

Minutes of the 2007 ACA Business Meeting
American Crystallographic Association
Held at the Salt Palace Convention Center, Salt Lake City, UT
Wednesday, July 25, 2007

Note: Formal motions and action items are highlighted in bold.

The following members were present:

Alan Pinkerton	(President)
Marv Hackert	(Vice President)
Robert Bau	(Past President)
Bernie Santarsiero	(Treasurer)
Lisa Keefe	(Secretary)
Lee Groat	(Canadian Representative)
S. N. Rao	(Financial Officer)
Bill Duax	(Executive Officer)
Marcia Colquhoun	(Administrative Manager)

Call to Order

Pinkerton called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM and welcomed ACA members to the business meeting. There were approximately 50 ACA members in attendance.

1. Review of Agenda:

Pinkerton presented the agenda. There were no requests for changes to the agenda.

2. Approval of Minutes from July 2006 Business Meeting:

The minutes from the July 2006 business meeting were reviewed. There were no requests for corrections.

MOTION: To accept the minutes from the July 2006 business meeting. (J. Hanson / J. Kelly; unanimous)

3. President's Report (Pinkerton):

A. Etter Early Career Award:

The deadline for nominations has been extended to September 1, 2007. Self-nominations now are permitted. The award now is no longer limited to one per year. Rather, the number of awards presented in a given year will be dependent on the number and quality of nominations.

B. Call for Guest Editors of RefleXions:

ACA members are invited to be guest editor of RefleXions. If interested, please contact the RefleXions co-editors, Judy Flippen-Anderson and Connie Chidester.

C. Abstract Book vs. CD:

There are significant disadvantages associated with distributing abstracts via the hard-copy program book; these include both the costs and the long, advanced time-line needed for publication, the need for printing updates/corrections, plus the shipping, storage and handling needed to get the abstracts into the packets by registration. Council seeks input for moving to CD distribution of the abstracts. Program abstracts will also be available on the ACA web site. At the meeting, the complete program schedule would still be distributed in hard-copy.

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Discussion on this topic followed. Highlights include:

Hollander: Opposed to distributing abstracts by CD only. Commented that there are abstracts in this year's program book that exceed the character/word limit that add to the costs.

Steinfink: Commented that although the program schedule would still be printed, the abstracts will not be accessible to those that do not carry a laptop with them.

ACA Response: Abstracts will be available in advance on the ACA web site before the meeting and could be printed from the web site.

Ohlendorf: Computers in the cyber café are also available.

Rose: Asked for an option for hard-copy abstract book that could be indicated on registration form.

Colquhoun: Stated that this is not possible because of the amount of time needed to print the book.

Ginell: Prefers both hard-copy and CD because some attendees do not travel with laptops.

Johnson: Does not like the character limit for abstracts. Suggests that ACA charge members for printed abstracts when they pay their dues.

Kirschbaum: Commented that the noise that laptops make when attendees are clicking away during talks can be very distracting to others.

Ohlendorf: Suggested printing a limited number of abstract books and charging for them, then adjust the number of printed copies (up or down) the following year based on how many are sold.

Flippen-Anderson: Commented that abstracts books are distributed at the meeting registration which is not in advance. By downloading from web site, then they would be available in advance.

Hollander: Commented that he reads abstract book frequently throughout meeting. Computers in cyber café were fully occupied by attendees accessing their email. Therefore, the computers were not available to view abstracts.

Pinkerton: Invited attendees to comment on this issue via email to council or ACA headquarters.

Colquhoun requested that all ACA members check and update their entries in the ACA and World Directories.

4. Treasurer's Report (Santarsiero):

Santarsiero reported on ACA finances.

A. Awards Accounts:

Target investments are being determined.

B. Reserve Account:

This account is a reserve account that enables ACA to build up an operating endowment.

C. Operating Account:

D. Meeting Account:

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E. Meeting Statistics:

Reviewed meeting statistics.

F. Annual Membership Statistics:

Reviewed annual membership statistics.

