



International Society for Enzymology (ISE)

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Minutes of General Business Meeting, Friday, 14th July, 1996

17:30 p.m on 14th July, 1996 at Robinson College, Cambridge, UK

Present: 18 Members were in attendance, and the Meeting was Chaired by the President, Professor D.M. Goldberg

This report was adopted on the motion of Prof. C. Price, seconded by Prof. D. Moss with all 18 members in favor.

1. New Constitution

This, including the change in name of the Society was adopted with 16 in favor, 1 against and 1 abstention following a motion proposed by Dr. A.R. Henderson and seconded by Professor C. Price.

2. President's Report

This was circulated to the members present. Prof. Goldberg described the events leading up to the change in Name and in Constitution of the Society, and outlined the decisions reached by the Board at its first meeting in Milan, 27th-28th January, 1996.

- (a) **Membership:** The Terms of Office for those elected in 1995 and the Offices they will hold for a 4-year period beginning January 1, 1996 are as follows:

President: Professor David M. Goldberg

Vice-President: Professor Franco Salvatore

Ex-President: Dr. Morton K. Schwartz

Secretary: Dr. Mario Plebani

Councillor: Dr. Cees van der Heiden has two more years in the post of Councillor. His position will be filled by election to take effect January 1, 1998.

- (b) **Subscription:** For the first time since its foundation, the subscription was raised from 25 to 30 SFr and made payable in 2-yearly amounts of 60 SFr. It is simply too expensive to draw and deposit smaller amounts. In the future, it is quite possible that we will change to a more accessible currency *eg.*, US dollars.
- (c) **Newsletter:** Formerly, this took shape as an item simultaneously published in three journals: *Enzyme*, *Clinica Chimica Acta*, and the *European Journal of Laboratory Medicine* with off-prints made available for mailing to the membership. This arrangement no longer exists. In the meantime, I propose to use a format such as the "Letter from the President" sent to all members on February 12th, 1996.
- (d) **Obituary:** On May 10th, 1995, Professor J-C. Dreyfus, who served on the Board for 8 years, passed away. An Obituary of Prof. Dreyfus has been prepared by his distinguished associate, Prof. Jean-Claude Kaplan. Following its publication it will be distributed to all members.

3. Secretary's Report

Membership: The Society currently has 157 Life Members and only 7 Fully Subscribed Ordinary Members. Cards certifying Life Membership will be drawn up, and the Application Form, which currently is somewhat clumsy, will be revised.

Chinese Application: A Chinese scientist has applied for Life Membership without payment as a citizen of a "developing country". This was unanimously rejected partly because of the difficulty in drawing the line between "developing" and "emerging" countries. This applicant will be encouraged to seek industrial sponsorship in his own country.

In recognition of our organization of the meeting in Athens two years ago, Dr. E. Anagnostou-Cacaras had been invited to attend the present Congress as a guest of the Board. Since she has paid the annual dues consistently over a period approximating 10 years, it was resolved to create a Life Member without further payment. On the motion of Prof. F. Salvatore,

seconded by Dr. A. Belfield, this Report was adopted with all 18 members in favor.

4. Treasurer's Report

Dr. Werner had tendered his resignation as Treasurer about 5 weeks ago in joint letters to the Secretary and President. This was accepted by Prof. Goldberg with regrets. The Board appointed Prof. Schwartz to the post of Treasurer until January 1, 2000. He will assume responsibility for the financial transactions of the Society conjointly with Prof. Goldberg. The Board authorized the two to meet urgently with Dr. Werner in Washington to ascertain the assets of the Society and to consolidate all the Society accounts in a North American Bank, apart from two small 'floating' administrative accounts being held by the president and Secretary. The President will express the Board's profound appreciation of Dr. Werner's sustained service to the Society over a period of 12 years. The Board proposed that the annual subscription for Ordinary Members should be payable for two consecutive years in order to cut down on administrative expenses. Moreover, this should now be paid in US dollars rather than SFr. For 1996 and 1997, the subscription was set at US \$50 for the 2-year period. This was adopted on the motion of Prof. D. Moss, seconded by Dr. G. Maguire with all 18 in favor.

5. Strategies to Increase Membership

Prof. Goldberg outlined two proposals. One would involve the Board identifying major International Congresses such as those devoted to Biochemistry, Clinical Biochemistry, Pathology, Immunology, Genetics and so forth. The Society should offer to finance one half-day session with which it will be clearly identified, devoted to Enzymology content relevant to the main subject. This session should be jointly organized with input from both bodies. Our financial commitment should be met from Society funds if we are unsuccessful in attracting corporate support. In return, we will ask the organizers to include a "flyer" describing the Society and inviting membership. This will be sent with the Preliminary or 2nd Announcement and should reach thousands of individuals. At the end of our scientific session, we will be available to give a more personal description of our Society and what it can offer. In this way, we will strike a balance, certainly negative at first, between the contraction of our capital and the growth of new income from subscriptions.

The second strategy will be based upon literature searches identifying scientists publishing in the field of enzymology, and sending to such persons a brochure about our Society and an invitation to join.

6. Report on Lexington Congress

Prof. D. Moss described this event which took place at Lexington, Kentucky, between October 5th-7th, 1995. The event, organized by Dr. Norbert Tietz, had been highly successful from a financial and scientific point of view. Approximately 135 paying registrants together with speakers and chair persons attended, and Prof. Moss himself had been awarded the Wilkinson Prize. The sum of around US \$20,000, representing the profits of the Symposium, had been handed over to the Society. The President had already written to Dr. Tietz conveying our congratulations and offering Life Membership in the Society to a number of his associates that he considered particularly deserving.

7. Report on Cambridge Congress

Dr. G. Maguire indicated that registration for the Full Program had reached 70 paid-up individuals (including the Board), and that a further 60-70 had registered for the Monday Consensus Conference. Subject to the full provision of funds promised by all sponsors, a modest profit of pounds sterling 1-2,000 was projected. Dr. Maguire and his colleagues were thanked for putting together an imaginative and novel scientific program within an ideal academic ambience.

8. Report on Vancouver Meeting, 1998

Prof. Goldberg gave the dates of this meeting as May 9th-11th, 1998. An Organizing Committee, Scientific Committee, and International Advisory Committee has been established and the Co-ordinators for each of the sessions have been appointed and have commenced work. Thanks to approaches by Dr. Werner and Prof. Schwartz, co-

sponsorship has already been accepted by NACB and a similar proposal is under consideration by AACC and a number of other North American associations.

9. Proposal for Congress in Italy, 2000

Prof. Salvatore and Dr. M. Plebani agreed to look into this possibility; they hoped to bring a proposal to the meeting of the Board in May/June next year.

10. Next General Business Meeting

This will take place in Vancouver, British Columbia during the Symposium described above.

11. Adjournment

This was moved at 6:45 p.m.