



Minutes of the meeting of the EBSA Executive Committee

Rowan Meeting Room, Double Tree by Hilton, Edinburgh, Saturday 23rd Jan: 9.00 – 18.00

Present: Helmut Grubmüller (President), Anthony Watts (Vice President), Manuel Prieto (past President), John Seddon (Secretary), Tony Wilkinson (Treasurer), Rob Gilbert (EBJ), José Carrascosa (ISE), André Matagne (Bursaries), Mauro Dalla Serra (IUPAB cross-representative), Jacqueline Cherfils, László Mátyus (co-opted: EBSA Webmaster), Ilpo Vattulainen (co-opted : EBSA Newsgroup); Pierre Emmanuel Milhiet (co-opted: EBSA Workshops Coordinator and Sponsorships).

1. Welcome and Apologies (HG)

Helmut welcomed the Executive Committee and the newly elected EC members, Jacqueline Cherfils and Mauro Dalla Serra, and reported that Apologies were received from Jesus Perez-Gil (co-opted: organiser of the 2019 EBSA Congress) and from Pavol Miškovsky.

A brief discussion was held about the location of the next two EBSA EC meetings. It was agreed that it would be useful to hold the summer 2016 meeting in Madrid, so that the suitability of the facilities at Complutense can be assessed, particularly with regard to the high temperatures which may be anticipated in July (2019). Jesus and José have already visited, and they believe that over-heating should not be a problem. It was provisionally agreed that the January 2017 EBSA EC meeting will be held in Debrecen.

2. Minutes of the last two meetings of the EC in Dresden (JMS)

Minor corrections were noted to the Minutes, which were then approved.

3. Minutes of the General Assembly in Dresden (JMS)

The Minutes were approved.

Action: John Seddon to send László Mátyus the modified clause 2.3 from item 7 in the Minutes of the General Assembly.

4. Minutes of the EBSA President's meeting in Dresden (JMS)

The Minutes were approved.

5. Treasurer's report (TW)

The accounts for the year ending 31/3/15 have been approved by Sam Rogoff & Co. Tony Watts pointed out that there is a legal requirement for the Treasurer to be UK-based, as the accounts are held there.

The balance of the EBSA accounts as of 19/1/16 was €244k, which is a healthy position. There is very little opportunity at present to earn interest on this sum. Tony reported that there was €21k income so far from Springer, offset by Editorial Expenses of €6.6k; €25k was returned from the Dresden congress along with some €4k profit, and €5k was

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returned from the 2014 Montpellier Workshop; Committee expenses so far are €10k; subscriptions of €3.5k have been received; EBSA has contributed €60k to meetings / bursaries so far this year.

The subscription status was reviewed, and is improving. It was agreed that the Appendix showing the subscription status should also include the affiliated countries (Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Czech Republic, Russian Federation, Ukraine) who currently do not pay a subscription. It was noted that Norway should be contacted to inform them that their membership has become silent as they have not paid since before 2009, and that Greece should be invited to join as an affiliated member, for free.

Action: Tony Watts

Tony discussed the issue of Trustees: we assume that the co-opted members of the EC are also Trustees with full voting rights; this was checked against the Constitution and confirmed to be correct. It was noted that EBSA pays £300 annually to indemnify the EC members from liability.

Tony gave some general advice to the new EC members on how the EBSA EC operates, explaining that we hold EC meetings at the weekend, and we try to keep the expenses down by booking travel well ahead. The EC is happy to continue with Saturday meetings. Tony Watts suggested that we might produce a job description for EC members, before the next call for nominations for new members.

The Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously.

6. Report on 10th European Congress, Dresden, July 2015 (HG)

Helmut reported that there was a revenue of €484k, and a surplus of €7,114, of which half went to EBSA and half to the DGfB. Income from sponsors was €78k, and from the DFG €31k. The congress venue cost was €162k, and the catering cost was €191k (of which the banquet cost was €58k). The total KIT remuneration was €74k (€30k basic fee), the accommodation / travel cost of speakers was €10k, and printing costs were €19k. The 25k subvention from EBSA was returned in full.

There were 1,167 participants, which may be compared with 835 at Lisbon in 2013, 836 at Budapest in 2011, and 845 at Genoa in 2009.

59 EBSA travel bursaries were awarded (€25k). The Bursary Panel was Cathy Royer (Chair), André Matagne, László Mátyus, and John Seddon. The DGfB awarded a further 8 travel bursaries (€3k).

