

**25<sup>th</sup> Annual Gibbs Conference on Biothermodynamics**  
Minutes of the Business Meeting held on September 19, 2011  
Touch of Nature Conference Center, Carbondale, IL

Respectfully submitted by Margaret Daugherty

**The 25<sup>th</sup> Gibbs Conference Celebratory Limerick**  
**By Karen Fleming, Ph.D.**

A group of Gibbs Groupies did gather  
Of energies, mostly free, they did blather  
Heat capacities they woo  
And enthalpies, too  
To Gibbs Groupies thermodynamics matter

Biothermo, the Groupies discuss  
In discourse, nucleic acids are a must  
Along with protein, too  
Chemical potentials rule  
pH, salt and temp are fuel for the fuss

The Gibbs Groups care deeply about training  
Student participation is not at all waning.  
Of entropy and heats  
Over Buffalo tro'd meats  
Free energies for students, even when raining

J. Williard founded our lore  
For 25 years Groupies follow his core  
Gibbs-Duhem at night  
Over camp-fired star light  
Here! Here! for twenty five more!

**Attendees:**

*Organizers:* Board of Directors, Gibbs Society of Biological Thermodynamics

*Board in Attendance (listed alphabetically):* Douglas Barrick, Jack Correia, Margaret Daugherty, Karen Fleming, Bertrand Garcia-Moreno and Madeline Shea

*Past Organizers in attendance:* David Bain, Brian Baker, Nathan Baker, Doug Barrick, Dorothy Beckett, Michael Brenowitz, Brad Chaires, Clay Clark, Trevor Creamer, Enrico DiCera, Kathleen Hall, Michael Henzl, Vince Licata, Tim Lohman, Luis Marky, Mike Mossing and Liskin Swint-Kruse.

The meeting was called to order by Current President Karen Fleming.

**A). Report on changes in the Board of Directors and Treasurer's Report (Jack Correia).**

Jack Correia has assumed the role of Treasurer. In the event of any unforeseen situations, Madeline Shea and Michael Johnson will also have on-line access to the bank account. It was brought up that the Society funds can be safely invested in a CD with the current bank, with the option of easily moving the money out of the CD, if needed.

Michael Johnson has assumed the role of Vice President, and will be responsible for maintaining the tax exempt status.

Jack provided a balance sheet that contained the main expenses accrued during organization of the current meeting. Major "new" expenses that were unique to this meeting included providing the Special Issue of Biophysical Chemistry (~\$7200) and the commemorative mugs (~\$1700). Of note was that approximately \$6500 was raised from our sponsors, which includes the Department of Biochemistry at the University of Mississippi Medical Center contributing the cost of the programs. Overall, after all TON bills are paid, it is projected that the current meeting should net between \$2000-\$5000. This would maintain our balance just above ~\$30,000, providing a comfortable reserve that could potentially cover the cost of one meeting.

**B). Report from the current organizers (Jack Correia and Madeline Shea).**

The organizers reported that organization of the meeting "by theme" was well-received, and this was confirmed by the Society members present.

There was a short conversation about the introduction of the panel discussion at the end of each session. Overall, they are favorably received, but it was suggested that there be more consistency in how they are run (i.e., that they don't end up being a question and answer session involving only one participant).

Vince Licata and Liskin Swint-Kruse reported on the great success of the trainee session "Saturday Night Thermo". They reported good student interactions and involvement. Feedback from the trainees in attendance (88 registered, 55 in attendance) was positive. In terms of specific suggestion for improving the session in the future, they noted the need for speakers to have a microphone, and that all talks should be preloaded onto one computer in advance of the session. The Society agreed that students who participate in the Saturday Night Thermo talks should not be disqualified from presenting talks during the subsequent meetings. As an aside, the current organizers noted that they were pleasantly surprised by the dramatic increase in student requests for talks for the current meeting.

The meeting had ~200 people registered, and it appears that we had close to that in attendance. We had 79 laboratories and 5 companies represented at the meeting. It was noted that the organizers were proactive in limiting the number of attendees by lab, and put the burden of that on the PI's. It was emphasized that we try to be as accommodating as possible, but due to space limitations, restrictions need to be in place.

The registration timeline that we had this year worked well for the organizers, along with including a deadline for receiving refunds. Using PAYPAL to receive payments has been well-received, and it was noted that we are moving to the StoreFront feature to streamline the

process. An additional comment was that housing assignments were not made until the end of the organization process, so we are unable to include housing into the overall payment.