G. Revenue from RefleXions:

Reviewed revenue from RefleXions publication.

MOTION: To accept the treasurer's report. (J. Flippen-Anderson / J. Deschamps; unanimous).

5. Vice President's Report (Hackert):

A. 2008 ACA Meeting:

The ACA meeting next year, in 2008, will be in Knoxville, TN, on May 31 – June 5, 2008. This is a spring meeting because the IUCr meeting in Osaka, Japan is scheduled for the summer (August 23-31). The program co-chairs are Paul Butler and Dean Myles. The local chair is Jason Hodges.

B. 2009 ACA Meeting:

The ACA meeting in year 2009 will be in Toronto, Canada on July 25 – July 30, 2009.

C. 2008 Awards:

Nominations for the 2008 Etter Early Career award are due September 1, 2007.
The 2008 Patterson award will be presented to BC Wang.

D. 2009 Awards:

Nominations are being sought for the Buerger Award and the Warren award. Please refer to the ACA web site for details on these awards.

ACA is your organization so please let us know what we can do for you.

6. ACA Fellow (Pinkerton):

Last year, council was presented with the proposal of creating Crystallographic Fellows as a way to recognize outstanding scientific contributions and service to the crystallographic community. The proposal was presented to the ACA membership at last years' business meeting. Following discussion, a motion was made to establish a committee to explore the creation of a Fellows program and create a first draft of guidelines. The idea to create ACA Fellows was well received and the vote on the motion to form the committee to draft guidelines was unanimous. Following through on that motion, a committee was formed and guidelines were drafted. The guidelines are detailed at ([link to description and guidelines](#)). To establish the fellows program, it is proposed that the first inductees be those ACA members who have received Nobel prizes and major ACA awards. A select group from this first class will then provide a list of nominees for a second group (perhaps also numbering approximately 20 members or so) to the ACA Council for induction. After these first two years, no more than 0.5% of the current ACA membership shall be elected in any one year. This should result in a "steady state" situation where the number of ACA Fellows would be expected to be about 6-7% of the membership.

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Discussion on this topic followed. Highlights include:

Steinfink: Commented that the ACA has historically prided itself in being a democratic and egalitarian organization that did not single out certain members as being on a different level. Sees no purpose in the ACA Fellows program.

Hollander: Commented that the rate of induction (aimed to total ~6-7% of the total ACA membership) is not very exclusive and may turn this into a popularity contest. Prefers more selectivity of inductees.

H. Bernstein: Presented a practical consideration. For advocacy purposes, it is beneficial to have the “Fellows” designation. It lends a sense of credibility to the “Fellows” when they are asked to speak before congress and committees on the needs of crystallographers.

Pinkerton agreed that council will solicit for comments for a period of time.

Lind requested that the business meeting minutes be posted on the ACA web site.

7. Old Business:

There was no old business.

8. New Business:

Kaduk: Announced that the US National Committee on Crystallography provides student travel support for IUCr meetings. Money comes from NSF, the national committee’s own funds, and fund raising. Keep an eye on ACA and National Committee web sites for announcements regarding availability of travel funds.

F. Bernstein: Commented that Protein Society annual meeting conflicts with ACA meetings. Asked if ACA council considers meeting dates of these other societies when planning their future meetings.

Hollander: Commented that some recent workshops have not been real workshops but rather additional sessions for which attendees pay additional fees. Requested that the workshops not be used to report results but rather be presentations that teach.

Pinkerton asked that the comment be forwarded to the Continuing Education Committee, not the ACA Council.

H. Bernstein: Asked if workshops should be the purview of not the Continuing Education Committee but rather a separate workshop committee.

F. Bernstein: Asked why workshops cost more than the average daily rate for the meeting registration.

Mueller: Also asked why the workshop was so expensive when the workshop did not entail more costs.

ACA Response: Workshop days are not substantially more expensive than other meeting days, but they are intended to cover their costs. The cost of renting a room and equipment is fixed and there is the cost for included meals, all of which can increase the costs for a small workshop.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:00 PM.