

ACA Summer Council Meetings with SIGs & Committees
Sheraton Waikiki Hotel
22-23 July 2013

In attendance:

Voting members:

George Phillips (Past President)
Cheryl Stevens (President)
Martha Teeter (Vice President)
Patrick Loll (Secretary)
James Kaduk (Treasurer)
David Rose (Canadian Representative)

Non-voting members:

SN Rao (Chief Financial Officer)
Bill Duax (Chief Executive Officer)
Marcia Colquhoun (Director of Administrative Services)
Jamaine Davis (YSSIG Representative)

SIG representatives

Eddy Snell (BioMac)
Christine Beavers (Service)
Amy Serjeant (Small Molecule)
Jeannette Krause (General Interest)
Richard Gillilan (Small Angle)
Zhang Jiang (Small Angle)

Call to order.

The meeting was called to order by Stevens at 12:05 PM, 22 July 2013.

Stevens discussed how the SIGs might encourage Latin American participation in the Albuquerque meeting.

Small angle: Sponsored 6 activities, 3 sessions, 2 transactions, 1 workshop. They suffered from the sequester, with two planned sessions being cancelled, as well as having individual speakers cancel. Nonetheless, the workshop went very well, and they were able to attract over \$10K in corporate sponsorship. They report ambitious plans for next year, including a possible Forum topic.

BioMAC: Sponsored multiple sessions, including several that were co-sponsored w/ other SIGs. Proposing to re-run several staples again next year (e.g. structural enzymology). Co-proposing a redux of data processing with the pros, PSI biology, exciting biology from challenging systems, up-and-coming drug discovery (immunology of cancer) and others. Had some discussion about IYCr14, and suggested a session focused on the history of big science in crystallography.

Service. Sponsored two sessions, both v. well attended, as well as a workshop. The summer school organized by SIG members went well. They are using a Facebook group to

conduct a survey of members. They plan to bring back the “would you publish this” informal session at Albuquerque. The SIG has been inspired by the success of tips & tricks sessions to propose a Transactions session that illustrates how one might bring certain methods (tips/tricks) to bear across disciplines (e.g., using anomalous scattering in materials science). The point is raised that it would be useful to be able to use the ACA journal as a vehicle for publishing Transactions proceedings.

General Interest. Note that their original plan was to sponsor two sessions, one early and one later; however, they picked up another session when a previously planned session folded. Notes that they typically receive many abstracts, so if sessions become available in future, meeting organizers should think about turning again to the GIG.

Small Molecule. Sponsoring or co-sponsoring 5 sessions and a Transactions symposium. Next year, they will be suggesting a number of interesting sessions. The representative notes that SIG members have raised concerns about cost of the Honolulu meeting.

The rep also notes in passing that the organizers of the summer school received zero applications from Latin America, despite their efforts to solicit students from this region.

Unrelated to the SIG reports, Duax brings up the fact that there have been some mismatches between room size and number of attendees for certain sessions at this meeting (e.g., a large room might be 20% filled, whereas a small room is standing room only, with people being turned away for lack of space).

Adjourn for the day 1:00 PM.

Reconvene

Reconvene at 12:00 noon, 23 July 2013

Present:

Gerald Audette (Canadian Division)
Peter Khalifah (Materials)
Katherine Page (Neutron)
Jarrod French (YSSIG)
Al Reger (YSSIG)
Antonio dos Santos (Powder)
Pete Dunten (Synchrotron)

YSSIG. Sponsored the new attendee orientation, career panel, mixer, high school outreach, and co-sponsored several others.

Career panel—had a wide range of people from different backgrounds. However, the SIG has identified a few areas for improvement (e.g. putting a Q & A online; they have also identified some conflicts with other events at the meeting). Rose asks if the panel could be scheduled immediately before the mixer, but this might cause a conflict with a poster session.

The YSSIG plans to increase the school-targeted outreach task force for IYCr14. Their goal is to set up an infrastructure that will allow them to add new schools each year.

Hampton donates some kits; the high school students crystallize lysozyme; they then go to a lab and collect data. Kaduk: Should we be involved with undergraduate institutions as well? Answer is yes, but the group is limited by the number of available volunteers at this point.

Synchrotron. They report that they are thinking to contact people at the Brazilian light source, and perhaps solicit a SIG officer from there. They noted that two of their rooms were standing room only (again, it is proving difficult to find appropriate room sizes). They are thinking about changing the SIG name to reflect the introduction of XFEL; a possible candidate is “light source SIG.” This proposal will be sent to the membership for consideration; the SIG officers would like this question placed on the ballot in the fall.

Neutron. Sponsored seven sessions, with traditional co-chair partners, plus a workshop. The chair-elect is from Oak Ridge. They have nine ideas for new sessions and two workshops for the 2014 meeting. The SIG has discussed outreach events for IYCr14, and the representative mentions one idea—we should make sure that ACA members make an effort to update Wikipedia entries relating to crystallography. Another idea that is mentioned is “Crystallography as art.”

The question arises as to whether the ACA can do anything to help with distribution of the new version of the data processing program GSAS; evidently the current version doesn't support TOF data processing. The SIG members point out that the national labs are currently figuring out how to allocate resources to make this happen, and indicate that they don't think any action is required from the ACA at this point in time.