Satellite meetings were supported to the amount of €25k.

55 countries attended, including 425 from Germany, 102 from the UK, 64 from France, 50 from Italy, 43 from Poland, 36 from Spain, 34 from the USA, 26 from Russia, 20 from Turkey and 16 from Japan.

There were 960 submitted Abstracts (360 from students), of which 111 were in Protein Structure and Function.

Poster awards:

Biophysical Society (12): \$500; FEBS Journal (2) €200; IOP Publishing (4): €100.

The EBSA EC would like to record its sincere thanks to Helmut and his team for organizing a fantastic Congress in Dresden.

Laszlo pointed out that the Dresden Congress website is not working properly, and needs some repair if we wish to preserve it. One possibility would be to move the videos of the Plenary Lectures to the main EBSA website.

Action: Helmut to investigate.

7. Report on European Biophysics Journal (AW/RG)

Tony Watts reported that there are approximately 200 submissions per year. The number of issues has increased from 10 to 12 per year, but it was necessary to merge two months recently. Thematic issues are popular and raise the profile of the journal. Rob Gilbert took over fully as Managing Editor in December 2015. Springer have moved EBJ from Life Sciences into their Physics portfolio. Sabine Schwarz has been moved to another role by Springer and has been replaced by Meran Lloyd-Owen.

The EC thanked Tony and Valerie for their sterling efforts over many years in running EBJ very successfully, and for ensuring a smooth transition to Rob. The EC also expressed its thanks to Rob for taking over as EBJ Managing Editor.

Rob commented that he is still closely in contact with Tony over running EBJ.

8. Encyclopedia of Biophysics, 2nd Edition (AW)

Tony Watts confirmed that the Editors of the 2nd Edition are Gordon Roberts and him. They have already met to discuss which areas need enhancing, and will submit a plan by the end of 2016. 25% of new material will be needed for Springer to republish it. Many authors have already agreed to revise / update their entries. There is a particularly pressing need to update electron microscopy due to the recent technological revolution that has taken place in the field. 99 online copies of the 1st edition have been sold. EBSA has only received a few hundred pounds in royalties.

9. 2017 EBSA /IUPAB Congress, Edinburgh (AW)

Tony Watts reported that the planning meeting held with IUPAB, BBS and IOP representatives on 22nd January went well. The aim is to ensure inclusivity, and we await further suggestions from IUPAB. The list of suggested Chairs may need some tweaking to ensure a balanced international dimension.

The First meeting of the EBSA EC will be held before the start of the Congress, and the Second EC meeting will be held at lunchtime near the end of the Congress. The EBSA General Assembly will be held on the Tuesday evening. The EBSA President's lunchtime meeting at the Congress will be chaired by Helmut, and representatives from international Societies will also be invited.

A pre-Congress Satellite to be organized by Tony Watts was approved. It was agreed that others should be encouraged to organize Satellites, especially the local members of the organizing committee.

It was agreed that subventions of €25K each should be requested from IUPAB and EBSA.

A Bursary Panel, Chaired by André Matagne and with 3 other members, will be set up at the next EC Meeting in Madrid in June 2016.

10. EBSA 2017 Awards (EBSA Young Investigators Medal, Avanti/EBSA Award) (JMS)

We will seek nominations from the National Societies after the June 2016 EBSA EC meeting. The closing dates for both awards is 31st December 2016. Selection Panels

should be set up in January 2017. (For the 2015 YI Award, the Panel was: Ilpo Vattulainen (Chair), Pavol Miskovsky and Manuela Pereira; for the 2015 Avanti Award, the Panel was: Manuel Prieto (Chair), Helmut Grubmüller and László Mátyus).

It was noted that the last two YI Medal winners have not provided papers to EBJ.

Action: Helmut to write to Iva Tolić

It was agreed we will try one more time with the present model, which is essentially voluntary with no sanction for failure to provide a manuscript. If it fails again, we will rediscuss what action to take.

Two Panels (3 EC members on each) will be set up at the EC meeting in Madrid in June 2016 to select the 2017 Award winners.

In future we will only allow one nomination per National Society for the YI Medal.

Action: Laszlo to change this rule on the EBSA website

11. Future EBSA Congresses (HG)

The location of the 2019 EBSA Congress has already been confirmed as Madrid, Chaired by Jesus Perez-Gil.

For the 2021 Congress, Ilpo is in discussions with other Scandinavian Biophysics groups, and will make a presentation at the EBSA EC in January 2017 in Debrecen, where a final decision will be taken by the EC as to whether the Finnish bid will be accepted.

