

ACA Council Meetings with SIGs & Standing Committees
Westin Hotel, Boston
July/August 2012

Call to order.

The meeting was called to order by Phillips at 12:05 PM, 30 July 2012.

Agenda Item 1. Review of annual reports

Canadian Division (Gerald Audette): Audette noted that the Canadian division often co-organizes sessions with various SIGs; the Canadian division meeting included considerable discussion of the sorts of sessions they'd like to co-sponsor. The group also discussed nominating Canadian scientists for various organizational roles at upcoming meetings.

Phillips noted that the Canadian division is well situated to provide guidance as the Latin American Division is being set up. Rose suggests inviting Latin American representatives to Canadian Division meetings; Rose and Audette indicate that they are happy to help in any way possible.

General Interest SIG (Allen Oliver): The GI SIG is running two sessions at the Boston meeting, with presentations drawn completely from submitted abstracts. The first session was very well-attended (the second has not yet taken place at the time of this meeting). This level of interest demonstrates a clear need to continue with General Interest sessions. The SIG also co-sponsored events related to teaching crystallography, reflecting a strong interest in teaching on the part of many SIG members. The SIG was also involved in the transactions symposium and the public domain software session.

Oliver noted that the first General Interest session of this meeting was standing-room only. Craig Ogata asks whether it would be possible to forecast in advance how large a room will be required for a given session; unfortunately, it is not clear that there is a reliable method to do so. There was discussion about the general issue of fraud (which was one of the topics covered in the standing-room session). This led to the suggestion that fraud (or validation, plus fraud) might be a potential transactions topic.

Synchrotron Radiation SIG (Craig Ogata): Last year this SIG suggested 8 sessions (alone or in collaboration with others). Ogata noted issues with overlap with BioMac (i.e., concurrent sessions); however, in cases where two sessions ran concurrently, both had good attendance.

Ogata and others pointed out that a consequence of the shortened meeting schedule is that it is much more difficult to find time to schedule events like SIG meetings, and that SIG meeting frequently overlapped with each other. It was noted that it is the responsibility of the Program Chairs to schedule SIG meetings; Allen Orville indicated that he and his co-chair are aware of this issue and will try to spread the schedule better at the Hawaii meeting.

Ogata noted that the Synchrotron SIG endorses John Rose's proposal for a Sulfur-SAD workshop and proposed session on enabling partnerships for broader access to data (BioMac endorses both as well).

Phillips asked if the SIG still wished to be called the Synchrotron Radiation SIG, since this name doesn't reflect emerging radiation sources such as FELs. Ogata responded that the SIG is aware of this issue, and needs to poll the community to identify a better alternative.

BioMac SIG (Eric Ortlund). Fred Dyda (the 2013 Chair of this SIG) has discovered that he will be unable to attend the 2013 annual meeting, due to NIH budget cuts. Ortlund will be taking over some of his duties; Council is comfortable with this arrangement. A question was raised about potential future macromolecular summer schools, specifically, how could the SIG help facilitate such

initiatives? Phillips responded that individual members would need to come forward with proposals for such a school—summer schools are organized in a bottom-up fashion. Ogata pointed out that GMCA-CAT at the APS organizes a nice CCP4 school at APS during late spring/early summer each year, and suggested that it might be wise to dovetail a macromolecular summer school with the CCP4 school.

YSSIG (Eric Montemayor): The YSSIG tried some new things this year. They merged the mentoring event with the mixer; this experiment seems to have worked well. Their high school outreach experiment also seemed very successful. The YSSIG interested in repeating the high school outreach in Hawaii, and ideally having a local outreach event tied to every future ACA meeting. The YSSIG is also still working on expanding ACA-related social networking efforts.

Other agenda items

Phillips summarized Council's plans for a strategic planning initiative; he also reminded all those present about the International Year of Crystallography, and urged them to consider ways in which they can leverage this event to reach out to the scientific and lay communities at large. He also discussed continuing efforts to facilitate formation of a Latin American division of the ACA. Finally, he mentioned the problem of decreasing membership levels, and challenged the SIGs to find ways to bolster membership.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 1:15 PM

Call to order.

The meeting was reconvened at 12:00 noon on 31 July 2012.

