

**ACA Members' Business Meeting
31 July 2012
Westin Waterfront Hotel, Boston MA**

Call to order

Meeting was called to order by George Phillips at 5:05 PM. Approximately 44 members were in attendance.

Agenda Item 1. Review of the current agenda

There were no additions to the agenda.

Agenda Item 2. Review of minutes from last years' meeting

Judy Flippen-Anderson noted that the venues for future annual meetings have been changed since last year's minutes were prepared, and so these minutes should be amended to read "possible" and not "scheduled."

ACTION	Colquhoun will amend the text of last year's minutes before posting them.
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MOTION	Move to accept the minutes of last year's meeting. Mueller/Kelly, unanimous.
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Agenda Item 3. President's report

Phillips noted that the Boston meeting is a success: It can boast ~ 800 participants, more than expected, and has been generating good reports about the scientific sessions. He expressed his thanks to the Buffalo office, the program and local chairs, and all others who had a hand in organizing the meeting.

Phillips reminded those present that next year's annual meeting will be held on July 20-24 in Hawaii, and announces that the 2014 meeting has been set for May 24-27 in Albuquerque (the 2014 meeting will be a spring meeting, because of the IUCr Congress to be held in Montreal later that summer).

Phillips announced the new recipients of the ACA awards, and also noted that five new ACA fellows have been chosen. He encouraged members to nominate fellows and awardees!

Phillips then announced Council's intention to embark upon a strategic planning initiative, noting that no such process has ever been conducted since the founding of the ACA in 1949. He announced the formation of a strategic planning committee, consisting of Cheryl Stevens (chair), himself, Bill Duax, Judy Flippen-Anderson, S. N. Rao, and, when chosen, the new ACA Vice President.

Phillips then noted the ACA's continuing efforts to be inclusive of Latin American crystallographers.

Next, Phillips described the ACA's consideration of an initiative to start a new journal. The ACA was approached by the AIP some time ago with this idea; since the initial conversations, the working title that has emerged is "Structure, Kinetics, and Dynamics." Phillips noted that this is an important emerging area; importantly, an analysis of papers published in this area in recent years has revealed no significant overlap with any single existing journal (including any IUCr journals). The proposed journal would be published in an online-only, open-access format. The aim of organizers should be to find an outstanding editorial board, and to publish high-quality papers.

Agenda Item 4. Vice-President's report

Cheryl Stevens called for nominees for fellows and award recipients, noting that these nominations should come from the membership, and not from the leadership of the organization.

Agenda Item 5. Financial officer's report

S. N. Rao extended the thanks of the ACA to the IUCr and various donors for their help in supporting travel funding and other meeting expenses.

He noted that the membership of the ACA is decreasing, and appealed to all current member to do everything within their power to help recruit new members.

Rao announced that the ACA has reached its goal of accumulating an operating fund with contents equivalent to one year's operating expenses, and indicated that a new goal has been set to develop a meeting reserve fund, with the aim of providing a cushion that can cover any potential losses from future meetings.

Judy Flippen-Anderson added that a "donate now" button has been added to the ACA web site, which might help in the building of such funds. Phillips expressed his thanks to Rao and the headquarters staff for their ongoing efforts to keep the ACA on a sound financial footing. He agrees that a meeting reserve fund will be an important contribute to the ACA's stability in future years.

MOTION	Move to accept the financial officer's report. Flippen-Anderson/Mueller, unanimous.
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Agenda Item 6. International Year of Crystallography.

Marvin Hackert announced that the United Nations has declared 2014 to be the International Year of Crystallography, thanks in large parts to the efforts of the Moroccan delegation at the UN and others. It is anticipated that this declaration will involve a major educational component. For example, various IUCr divisions will prepare public statements about how their scientific areas affect society and its welfare. Other initiatives include educational outreach at the

K-12 level and a possible Spanish-language crystallography text. Phillips pointed out that this is not only an opportunity to teach the lay public about crystallography, it is also an opportunity to remind our colleagues of the fundamental importance of crystallography. In Phillips' words, this constitutes a "license to Bragg."

Agenda Item 7. Latin American Division

A proposed change in the wording of the bylaws was presented, which would add Latin America to the areas authorized to form a national division.

