
Minutes of the 102nd Annual General Meeting of Biochemical Society

The 102nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held at 14:30 on Monday 2 December 2013 at Charles Darwin House, London. There were 13 members present;

Stephen Busby (In the Chair)
Chris Cooper
Tim Dafforn
Anne Dell
Nicola Gray
Eion Flemming
John Lagnado

Fraser Macmillan
Frank Michelangeli
John Newbury
David Scott
Peter Shepherd
Nick Watmough

Apologies for absence had been received from:

Ron Laskey
Colin Kleanthous
Richard Reece
Mary McCaffrey
Alan Wallace

Freddie Theodoulou
Sheila Graham
Rob Beynon
David Fell

The following proxy votes had been received: 7 members had appointed the Chair of the AGM

1. Minutes of the 102nd Annual General Meeting

It was proposed by Steve Busby, seconded by Frank Michelangeli, that the Minutes of the 102nd Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 5 December 2012 at Charles Darwin House, London be accepted as a true record of the proceedings. The minutes had appeared on www.biochemistry.org

2. Executive Committee Report for the Year Ending 30 June 2013

The Chairman's Statement and Accounts had been posted on www.biochemistry.org

Steve Busby commended the Society's Communications Manager, Amy Cox, for an excellent Annual Report design. Peter Shepherd advised that the map contained in the Annual Report needed to be amended to show the correct locations of the China and London offices.

Referring to the Executive Committee Report, Steve Busby highlighted some of the significant objectives that had been achieved during the year, including:

- Increase in membership numbers and developing international membership
- Development of social media
- Charles Darwin House – fostering collaboration and, building on the success of Charles Darwin House, expanding to a second building in Grays Inn Road.
- Working together with other organisations to influence Education and Policy
- Working with the Federation of European Biochemical Societies

The Society has had to think how to reposition itself and the last twelve months have been a period of

major change. Steve Busby thanked Kate Baillie for managing that change.

Nick Watmough presented the financial statements from 1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013 contained in the Executive Committee Report and Accounts. In particular he highlighted:

- The increased expenditure on membership, grants and awards – the meeting agreed these increases were justified and needed.
- The strong financial performance of Portland Press Limited in spite of Portland Customer Services
- The purchase of 107 Grays Inn Road and the change to the Society's share ownership in Charles Darwin House Ltd reduced from 49.4% to 35.6%

Steve Busby proposed the adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts. This was seconded by Chris Cooper and carried nem con.

3. CEO's Report

The Annual Report is now available online, with a small number available in hardcopy. The report will be disseminated to members and external stakeholders.

The Society celebrated the Centenary of Women in Biochemistry with a range of activities and events including a launch reception, schools lectures and discussion sessions. The Society was involved with Parliamentary Links Day and the inquiry in to women in STEM.

The 50th Colworth Celebration was held in February at Charles Darwin House with a lecture from Robin May followed by a dinner for previous winners which had been well attended.

The cumulative losses for Portland Customer Services had led to the decision to co-locate the Colchester Office to Charles Darwin House. Cross training and integration with existing teams have taken place during the year and all staff will have transferred to London or been made redundant by 31 December 2014. The Warehouse has been transitioned to Air Business and Atkinsons and the Colchester site will close with lease and sell off options in progress. £456,000 (29%) staff savings will be made across the Group.

The proposed costs for 107 Grays Inn Road (including refurbishment and creation of a 4th floor) currently stand at £825,000. The existing tenants in Charles Darwin House will move to 107 Grays Inn Road where there will be a boardroom and members' area. The current co-owners will be accommodated in Charles Darwin House. A full-time Operations Manager has been appointed.

The *Biochemical Journal* Editorial Board Meeting took place alongside a symposium in Beijing in March 2013 attracting 130 delegates. The Journal website has been redesigned. Following cumulative losses of £266,000 the contract to publish *ASN Neuro* will be terminated with the American Society for Neurochemistry. Bioscience Reports published 54 papers in the first year since conversion to open access compared to a target of 58. A Creative Commons CC-BY licence has now been implemented. Other publishing activities included the developed of themed collections, the legacy package and the recruitment of Dr Niamh O'Connor as Head of Publishing.

The Society currently has 6800 members and 93 Local Ambassadors (21 overseas and 72 in the UK). Associate Membership was launched in January 2013 and International Associate agreements have been made with societies in Brazil and China.

In 2013 the grants schemes continued to be successful, 161 Summer Vacation Studentship applications

were received and £80,000 awarded. 15 Scientific Outreach Grants awarded and £75,000 was awarded through the General Travel Grants scheme.

2013 saw the introduction of Training Days including Quantative Proteomics. Webcasts from speakers are available on YouTube to further engage the scientific community with the events programme. Joint events have been with FEBS, Royal Society of Chemistry, Society of Biology, Protein Society, Max Planck and British Society for Immunology.

