

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ENZYMOLOGY

Minutes of Board Meeting Held in Los Angeles, CA

Monday 26th July 2004, commencing at 9.30 am.

Present: Mario Plebani (Chair and President)
Eleftherios Diamandis (Vice-President and Treasurer)
Catherine Sturgeon (Secretary)
Daniel Chan (Councillor)
Francesco Salvatore (Ex-President)

Attending: David Goldberg (Editor of Newsletter)
Morton Schwartz (Ex-Treasurer)

1) Minutes of Previous Board Meeting

The Minutes of the Board Meeting in Hamamatsu, Japan, held on Friday 18th October, 2002, as published on the Website of the Society, were approved without change.

2) President's Report

a) Election of Board: Dr Plebani reported the steps that had been taken to secure recommendations from the Nominating Committee and further nominations from the Membership, all of which followed the requirements of the Constitution, as outlined in the previous Minutes. The persons listed above will thus serve in the named offices until 2008 or prior resignation.

b) Review of Constitution: This revealed a requirement to clarify the status of Life Members, since there was no mechanism permitting their resignation and no waiver of the responsibility owed to them by the Society in circumstances where they could not be contacted. It was resolved to submit the following addition to the Constitution under 4.2. Life Membership for approval at the General Business Meeting in Padua in October:

All Life Members are required to provide notification of change of address (postal and e-mail) to the Secretary, failing which the privileges of membership will lapse. Any Life Member may resign from active membership, by notifying the Secretary to this effect.

This will be immediately posted on the Website and sent to all members whose e-mail address is known.

c) Membership Issues: At the time of the Hamamatsu meeting, documentation was available on only 51 of the 403 persons nominally on the Society's list of Life members. Since then, only one new member has joined. The Board was requested individually to provide information on "missing members" from their own countries, but apart from eliciting the fact that several had

deceased, no further addresses were obtained. It was resolved to make one final effort by posting on the Website the names and last known address of the "missing members" with a request to the entire membership to provide any relevant information to the Secretary.

At the General Business Meeting in Naples in 2000, it had been decided to create, outside the Constitution and for a trial period of 4 years, a new category designated Associate Member. This would be offered free of subscription to all who attended and spoke at the Scientific Meetings of the Society and to any others interested in this form of membership. Such persons would receive Newsletters and any other forms of publicity, as well as advanced notification of meetings which they were welcome to attend, but they would not be eligible for office or to vote in elections or at Business Meetings. Despite the efforts of Dr Diamandis, no such members have been enrolled. Several of the current Board spoke against the notion of inflating our membership with individuals who did not have a firm commitment to the Society, but there was a consensus that our most pressing need was to attract a cadre of young Scientists to rejuvenate the Society. To meet this, it was agreed to create a new category of Associate Member; the rights and privileges will be defined in the future, but it will be restricted to persons less than 40 years old and will carry a reduced subscription, in line with a similar category in other Societies, such as AACC.

d) Liaison with Other Societies: This item was inserted partly in relation to Item 5.c. below and partly in response to the need to find new members for the Society. One activity widely practised in the past was the holding of scientific meetings jointly with other Societies. On other occasions, the Society had been the principle organiser of a Satellite Meeting associated with a major meeting of another Society or Federation of Societies. A third type of cooperation had taken the form of one or more scientific sessions organised by ISE within the framework of a major meeting promoted by a Society or Federation. One proposal was to seek help from cooperating Societies in circulating information about ISE and an Invitation to Membership through the lists of such societies.

Another was the insertion of links on the Websites of other Societies on a mutual basis. The names of various Societies in the fields of Proteolysis, Coagulation, Proteomics and Biological Markers were mentioned. A fuller list will be developed, based on a clear component of Enzymology within the sphere of interest of each Society and appropriate action will be taken, based on mutual discussion or correspondence.

e) General Meeting in Padua: This has been fixed for 4.30 pm on Thursday 28th October. Notification and the Agenda (the same as for this meeting) has been posted on the Website and circulated to all members with known e-mail addresses. Following the Business Meeting, the Board will meet to review the situation and to deal with items carried forward from the present meeting.

3) Secretary's Report

There was no new business to report.

4) Treasurer's Report

Dr. Morton Schwartz attended for this item. He pointed out that he still had signing authority with Citibank NY, where the Society's accounts currently reside and will be able to issue cheques for expenses incurred by the present meeting, if necessary. He counseled against a formal annual audit, which was not justified by the level of financial activity, and was quite costly.

a) Transfer of Accounts to Toronto: This had previously been agreed by e-mail communications, but was formally and unanimously confirmed to meet the requirements of the Canadian Banking Authority. The funds will be maintained in US dollars under management by an Investment Company that acts for the Ontario Medical Association.