An attendee noted that it seemed odd to call it "national" in the case of Latin America. Phillips agreed, noting that the "national" phraseology is found in the wording of the bylaws. As an aside, Phillips noted that the bylaws will be reviewed as part of strategic planning process, and outdated language such as this will be updated. Bill Duax pointed out that the ACA already has a plan for national affiliates. Judith Kelly offered the opinion that this is a fabulous idea—North American crystallographers need to reach out and include scientists in Latin America and help them to support crystallography in Latin America. James Phillips pointed out that a synchrotron source already exists in Latin America, which is testament to the depth of interest in diffraction science on that continent. Iris Torriani pointed out that it took time to organize national organizations in Latin America (which now include those in Brazil and Argentina). This is a good start, and the process is still on-going. In the next few years she looks forward to joint meetings and the coalescing of a coherent group of scientists, leading to formation of a division.

MOTION	Move to approve the proposed changes in the ACA bylaws to allow for formation of a Latin American division. Approved unanimously.
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Agenda Item 8. Old business

No old business was identified.

Agenda Item 9. New business

Possible new journal. Frances Bernstein raised concerns about the proposed new journal. For example, would it make money, and wouldn't it be better to collaborate w/ the IUCr, given their experience in publishing? Phillips responded by asserting that the primary motivation is not money, and in fact it is difficult to envision how operating a journal could lead to significant income (at the same time, the ACA would certainly not want to risk any financial downside). Instead, the primary motivation would be to serve members by providing a high-quality venue for papers covering topics that are aligned with ACA members' interests. Phillips also noted that the ACA has formally asked the IUCr if they would

interested in collaborating on such a journal. Clearly, the ACA would want to work with a partner having experience in the publishing world; both the AIP and the IUCr qualify on that account. Phillips did note that if the ACA wishes to move quickly, then the IUCr might have difficulty assembling a response to our proposal (since that group's organizational structure makes it difficult to move quickly). Marvin Hackert mentioned that the IUCr Executive Committee has decided that as of January 2014, all IUCr journals will be 100% online. James Kaduk expressed reservations about the AIP, asserting that last year this organization withdrew support with only short notice from ~20 journals associated with small scientific societies; these societies subsequently had to scramble to find alternative publishers. Judy Flippen-Anderson responded by pointing out that the AIP Executive Committee made this decision; the journals in question belonged to non-member societies, and were losing money. At the same time, the AIP has renewed its commitment to serving member societies (of which the ACA is one). Marvin Hackert pointed out that if this goes forward, the ACA will be only regional associate of the IUCr that has its own journal, creating at least the potential for tension between the ACA and the IUCr. Phillips noted that the ACA has tried hard to find a topic area that would not compete with IUCr journals. He mentions keyword analysis of papers in the area of structure, dynamics, and kinetics: Of the top 20 journals identified by this analysis, none are published by the IUCr. In fact, even the top journal identified in this analysis accounted for only for 5% of the papers found, so it doesn't appear that the proposed journal would be in direct competition with ANY existing journal. Bernstein asked if the IUCr is struggling with journal-related issues, why do we think we can do it better? Phillips responded that we would have the advantage of starting out in a modern style, and thus wouldn't have the overhead (baggage) of historically print-format journals. Also, the AIP is very experienced in the publishing arena; further, the ACA is well situated to draw upon world leaders in this scientific area. Bernstein noted that she wasn't questioning the need for such a journal, but was only pointing out that the IUCr seems like a well-matched partner. James Phillips wondered if the proposed topics could be folded in with existing J Synch Rad content; however, Phillips pointed out dynamics work needn't be associated with synchrotrons, but could also include imaging, computational studies, etc.. A member pointed out that papers are evidently being successfully published in this area, and asked therefore why another journal was required. Phillips responded that as a crystallographic society we could improve our position/status ("brand") by having a quality journal that exploits our strengths, where our work can be concentrated.

Outreach associated with annual meetings. Gregg Crichlow noted that when he checked into the hotel, he was asked by passerby, "what is crystallography?". He stated that this happened before (e.g., at the Chicago meeting). He therefore suggested that the ACA should perform some kind of outreach at future conferences: Perhaps a packet for the hotel, and/or some kind of display that could be placed in the lobby.

Planning meeting. Phillips reminded ACA members of the planning session for the Hawaii meeting—at this meeting the SIG chairs will be negotiating topics for sessions. He urged members to make their opinions known to their SIG chairs.

Raffle. A door prize raffle for one year's free membership was won by Mariusc Krawiecz; congratulations!

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 PM.