



Second Meeting of the EBSA Executive Committee

Wednesday 24th July 2019. Location: Room Monaco, Congress Centre Madrid,

Present: Jesus Perez-Gil (President), Elena Pohl (Vice President), Anthony Watts (Past President), John Seddon (Secretary), Tony Wilkinson (Treasurer), Rob Gilbert (EBJ), André Matagne (Bursaries), Jacqueline Cherfils, Mauro dalla Serra (IUPAB cross-representative), Nuno Santos, László Mátyus (co-opted: EBSA Webmaster), Ilpo Vattulainen (co-opted: EBSA Newsgroup), Pierre Emmanuel Milhiet (co-opted: EBSA Workshops Coordinator), Helmut Grubmüller (co-opted: 2021 Congress advice)

Attending: José Carrascosa, Felix Goni, Alicia Alonso

Minutes

1. Welcome and Apologies (AW)

On behalf of the new President, Tony Watts welcomed new member Nuno Santos and the rest of the Committee, and reported that Apologies were received from new committee members Sarah Köster and Dejan Žikić. He reported that admitting the Bulgarian Society to Full Membership of EBSA has been approved at the EBSA GA. The committee gave its congratulations to José on him receiving the Miguel Catalan Prize.

2. Report on 12th EBSA Congress (JP-G)

Jesús gave a brief update on the Congress. The final number of participants was 1,000. All aspects of the organization went very smoothly, apart from a minor blip whereby serving lunch on the first day was too slow. The quality of the sessions was uniformly high, as were the Poster presentations. The collaboration with IUPAP was appreciated by many of the participants. Data on the numbers attending each session will be collated. The venue was excellent, as was the support from Grupo Pacifico. The EC would like to thank Carine Sainte Rose and her team and all the Conference Centre staff and volunteer helpers for ensuring that everything ran smoothly. A more detailed report on the Congress will be produced later.

Action: Jesús to send John the statistics from the Congress to add to the Minutes.

3. Report of ISE activities (JC)

José gave a quick review of the history of EBSA's involvement with ISE, culminating in their crisis in 2017. He reported that the situation with regard to ISE has improved, with it becoming more active again. In the light of this, he recommends that EBSA restarts paying its membership fee of €1,500 to ISE, rather than joining Euroscience (which is really for much larger organizations). This was accepted by the EC, and in the light of

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José having now left the EC, a new person from the Committee will need to be identified by our next EC meeting in January to represent ISE on behalf of the EC.

Action: Jesús.

4. **Encyclopedia of Biophysics, 2nd ed. (AW)**

Nothing new to report.

5. **EBSA Website (LM) and Newsgroup (IV)**

The EBSA website is running smoothly. Past recent Minutes of the EBSA EC meetings should be put up on the EBSA Website.

Action: John to send Laszlo the sets of recent EBSA Minutes.

This year is the 35th Anniversary of EBSA (1984 – 2019).

Action: Laszlo to put up some relevant material on the EBSA website.

The EBSA Newsgroup has a new host, so the email for posting a message to all list members should be changed from ebsa@listmail.tut.fi, to ebsa@lists.tuni.fi. It was agreed that all participants at the Congress should be emailed asking them to opt in to the Newsgroup.

Action: Ilpo and Carine Sainte Rose.

6. **Requests for EBSA support and reports (PEM)**

A request from Francesco Spinozzi, Ancona for support of €3,000 for an International School in Biophysics, to be held 27th – 31st January 2010 in Venice was agreed by the EC.

A request was received from Helmut Grubmüller for a contribution of €3,600 to the Erice School on 'Exploring and Quantifying Rough Free Energy Landscapes', 4-9 May 2020. The sum of €2,400 as support from EBSA was agreed by the EC.

A request from Tom Vuletic, Zagreb for €7,500 for Student Bursaries for the Croatian International School of Biophysics, to be held 27 August – 5th September 2020 in Split was approved.