Action: Ilpo to prepare revised bid

Turkey is still keen to host an EBSA Congress. Helmut will accept an invitation from them to attend the next Turkish Society National Congress. Helmut wrote to the Turkish Society on 31st July 2015 telling them that they are unlikely to succeed in a bid for the time being.

Action: None required for the moment; Helmut will attend the Turkish meeting, travel paid by EBSA.

12. Report of ISE activities (JC)

José gave some background to the ISE (Initiative for Science in Europe). It was set up by learned societies to provide input into science in Europe. It is rather new and follows a bottom-up approach. It has a President (Maria Leptin) and a full-time Secretary-General (hosted by EMBO but paid by ISE). Currently 20 Societies are members of ISE. It is maintained by the fees paid by the members. FEBS has stopped providing financial support. Two General Assemblies were held in 2015 to discuss how ISE can survive under the new financial conditions. It was decided to register ISE in Strasbourg with Euroscience (the successor to the ESF), with administration provided by Euroscience. There are now three levels of fees: €1K, €3K, or €6K per annum; EBSA will pay at the lowest rate of €1K per annum. This should be confirmed at the next GA in March 2016.

ISE has set up three Working Groups, including one on 'Collaborative Basic Research', which José is part of. Helmut made the point that ISE should stress that basic science benefits culture as well as technology. Tony Watts commented that there are many examples where basic science has led to applications that were unforeseen, and that ISE needs to engage directly with politicians rather than administrators.

It was agreed that the report 'ISE Activities 2015' should be put up on the EBSA website.

Action: Laszlo

13. EBSA Website (LM) and Newsgroup (IV)

Laszlo reported that the EBSA website is running smoothly, and Ilpo reported that the EBSA Newsgroup now has 1,050 members and is running smoothly. The question was raised as to whether national societies have their own Newsgroups, and it was reported that the UK, France, Italy and Spain do. The EBSA Newsgroup postings should be forwarded to the National Societies Newsgroups.

Action: Ilpo to prepare a letter about the EBSA Newsgroup and send to John, who will then forward it to the National Societies on behalf of Helmut.

Action: Helmut to make sure EBSA newsletter is distributed via DGfB in Germany.

14. Requests for EBSA support and reports (PEM)

Pierre-Emmanuel has drafted an application form for EBSA conference support. The EC discussed whether to specify on the form the maximum amount that can be requested and the typical amount awarded, but no clear decision was reached on this.

Following discussion initiated by José, it was agreed that we would work out how much EBSA gave out in Meetings support in 2014, and compile a list of the meetings supported. We need to specify that EBSA does not support any meetings in odd-numbered years (when the EBSA Congress takes place). This information should be put up on the EBSA website.

Action: Tony Wilkinson and John to compile information and send to Laszlo

Action: Laszlo to put information up on the EBSA website

A request from Tom Vuletić for €7,500 for the 2016 International School of Biophysics in Croatia was previously approved.

It was also previously agreed that EBSA will provide up to €25,000 in support for the 2016 EBSA Membranes School, to be organized by Pierre-Emmanuel Milhiet in September 2016. Some financial support was also agreed by IUPAB.

A discussion of EBSA Bursaries was led by André. There are two types of bursary: for attendance at meetings, and for working visits to labs in other European countries. Application forms are available from the EBSA website, along with instructions.

It was agreed that we should in future list on the EBSA website the recipients of bursaries, starting from 2016. Recipients should produce a report, which should be placed on the EBSA website, close to the Bursary applications section. Applicants cannot apply for more than one bursary in any two-year period, and this should be specified on the EBSA website. The largest amount awarded for a working visit was €1,500. André should decide what is a suitable amount to award, and ask the EC for its agreement.

Action: André to review whether all relevant info is available on the EBSA website

The following new requests for support were agreed as follows:

- a. Cihangir Uguz (Isparta, Turkey) asked for an unspecified amount of support for the 6th Congress on 'Oxidative Stress, Calcium Signalling and TRP Channels' (<http://www.cmos.org.tr/2016/en/>), 24-27 May 2016, Isparta, Turkey. The EC agreed by email to award them €800 for a named EBSA lecture and €800 for student bursaries, the same as for the previous meeting in this series.
- b. Krzysztof Bryl (Olsztyn, Poland) asked for an unspecified amount of support for the Polish Biophysical Society Congress, 28 June – 1 July 2016. €800 was awarded to fund 2 speakers from Lithuania to attend. Helmut has had discussions about further ways EBSA

might provide support to the Polish Society, and he will attend this meeting, funded by EBSA.