Canadian division. The CLS is running well. Preparations are going well for the IUCr Congress next year. Lots of thought is going into outreach efforts for IYCr14.

Powder. Has sponsored many sessions, including some co-chaired with “non-traditional” partners (e.g., YSSIG, GIG). Notes that national labs had a virtual freeze on travel to the ACA, not only because of funding issues, but also because of the specific cost of the Hawaii meeting.

Materials. The session on PDF is turning into a full-day set of presentations. They report a nice Transactions session, confirming that their choice of topic was a good one. They have the idea of a session on radioactive materials at the Albuquerque meeting, which seems like a good match of topic with location (this will allow them to attract speakers from nearby national labs). Similarly, the topic of geological materials would also be a good fit. In terms of outreach, they are considering the question of how the SIG can interact with other scientific societies with similar interests. They have looked at the Materials Research Society in the past, but connections have not panned out (the MRS meeting is too large, which may be why this idea hasn't been able to gain traction). A better candidate might be the North American Solid State Chemistry Conference; discussions are underway.

Stevens asks younger SIG reps about what the ACA can do for them. Teaching is a topic of recurrent interest.

Discussion ensues about tentative IYCr14 Task Force outreach priorities. Rao suggests re-packaging the list ideas already identified so as to categorize the proposed activities into areas that have already been identified by the IUCr as areas of interest. As previously

mentioned, it's important that a clear division of labor is arrived at (e.g., who does what, ACA vs. UNCC, whom to ask for funds—IUCR, UNCC, NSF, etc).

Re-casting the proposed activities into categories for presentation to the IUCr, with estimated budgets:

- Education and outreach (K-12/teachers) - \$5000
- Marketing (brochures, IYCr14) - \$2000
- Summer School for Latin American students - \$15,000
- Community Outreach (exhibits at science centers) - \$5000
- Contests, competitions, cookery, crystal jars, You-Tube, etc - \$5000

In general, the strategy should be to try to get as much buy-in from other groups, and thus get the most mileage from the ACA's financial contribution. The sums in question are not huge, so these ideas are all do-able.

Adjourn for the day 1:40 PM.

Reconvene

Reconvene at 12:10 PM, 24 July 2013

Present:

Judy Flippen-Anderson (newsletter)
Connie Rajnuk (newsletter)
Joe Reibenspies (Data, Standards, and Computing)
Frank Fronczek (Continuing Education)
Stephan Ginell (Communications)

Continuing Education. This has proven to be a relatively uneventful year for this committee. There were no summer school proposals for the year (because the current summer school is continuing); so the committee was able to concentrate on core tasks, namely student proposals and workshop proposals. The committee was able to recommending fund ~75% of the travel grant proposals received, largely thanks to funds from the UNCC. James Kaduk asks if there was a reason why many Latin American proposals scored poorly; Fronczek replies that they didn't specifically look at the country of origin for each proposal. Phillips indicates that it will be important to improve this situation, and wonders if it would be a good idea to specifically earmark funds for proposals from Latin America. Hackert asks what the average size of award was. The answer is \$1100 for non-North American students, and \$600 for North American students.

He notes that the ACA summer school is alternating between Northwestern and Notre Dame for 4 years; they are currently halfway through that initiative (so no new

summer school proposals will be considered until 2015). All signs are that the school went well. Mostly positive feedback was received from the students; there were a few complaints about noisy dorms, but Amy Serjeant is talking to the housing people at Northwestern to prevent a reoccurrence of this problem.

The committee received 4 proposals for workshops last fall; they were enthusiastic about 2, moderately enthusiastic about a third, and less than enthusiastic about the 4th (which proposed to revisit a topic covered in a recent workshop; there were also some issues with the budget). The committee suggested that the proposers resubmit the 4th proposal next year. No new workshop proposals have been received yet.

The series of talks focusing on undergrad education have proven successful again this year; the committee would like to repeat next year.

The representatives notes that there are no macromolecular crystallographers on the education committee, which is a problem because the majority of travel award applications are from macromolecular crystallography students. The nominating committee has been told about this.

Data Standards & Computing. The PDB is now developing a new deposition system; this new system will do away with the need to split large structures. Paul Adams' PDB working group has made recommendations on this process.

The committee sponsored a database session Tuesday evening; the committee will prepare a statement summarizing the discussions occurring within this session. One issue that is mentioned is the ratio of price/structure for databases, i.e., overhead costs, and how they will be sustained going forward.

The committee reports conversations with certain journal editors about a) enforcing PDB submission and b) making certain data are available to reviewers.

Finally, the committee indicated the intention of proposing a session for the 2015 meeting that will deal with the topic of standards.

Communications. As we did in 2012, the ACA has contracted with the AIP to review the summer meeting abstracts and produce reports for the press highlighting certain work; these reports were released last week.

The committee was just told last last week that it was being charged with videotaping conversations with crystallographic ambassadors; the representative notes that initiatives of this sort should be advertised further in advance. It would also be good to solicit various individuals to participate, rather than simply wait for volunteers to approach the committee.

The committee suggests a session at a future meeting involving senior individuals talking about the history of field (as well as predictions for the future); they could possibly co-sponsor such a session with YSSIG and/or Continuing Education.

The representative also notes that one member of committee has resigned.

RefleXions. Tom Koetzle is taking over as co-editor starting in 2014.

Adjourn 1:00 PM.