*The current timeline is as follows:*

July 1: Applications and Abstracts due  
July 22: Notification of Abstract Acceptance  
Aug. 12: Completed registration and payment due.  
(There will be no refunds after this date)  
Sept. 17-20 - Meeting Dates

This year, student registration was raised from \$25 to \$60 to help offset the extra costs associated with this anniversary meeting. Although the group recognized that this meeting remains an inexpensive meeting for trainees, it was recommended that we might revisit this issue at a later time.

Technical issues: The quality of the projector and the size of the screen were introduced as being problems. Currently, Society members are providing personal/University property in the means of the computer switch. It was suggested that we explore this route in terms of providing a high quality projector, as opposed to having to buy equipment out of the Society's funds. *Addendum to meeting notes. Jack Correia has pursued this problem by speaking with Alan Teska of TON about cost-sharing measures to defray the cost of new equipment, and additionally with his institution's AV department about obtaining one. Evidently, the screen and projector need to be paired for optimal results.*

The idea of codifying a set of rules for the inclusion of organizers as speakers into their respective meetings, or in the subsequent year was introduced. After discussion, the general consensus of the Society members was that the meeting was unique in the sense that regular participation in the meeting ensures that all would have the opportunity for presenting their science. We should emphasize the importance of inclusion of these individuals to future organizers.

#### **D). Discussion on Organization of the Meeting**

Several models of meeting organization were introduced and discuss. The theme of the discussion revolved on two themes: how to keep consistency in the meeting, and can we provide a means of lightening the overall work and time burden on the organizers. The models introduced included:

- i). The "Gordon Conference Model", where current organizers are paired with future organizers,.
- ii). Pairing a "new organizer" with an experienced organizer.
- iii). The current model, with two organizers chosen at the meeting, and having the Board provide oversight and "institutional" memory. Additionally, for this meeting, there was a division of labor of certain meeting responsibilities to lighten the burden of the organizers.

The current model was favored over the other proposed models. Jack Correia elucidated the role of the Board in providing oversight to the current organizers. He emphasized that it should not be just the Board volunteering oversight into this process, but should be the collective responsibility of the Society members as a whole. He made a request for people to volunteer to provide oversight in different aspects of the meeting. It was proposed to have term limits for the volunteers, so that we all can share the joy. Our current division of labor is as follows.

Meeting Organization:

Roles of the Meeting Organizers ---

Program Development, *in consultation with the Board. This has been accomplished in recent years by meeting with the Board at the Biophysical Society Meeting.*

Invitation of speakers

Selection of Keynote Speaker

TON arrangements – with Alan Teska & Mike Scott of TON.

TON contact information: 618 - 453-1121

Program Book

Housing Assignments

Food (especially good coffee for this crowd).

Beer and Wine (with assistance from Jack Correia)

Annual meeting website content

Fundraising (with discussion with Society Treasurer)

Society Website Maintenance:

Organizers will maintain their own website for their meeting

Karen Fleming (with assistance by Peggy Daugherty)

Mailings and Maintenance of Email Lists:

Peggy Daugherty (coordination of emails with the Organizers)

Registration and Paypal:

Nathan Baker and Jack Correia (assistance of Peggy Daugherty?)

Saturday Night Thermo – Trainee Session:

Vince Licata and Liskin Swint-Kruse

Fundraising Assistance:

Jack Correia will help with special fundraising situations.

Ackers Lecture Selection Committee Chair:

Jim Lee

Non-Profit Information:

Tax Filing & Insurance Policy for Conference - Treasurer - Jack Correia

Incorporation Status as Tax Exempt Org. - Vice President - Mike Johnson

**E). Election of President-Elect:**

The Society members voted to elect David Bain (University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus) as President-Elect.

**F). Selection of organizers for the 26<sup>th</sup> Gibbs Conference on Biothermodynamics, 2012.**

Patricia Clark (University of Notre Dame) and Aaron Lucius (University of Alabama at Birmingham) were elected to be organizers for the upcoming conference. The chosen dates for the upcoming 26<sup>th</sup> Conference will be chosen to avoid conflict with local events.

**G). New business.**

No new business was introduced.

President Karen Fleming adjourned the meeting.