Following Gemma Garrett's secondment to the Society of Biology, Alexa Hime has been Acting Head of Education. The Understanding Biochemistry resource is current being developed and the Society continues to champion careers through activities and resources. The society has organized workshops and talks at science festivals, the Science Communication Training Day and the Science Communication Competition.

Dr Catherine Ball, Science Policy Officer, is seconded to the Society of Biology four days a week. She has led the Society's work on PhD standards and drug discovery. The Society has developed further links with organizations such as the Science Media Centre and Science is Vital. Increased collaborative working through our policy work with the Society of Biology and our work relating to industry has raised our profile and provided opportunities to increase our influence.

Kate Baillie was thanked for her report.

4. Report of the Auditors

On behalf of the Auditors, Nick Watmough reported that, in the opinion of Grant Thornton, the financial statements gave a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Society and the Group as at 30 June 2013 and of the Group's incoming resources, the application of those resources including its income and expenditure for the year, and had been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006. The Auditor's Report was noted.

5. Appointment of Auditors

Messrs Grant Thornton offered themselves for re-election. Nicola Gray proposed their re-election and asked the meeting to authorise the Executive Committee to fix their remuneration. The motion was seconded by David Scott.

6. Portland Press Limited

Richard Reece, Chair of Portland Press Limited, had not been able to attend the meeting. However, the update on Portland Press activities had been covered in the CEO's report.

7. Vote of Thanks

Steve Busby proposed a vote of thanks to members of Committees and Boards who had retired since the last AGM, or would be retiring shortly:

Committee
Council and Executive Committee

Portland Press Board
Meetings Board

Member
Colin Kleanthous, Frank Michelangeli, John
Newbury, John Coggins, Tim Dafforn
John Coggins
Rob Beynon

Theme Panel V: Signalling
Theme Panel VI: Biological Systems
Education Committee

Biochemical Journal
(retiring editors)

(retiring deputy chairs)

Clinical Science
(retiring editors)

Biochemical Society Transactions

Stephen Yarwood

Colin Bingle

John Newbury (Chair), Sheila Dargan, Robert Rowney, David Harris

Marta Cascante, Declan Doyle, Peter Gettins, David Litchfield, Ben Luisi, Jan Mierynk, Cheryll Tickle and Dominic Withers.

Mike Blatt, Laurie Goodyear

Ingo Tamm

David Richardson

Committee members, Editors and Theme Panel members were thanked for their contribution.

8. Election and Appointment of Officers

President - Professor Ron Laskey is serving until the end of 2014

Honorary Officers Elected by the Membership

Under the Memorandum and Articles, Honorary Officers are elected to serve for a fixed period rather than retiring each year and standing for re-election.

The current incumbents are:

Treasurer: Nicholas Watmough is serving until 31 December 2017.

Meetings Secretary: Sheila Graham is serving until the end of 2016.

Honorary Membership Secretary: Frank Michelangeli is serving until the end of 2013. Nominations were received for Richie Porter and Nicola Gray. The election results were:

Nicola Gray - 89 votes

Richie Porter - 32 Votes

Nicola Gray was declared elected. She will start her term of office on 1 January 2014.

Honorary Officers Appointed by Council

Chair, Executive Committee: Colin Kleanthous is serving until 31 December 2013 and will be succeeded by Steve Busby.

Vice-Chair, Executive Committee: Steve Busby is serving until 31 December 2013 and will be succeeded by Anne Dell.

Chair Portland Press Limited: John Coggins served until 31 May 2013. He has been succeeded by Richard Reece who is serving until 31 December 2017.

Chair *Biochemical Journal* Editorial Board: Peter Shepherd finished his five year term on 31 December 2012, but has agreed to continue serving for the full seven year term until 31 December 2014.

Chair, Policy Committee: David Fell is serving until the end of 2014.

Chair, Education Committee: John Newbury is serving until the 31 December 2013. He will be succeeded by Robert Beynon.

Election of Council

There are two vacancies carried over from last year. Nominations have been received for Michelle

West and David Timson. As there have been no other nominations, Michelle West and David Timson are deemed to be elected to Council.

9. Ordinary Resolution Number 1

The following resolution was considered:

Professor Dame Janet Thornton DBE and Professor Sir John B Gurdon be elected as Honorary Members of the Society.

Steve Busby proposed that the resolution should be passed. This was seconded by Tim Dafforn and carried nem con.

10. Ordinary Resolution Number 2

The following resolution was considered:

That the membership subscription for 2015 should be:

£73 for Full Members	£19 for New Emeritus Members
£41 for Early Career Members	£420 for Lifetime Members at retiring age 55 to 60
£31 for Associate Members	£290 for Lifetime Members at retiring age 61 to 66
£19 for Postgraduate Members	£210 for Lifetime Members at retiring age 67 and above
£10 for Undergraduate Members	

Steve Busby proposed the resolution should be passed. This was seconded by Frank Michelangeli and carried nem con.

11. Any Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3.15pm