Organizers: Carlos Castañeda and Matt Auton

Carlos and Matt reported that there were a total of 218 applications and 207 registrants at this year's meeting, and only 4 registrants appeared not to have come. An additional 16 applications from industry came in after the deadline, and 16 applications came in after the deadline either from labs that applied late or in cases where email addresses changed (these were from past Gibbs attendees). 207 attendees may have slightly over-subscribed the event, but overall the organizers heard positive comments about the meeting. A total of 94 labs were represented, comprising 70 PIs and 121 trainees (including 86 grad students, 26 post-docs, and 7 undergrads). Thirteen PIs were invited to give talks; one had to cancel at the last minute due to an emergency. There were fifteen trainee talks: 4 post-docs and 11 grad students. This year there were a total of 124 posters.

The talks were chosen to keep things balanced in terms of male/female, geography, and career levels; sessions were fairly mixed. The mobile microphone set has been helpful, and the organizers were able to get extra audience mics from ToN which has been a help. This year a new topic area of emphasis was included that focused on phase transitions. In the invitations letter, speakers were requested to participate in the whole meeting. The organizers checked with trainee mentors prior to trainee invitations.

Some of the challenges this year were due to turnover in the ToN staff just in the last week before Gibbs33; no notes were passed on from when Alan Teska worked with us. The ToN Assistant Director working with us now is Tom Brummer, and Sean Henkenius (Hospitality Services Program Coordinator) is his helper. They are taking notes to be ready for Gibbs34 next year. Delays during registration were due to one of the credit card readers going down and the lodging sheets being mixed up, but they were able to correct things on the fly. Next year, Gibbs registrants will be able to call in and pay for lodging in advance. Another suggestion was that the ToN staff write down credit card numbers and key them in later.

Wifi has worked for most people but not all. Several people mentioned challenges with connecting to wifi using either phone or laptop, but all seemed to agree that once connected, the connection was noticeably faster than in the past.

There were several new vendors this year. We received total promised sponsorship of \$9,251, of which \$3,501 was from academic institutions. One company has had a history of promising support but not paying, even though they are getting an advertisement in the program. In order to be

fair to all sponsors, it was suggested that in the future, acknowledgments and advertising in the program booklet will be printed after the donations have been received. Next year, the organizers need to watch for the Genentech online sponsorship application, which is made available in the first few months of the calendar year. Personal interactions worked better than sending letters for getting donations. Most contributions came in at the last minute in September. Even as early as the Biophysical Society meeting, the organizers were already working through the list of potential donors. The number of vendors attending has increased this year; these individuals did also pay registration. The Mayo Clinic contributed the cost of printing the program books this year.

The new soundproofing panels that were installed in the room we use for the poster session were a big help. There were suggestions to remove a middle row of posters and move them into the corner next year in order to create more room for people to walk through. We are probably at a limit for the number of posters that can be fit in the space available. Swag (i.e., mugs and T-shirts) cost \$2,000 this year. Thank you to Aron Fenton for coordinating the food and coffee.

- III. Report from the Organizers of Saturday Night Thermo: Vince LiCata, for co-organizer Susie Pedigo  
SNT went off well in the new space (Little Grassy Lodge). There were 65-68 trainees present at the beginning of the session, 77 present for the flashtalks, and 55 present during the panel discussion. This year we also had an outreach talk by Jannette Carey about teaching in prisons. We will need to get info to ToN next year about the audiovisual setup; nothing was set up ahead of time this year and we had to figure out how to do it, leading to a late start. This was probably due to the ToN staff transition this year.
- IV. Financial Report: Aron Fenton, Treasurer  
Soundproofing was installed two weeks ago; we will pay half of the cost over the next several years. ToN is providing snacks and coffee as part of paying for the sound proofing. Many of the ToN costs are high-end estimates. We expect to be within budget on the overall costs for the meeting. Pls who were invited to speak got free registration this year but still paid for lodging. We might want to allow speakers the option to pay next year; we need to reconfigure the website so that they have an easy option to do so.
- V. Election of 2020 (Gibbs34) organizers: led by Brian Baker, President  
Roberto Galleto (Washington University in St. Louis) and Karen Lewis (Texas State University) were elected as co-organizers for Gibbs34 in 2020.
- VI. Election of 2020 president-elect: led by Kathleen Hall, President-Elect  
Liskin Swint-Kruse (Kansas University Medical Center) was elected President-Elect.
- VII. Election of 2020-2023 Secretary – Kathleen Hall, President-Elect  
Andy Herr (Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center) was elected Secretary.
- VIII. Opportunity for Honoring Serge N. Timasheff within the Gibbs Conference – Liskin Swint-Kruse, Secretary  
The Board received an offer from Jim C. Lee to endow and sponsor a Gibbs event in honor of Serge N. Timasheff, who passed away in the spring of 2019. The Board recommends naming the Saturday Night Thermo career panel after him and using the funds to cover dinner and provide trav-

el costs for career panelists. A motion made and seconded and was passed by unanimous vote. Liskin Swint-Kruse will contact Jim Lee to discuss arrangements.

IX. Items from the floor – Kathleen Hall, President-Elect  
None noted.

X. Addendum  
The agenda for the 2019 Gibbs Business Meeting is attached.