As Dr Diamandis is a member of this Association, there will be no management fee. All cheques will be issued on the joint signatures of Drs Diamandis and Goldberg. Some delay in the transfer of these funds from Citibank was experienced because of the need to resolve their status for purpose of Canadian Income Tax. The present situation is that the Company is satisfied that ISE is a bona fide scientific organization immune from taxation in Canada, but it wishes to have this status confirmed by a taxation expert, at a charge to the Society of \$50. Once this opinion has been obtained, it will then arrange the transfer with Citibank NY.

b) Balance in Accounts: As of July 7th, there was a balance of \$118,955 in the Savings Account earning less than 1% per annum and \$6,713 in the Chequing Account. A charge of \$20 per month is currently levied on these accounts by Citibank. We have been informed that the proposed Canadian company will not charge for their services.

c) Investment Plan: It has been agreed that to make better use of the Savings Account and to ensure a steady flow of capital that can be liquidated to meet ongoing expenses, the entire sum, after topping up the Current Account, will be invested in short-term securities maturing at different time-periods and with different interest coupons. This will ensure that the face value of the investments will always be recovered and the income should be higher than that available from regular savings accounts, at current rates. Dr Diamandis will develop a proposal to be submitted to the Board for approval.

d) Subscription: It was agreed that for the present, the Annual Subscription will remain at \$30, payable at the rate of \$60 for two years, with Life Membership costing \$300.

5) Scientific Meetings

a) Hamamatsu and New York Meetings: A full report of the first meeting, held in 2002, had appeared in the last Newsletter and had been posted on the Website. Nothing further had been received from Prof. Maekawa and the financial outcome was not known but, as the Society was not financially involved beyond the funds already provided, it was decided not to pursue the matter further. The details leading up to the cancellation of the New York City Meeting scheduled for 2003 had also been posted on the Website and it was deemed that no further action should be taken.

b) Enzymes Meet Proteomics: This one-day meeting scheduled for Friday October 29, 2004 at Padua, Italy, and organised by Dr M Plebani, will be co-sponsored by ISE together with a number of other organizations. Three members of the Board will feature as Invited Speakers. The full program appears on the ISE Website, together with the Announcement and Agenda for the General Business Meeting of ISE to be held at 4.30 pm the previous day (Thursday October 28th).

c) Future Meetings: Dr. Plebani announced that he was organizing a half-day meeting on enzymes (title to be decided) in Rome on October 11, 2005 and asked if the Society would consent to co-sponsor this event. It was unanimously agreed to do so and to announce this meeting on our Website, when details have been finalised.

Considerable discussion ensued about future meetings to be organised by ISE and many different views were expressed. All agreed that this was the principal *raison d'etre* of the Society, without which it would be impossible to attract new members. They should be of high scientific quality, and, in the view of several, targeted especially at Young Investigators who should be given the opportunity to present their own work. It would be desirable to offer a number of Fellowships to such persons, to defray travel expenses. Our main dilemma is an inadequate membership base to allow us to organise independent meetings. This dictates the need to hold our meetings conjointly with other Societies, either as Satellites, as Sessions within a larger program or with the entire program being the responsibility of two or more organisations, one of which would be ISE. The poor attendance at recent Satellite Meetings held by the Society favoured the latter two options. The importance of audience numbers as a potential source of recruiting new members favoured large International Congresses in preference to smaller national meetings. Each member of the Board could exercise influence with other Societies with which they are involved, to achieve these objectives.

A number of meetings scheduled for 2005 were mentioned but evoked no enthusiasm, especially in light of the accepted reality that a planning period of 2 to 3 years is necessary to ensure success. It was resolved that each Board Member would access a calendar of events listing scientific meetings scheduled as far into the future as possible, in order to explore a potential role for ISE in those where an enzymology content is already inherent or might be welcome as a novel component of the program. All information will be circulated and discussed by e-mail preparatory to the drawing up of a coherent long-term plan at the Padua Meeting.

6) Website

Great satisfaction was expressed with the operation of this site by Dr Bromberg, to whom our thanks are recorded. Among suggestions for display of additional material, the following proposals were made:

1. Photographs and biographies of Past Presidents.
2. Website links to other Societies whose activities are related to enzymology.

7) Newsletter

Dr Goldberg, who was in attendance for this item, outlined his proposals for the next issue that will include the biographies and photographs of the present Board Members, together with an

account of the present meeting. It was agreed that the latter may take the form of the present Minutes, following their approval in principle by e-mail; action will be taken to modify or exclude any items considered inappropriate. Information about prizes and awards to members, such as those made at the present AACC Meeting, will also be included. The Board was requested to bring any such information to his attention for future issues.

8) Other Business

a) Expenses: Current rules allow the following to be paid from ISE funds to Members attending Board Meetings when no other source of funds is available:

- a. Economy air travel (cheapest available) and ground transportation including trains, buses and taxis on presentation of relevant receipts.
- b. Hotel room (usually arranged by the Secretary or designated for all Board Members) for two nights (intracontinental travel) or four nights (intercontinental travel).
- c. Per diem allowance of \$75 without receipts, or with receipts if greater.

It was agreed that the same expenses will apply for the term of the present Board.

b) Future of Society: This theme permeated the discussion throughout the meeting. The points made and the decisions reached are documented under the respective agenda items. The issue of a Journal was raised but abandoned in light of our earlier experience with *Enzymologica Biologica Clinica* (ENZYME) published by Karger, under the auspices of the Society and similar experience suffered by the National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry in the sponsorship of a journal. Emphasis was placed on high-quality scientific meetings, as a means of attracting new members. For many years now, this has been a complete failure, despite the regular distribution of application forms to all those attending. It was proposed that an electronic slide-show be developed to "sell" the merits of ISE Membership, to be set up at any future meetings in which the Society is involved. Dr Diamandis agreed to take responsibility for this initiative.

The Meeting adjourned at 12.10 pm.

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