General Business

Phillips reiterated points made at the earlier meeting (vide supra). Stevens called for volunteers for the position of program chair(s) for the 2014 annual meeting.

Marv Hackert noted that the IUCr has reduced the blackout period surrounding its International Congress to 1 month; this will allow more flexibility in scheduling ACA meetings during future IUCr Congress years.

Agenda Item 1, continued. Review of annual reports

Small molecule SIG (Shao-Liang Zheng) Zheng noted that it is extremely good that free wireless is available to attendees in the meeting rooms; the SIG members are also pleased that a searchable PDF was provided for the abstracts. He passed along complaints from SIG members about the cost of the hotel. The SIG has proposed sessions for next year that include synchrotron small molecule science, metal-organic frameworks, crystal engineering, and cool structures.

Industrial SIG. (Magali Hickey, chair-elect; also present were Mark Oliviera, treasurer, and Peter Hickey, Canadian rep). Hickey reported that the Industrial SIG was able to raise \$8000 in industrial support. She argues that even more industrial outreach is needed (as an aside, some suggested that a larger industrial presence might call for larger meeting venues, which might have an impact on cost). Duax notes that the Industrial SIG is a relatively new SIG, and he is very pleased at how active they have become.

Neutron SIG (Katharine Page, chair-elect). Page reported that the Neutron SIG is working with the Powder and Materials SIGs to develop suggestions for materials-related sessions. The SIG is sponsoring two workshops at this meeting and co-sponsored the Transactions symposium. Page noted it was difficult to sandwich SIG meetings into the lunch-time slot, because scientific sessions tend to run overtime.

Materials SIG (James Kaduk). Kaduk noted that, through the efforts of the Materials SIG, the ACA conducted its first joint activity with the Materials Research Society at the MRS meeting in Boston—an all-day workshop on powder diffraction and crystallography. In other news, he noted that alumnae of a past summer school are now organizing a course in Uruguay, focusing on powder diffraction. As an aside, he mentioned that these alumnae have told him that they continued to network extensively among themselves after the summer course. Phillips and Duax point out that IUCr has a visiting professor program, which might be useful in the proposed course. Kaduk also detailed plans for outreach to middle schools for the International Year of Crystallography.

Powder SIG (Greg Halder). Halder noted that the Powder SIG helped to generate \$2500 support from industrial sponsors. The SIG is actively working with other SIGs to plan new joint sessions.

SAS SIG (Richard Gillilan). The SIG is involved in 8 workshops this year, 4 of which are co-sponsored with other SIGs. Gillilan pointed out the explosive growth in biological SAXS that has occurred in recent years, and noted that his SIG has been pondering how to address the educational needs that follow from this growth. As part of this effort, the SIG has suggested a SAXS training workshop at the Hawaii. He noted that SIG members are worried about the travel costs that would be associated with a Hawaii workshop, and so they are aggressively pursuing funding to help offset such

costs (the SIG recognizes, of course, that any such workshop is not guaranteed, but must be approved by the education committee).

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 1:05 PM

Call to order

Meeting was reconvened on Wednesday 1 August 2012 at 12:05 PM.

Agenda Item 1. Review of annual reports

Continuing education (Jeanette Krause). Krause reports that the last summer school seemed successful, with good reports from the students. She noted that the course finished with a financial surplus.

Krause noted that there were four workshops preceding the Boston meeting: Refmac/Coot, Olex2, Nanoparticles, and a teaching workshop entitled World of Wonders. She noted that she did not yet have formal reports about the different workshops, but cited two concerns emerging from anecdotal feedback: First, attendance appeared to be poor for the World of Wonders workshop; secondly, reports suggested that the Refmac/Coot did not meet the hands-on expectations of the attendees.

Krause noted that BioSAXS workshops have been proposed for 2013, and the organizers would ideally prefer two parallel workshops, one being for beginners and the other for more seasoned users. Krause also indicated that GE Healthcare has inquired about sponsoring a workshop, and inquired if there would be any problem with such an arrangement. Council responded that there is no impediment to an industrial group sponsoring a workshop, so long as at least one ACA member is involved in the organization of the workshop.

Krause asks if a macromolecular summer school will be proposed. Council states that no one has seen a specific proposal yet, but there are rumors that one will be forthcoming.