Action: Helmut to write to Bryl with details, and encouraging them to involve Belarus, Romania, etc.

- c. Roberta Pierattelli (Florence) asked for an unspecified amount of support for the Chianti Workshop on 'Magnetic Resonance for Cellular Structural Biology' (<http://www.cerm.unifi.it/chianti/>), 5-10 June 2016, Grosseto, Italy. The EC agreed to award €800 for a named EBSA lecture and €800 for student bursaries.
- d. Horst Vogel (Lausanne) asked for €10,000 support for a Biophysical Society Thematic Meeting on 'Liposomes, Exosomes and Virosomes: from Modelling Complex Membrane Processes to Medical Diagnostics and Drug Delivery', 11-16 September 2016, Ascona, Switzerland. The EC agreed to award a total of €2,800 for European Speakers or for European student bursaries. Pierre-Emmanuel should contact Horst asking him to specify what the funds are intended for.
- e. Request from Nicholas Leioatts, Göttingen for \$4000 for Bursaries for a computational chemistry Gordon Conference, to be held in Girona, Spain from 24-29 July 2016. This request was denied, since EBSA does not support Gordon Conferences, even if held in Europe. However, individual European students could apply to EBSA for support to attend.
- f. Norbert Kucerka is requesting sponsorship for a European Joint Theoretical / Experimental Meeting on membranes, to be held in Slovakia in September 2016 (1.5 days; 50-70 participants). The EC agreed to award €800 for a named EBSA lecture and €800 for student bursaries.
- g. Carlo Musio is requesting support for the Regional Biophysics Conference 2016 (RBC2016), to be held in Trieste from 25-28 August 2016. In 2014, we provided 'up to €600 for a named EBSA Lecturer, and up to €1,500 in total for student bursaries'. The EC agreed to award €800 for a named EBSA lecture and €1,600 for student bursaries.
- h. Anja Boeckmann requested €12,000 from EBSA towards student accommodation and travel, for the Ampere Biological Solid-State NMR School, to be held in Majorca from 9-14 October 2016. The EC agreed to award a contribution of €2,500.
- i. Nuno Santos and Antonio Ferrer Montiel requested financial support for the 5th International Iberian Biophysics Congress, which will be held in Porto (Oporto), Portugal, on June 15-17, 2016. The EC agreed to award a contribution of €2,500.
- j. A request was tabled for support for 'Physics Meets Biology, to be held in Cambridge from 12 – 14 September 2016. It was decided that they should be told to apply to EBSA for student bursaries for European attendees.

Action: Pierre-Emmanuel to inform those asking for support of the outcomes.

15. Member Societies (JMS)

The President of the Iran Society of Biophysical Chemistry (ISOBC) wrote to Manuel Prieto on 6th January 2016 asking to apply to join EBSA either as a member or as an observer. At the First EC meeting in Dresden in July 2015 the EC chose to defer making a decision until 2017, while it looked into changing the EBSA constitution to introduce affiliate membership.

There was extensive discussion of this request. All were in favour of trying to help them, and a majority of the EC were in favour of allowing them to join EBSA, either as a Full or as an Affiliate member. We would need to change the constitution to allow Affiliate

membership. Such members would have no voting rights, would not be able to nominate candidates for any Prizes, but would be able to apply for student bursaries. On geographic grounds, the EC felt that Iran is really too remote from Europe to be a Full member.

The EC voted unanimously (13 votes) to allow Iran to join EBSA, either as a Full or as an Affiliate member.

In a second vote, there was a large majority of the EC in favour (12 votes for, and one Abstention) of changing the EBSA Constitution to allow Affiliate membership.

Two votes will be needed at the next EBSA General Assembly:

1. To change the Constitution to allow Affiliate membership of EBSA.
2. To admit Iran as an Affiliate member.

Action: Helmut to write to the Iranian Society President that the EC will recommend them to be admitted as an Affiliated member of EBSA at the EBSA GA in Edinburgh in July 2017, but that this will require a change to the Constitution, which will also be discussed and hopefully agreed at the GA. Two separate votes will be needed.

16. Any other business

None

17. Date and location of next EC meeting in summer 2016

It was agreed that the location would be Madrid, hosted by Jesus Perez-Gil, and subsequently Saturday 25th June 2016 was confirmed as the date of the meeting.