7. **Student Bursaries (AM)**

Out of five applications, four were approved, but only three taken up.

8. **Future EBSA Schools / Biophysics Courses**

Felix Goni and Alicia Alonso attended the meeting from 2.30 pm. They presented a proposal to hold an EBSA Course on 'Problems and Methods in Membrane Biophysics' in Bilbao from 22nd – 26th June 2020. The preferred location is Plentzia Maritime Station, but downtown Bilbao (Biscay Hall) would also be possible. 9 Speakers are already confirmed. The EC recommended that molecular modelling and AFM be added to the list of topics covered. A contribution of €15,000 from EBSA was tentatively suggested, which includes travel costs for the Tutors. Tony Watts suggested that the amount from EBSA should probably be a bit lower, but would not be less than €11,000. It was noted that 2020 is the year of the IUPAB Congress, and so they will not provide any support. Tony Watts asked whether the Bilbao team would be willing to run the Course a number of times, biannually. Felix explained that things were somewhat unclear, with his impending retirement, but that they could commit to running it twice, and possibly also a third time in 2024. It was agreed that we should ask the Bilbao group to run it in 2020, and then re-evaluate.

Action: Jesús to inform Felix and Alicia.

Rob initiated a discussion as to whether it was appropriate for EBSA to be continuing to run a School focused on Membranes, and whether Schools on other topics should be considered. No clear conclusion was reached, although Jesus commented that organizing schools is crucial for engaging young people.

9. Next EBSA Congresses (AW)

Elena gave a brief description of the plans for the 2021 Congress in Vienna. Although the current advertising states that it will run from 24th – 28th July, she is thinking of running it from midday on the 24th till evening on the 27th, ie for 3.5 days. Extending it to 4.5 days would increase the costs by approx. €100K. Laszlo commented that the Congress is normally 4 – 4.5 days, and he was against shortening it. There was sympathy for this view, and it was agreed that Elena should look again at the budget with a view to being able to go for 4 full days. Laszlo asked whether Elena had considered using the Budapest Congress organizers, who should be cheaper. Elena felt it was best to stay with the current arrangement. Tony warned her against entering into a profit-sharing agreement. Helmut commented that if they raise extra support, then that can be shared. He also suggested that the fee to the organizers can be based partly on the total number of participants. Planning of the Congress will be discussed further in Vienna in January.

Action: Elena.

Tony described a dynamic Excel spreadsheet that he has put together to help future Congress organizers keep track of all the various tasks involved, and to provide a timeline.

Action: Tony Watts to send to Elena.

Proposals for hosting the 2023 EBSA Congress in Jerusalem and Belgrade were presented at the EBSA GA. It was agreed that we will aim to choose the venue for the 2023 EBSA Congress at the EBSA EC in Jan 2018.

10. Co-opted members of the EC (AW)

The current EBSA Constitution states that there can be up to five Co-opted members of the EC. It was agreed that Laszlo, Ilpo and Pierre-Emmanuel will continue to be Co-Opted, and Helmut will temporarily be Co-opted to help advise on organizing the 2021 Congress, leaving up to one free Co-opted position.

11. Any other business

Tony Watts distributed a draft Committee Expenses policy document for any comments. The committee agreed to implement this.

Nuno reported that the Brazilian Society would like EBSA to organize a Symposium within the 2020 IUPAB Congress, which will take place in Brazil from 26th – 30th October 2020. If EBSA pays for 3 Invited Speakers, they would pay for 2 people from EBSA to attend. Both Nuno and Tony Watts, and possibly Jesus, plan to attend the IUPAB Congress. It was agreed that we will discuss this further in January.

Action: Jesús to investigate further.

12. Next EC meeting - It was agreed that the next EC meeting will be held on Saturday 25th January 2020 in Vienna, hosted by Elena Pohl. Location tbc.

The meeting closed at 15.00. Jesus thanked Tony for his very successful Presidency, wished good luck to the new President-Elect, Elena, and gave them both gifts.