Phillips noted that Joe Ng participated in a workshop in Mexico; given the ACA's interest in fostering connections with Latin America, he asks if the Continuing Education committee can become involved in such a thing. The committee will take this under advisement.

Krause reports that Virginia Pett has contacted the committee, inquiring whether the committee take responsibility for the of videotaping plenary and historical lectures. Krause indicates that the committee's sense is that this task might be more appropriate for the Communications committee. Phillips indicates that this task is a worthwhile one; the identity of the committee responsible is not crucial, but is important that *some* ACA committee take responsibility, since up to this point Virginia has been doing it on an ad hoc basis, and it would be unfair to continue to impose this burden on her. Council agrees that this is a good match for the Communications committee.

ACTION	Colquhoun will add videotaping of historical and/or plenary lectures to the responsibilities of the Communications committee, as listed in the ACA Handbook.
---------------	--

Judy Flippen-Anderson noted that historical lectures can be archived with the AIP, although she was not sure how easily these archived materials can be accessed. Ultimately, it would be better to the ACA to have a "history of crystallography" web portal.

Krause noted that 107 travel grant applications were received, of which 52% were funded. She indicated that the Committee endorsed the idea of an undergrad teaching session, and noted that future iterations of such a session would be likely to have support from multiple SIGs. This might represent a community that could provide additional members to the ACA.

MOTION	Move to accept the report of the Continuing Education committee; Rose/Loll, unanimous.
---------------	---

Data Standards and Computing (John Rose): Rose indicated that the committee would like to spearhead the organization of an evening session for the Hawaii meeting, devoted to the topic of how to bring various database groups into partnerships to help maintain existing services and develop new ones (and how the ACA might be able to help in this endeavor). The committee suggested a Saturday evening slot before the opening reception, and indicated that they hoped such a session would lead to a white paper. This idea will be presented at the planning meeting, with support from multiple SIGs.

MOTION	Move to accept the report of the Data Standards and Computing committee; Loll/Stevens, unanimous.
---------------	--

Communications (Steve Ginell): A report was submitted by Eddie Snell. The committee's press releases seemed to have had positive effects. Phillips checked to confirm that the Communications committee will be willing to take responsibility for videotaping historical/plenary lectures; Ginell responds that this would be acceptable. Loll follows up on a suggestion made by G. Crichlow at the business meeting, and asks if the Communications committee could arrange for a poster or other display in the hotel lobby at the Hawaii meeting that would provide an introduction to the ACA and crystallography for lay persons who happen to be staying at the hotel. Ginell responds that the Committee will take this idea under consideration.

MOTION	Move to accept the report of the Communications committee; Stevens/Koetzle, unanimous.
---------------	---

Reflexions (Connie Rajnak and Judy Flippen-Anderson): Phillips thanks Rajnak and Flippen-Anderson for their continued excellent work. The editors noted that Jane Griffin will be joining the newsletter as a copy editor.

MOTION	Move to accept the report of the Communications committee; Stevens/Loll, unanimous.
---------------	--

General Business, continued

Phillips reiterated points made earlier about membership retention, the Int'l Year of Crystallography, and the Latin American initiative (vide supra).

Joseph Orgel reported that members of the Fiber SIG (and others) have indicated that the rising cost of meetings is reducing attendance. As a concrete example, he reported that he needed to pay the registration costs for two speakers in a session sponsored by his SIG (fortunately he received support from vendors that allowed him to recoup most of this). He also notes that other speakers have cancelled their talks because of the registration costs. Phillips responds that the ACA needs to cover the cost of the meeting plus have little surplus to put toward operating expenses (as member dues do not completely cover operating costs); meetings in venues such as Boston or Hawaii tend to attract more attendees, and are hence better for the ACA bottom line. However, he agrees that the needs of young and less well-heeled members need to be considered. Orgel suggests that the ability to waive registration fees for selected speakers would be a valuable tool for session organizers. Duax says he thinks that the ACA has a policy of not waiving registration costs for any attendees.

Rose notes that after the overall structure of the program for the Hawaii meeting has been determined, it would be useful to review the program carefully with an eye toward finding and eliminating as much overlap as possible.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 1:17 PM.