

## **2007 DBP Business Meeting Minutes**

**Colorado Convention Center, CO, March 6, 2007.**

Catered refreshments are served before Business Meeting. 36 attendees sign in.

Meeting begins at 5:47 pm.

Marilyn Gunner, DBP Chair, presides, welcomes all attendees, and announces that a short talk will be given by Lance Haworth, Acting Director of the NSF's Division of Materials Research, after the regular Business Meeting adjourns. The Biophysical Society Meeting concurring in Baltimore is costing us some attendance at our Meeting here.

Gunner announces a great piece of news. With the successful fundraising efforts by John Hopfield, APS President, and Shirley Chan, DBP Secretary-Treasurer (S-T), plus a transfer from DBP funds during 2006, \$100K has been raised, enabling the endowment of the Biological Physics Prize plus an increase of the award to \$10K biennially. The prize has been renamed to honor Max Delbruck, one of the earliest pioneers in biological physics field.

Reports from Shirley Chan on DBP memberships and finances. (Copies of the agenda and reports are distributed at the meeting, and appear at the end of the Minutes.)

DBP membership has been growing steadily from 1300 in 2000 to 1850 in 2007, a 50% increase. The distributions: 32% are students, 6% are post-docs, and 62% regular-senior. 245 (16%) of the 1500 male members are Fellows, and only 17 (6%) of 285 female are Fellows. Efforts should be made to narrow this Fellow gender gap in the coming years.

Chan reports that the total income in 2006 is \$45,037.49, including a special donation, \$25K, from Agouron Foundation. This money has been designated to support speakers' expenses of the Biological Physics Opportunities Workshops in multiple years. In turn, the DBP Executive Committee voted to transfer \$25K from the operating funds to the Prize fund. The lump sum could be considered as the contributions from all DBP members, at an average of \$15/member. The other line items for expenses are at similar levels compared to 2005. The 2006 Workshop has a surplus of \$983.53, to be applied to 2007 Workshop expenses. The total yearend assets of operating funds for 2006 are \$56,795.15, compared to \$48,084.52 for 2005.

For 2007 March Meeting, the support for invited speakers has been budgeted at \$5K. Some speakers attended only one day. Thus, ~\$470 has been saved from their reduced registration fees. Chan requested Chair-Elect Dean Astumian's permission to apply the saving to the Student Travel Grants budget (amount derived from 2006 interest earnings). 23 students applied for the grants. Among them, 5 were disqualified; 13 of the 18 are male, and 5 are female. 15 are domestic applicants and 3 are foreign. The awards for the students range from \$150 to \$400, depending the airfare from their college locations to Denver. The total amount awarded to students is \$3600.

### **Election Results:**

Gunner thanks Peter Jung, the Past Chair, for serving as the Nominating Committee Chair. She thanks Steve Quake and Lois Pollack for serving 3 years as Members-at-Large (MaLs).

Quake is elected as the Vice Chair. John Milton and Jin Wang are elected as the new MaLs. Congratulations to all. Quake will chair this year's Fellowship Committee and the next Workshop in 2008. All MaLs will serve in various committees.

### **Fellowship nominations:**

From now on, the deadline for nominations of Fellowship candidates will be May 1. With 1850 members, DBP will be allowed to sponsor up to 9 candidates for the elections.

James Glazier urges members to increase the candidate pool. He emphasizes that an increase of DBP membership will improve the quality of Fellowship candidates, and suggests that members be proactive by asking your APS colleagues to nominate yourselves. Gunner asks DBM members to identify colleagues at their own departments so that they can be recognized.

One-day Workshop, Opportunities in Biological Physics, March 4, before March Meeting:

Gunner thanks Glazier for organizing the workshop. Topics include tissue engineering and industrial sciences. Among ~120 participants, most are students. Agouron Foundation provides a multi-year funding to support the speakers. A small donation comes from Fluidigm to defray some expenses. Quake will chair the next Workshop.

Bob Eisenberg has organized a DBP contributory symposium at BPS Meeting in Baltimore. The BPS contributes a reciprocal session at our Meeting. It will be on Thursday morning with 5 speakers.

Newsletter:

Sonya Bahar, the Newsletter Editor, says that the bimonthly newsletter publishes DBP business and meeting announcements, accepts ads for job openings, features articles on, and interviews with, people in the field as well as profiling labs and departments, and publishes the highlights from PRE and PRL. She urges DB members to support the newsletter by reading it and submitting announcements, job ads, and ideas for feature articles.

Gunner asks members to propose new topics for symposia and focus sessions for 2008. DBP receives more revenue distribution from APS by having more contributory sessions and talks, and by having more attendance.

The DBP Graduate/Education Database, a new project on DBP website, is reported on by Hagen. The purpose of the database is to establish a searchable (by key words or names), broadly accessible database of biological physics labs, for use by undergrad/graduate students, postdocs and PIs.

The idea was initiated by Chan in Jan 2005, with Andrea Markelz to design the project's software, plus some technical assistance from APS staff, Sara Connors and Delong Yang. Steve Hagen, elected in March 2005, also participated in design and testing before taking over as the database managing editor. He reviews and approves the entries before posting them on the website: <http://units.aps.org/units/inst/search/index.cfm?UNIT=DBP>. This site comes up as a top hit in a Google search for "biological physics directory". Launched in Sept, 2006, the database now has 77 listings as of 3/1/07, with 90% of the listings added during in the first 3 months.

Current plans for the database: (1) to advertise again in the DBP newsletter; (2) to link to prominently on DBP webpage; (3) suggestions accepted. The APS is interested in expanding this website if proven successful. A future editor to manage the database will be needed, after Hagen's ExCom term expires.

Gunner introduces 9 newly-elected Fellows with citations and presents to each his/her APS Fellowship certificate & pin. New Fellows are: Shirley Chan, Michael Deem, Glenn Edwards, James Glazier, John Marko (absent), John Milton, Brad Roth (absent), Steven Schwartz, Gustavo Stolovitzky (absent). (The S-T will send the absentees their certificates and pins within a month.)

Gunner points out that Hagen has been appointed during the Executive Committee Meeting to head the planning how to recruit more members.

Open invitation from the floor for any comments:

(1) Glazier suggests continuing the fundraising toward the prize fund, in the hope of making it an annual award.

(2) Hagen proposes to create a graduate student thesis award to recognize student research achievements. The Executive Committee has authorized the exploration how other divisions do it before setting up any DBP guidelines.

(3) Robert Austin wants bylaws updated. Chan replies that the process has been started with a committee of 3. Any Bylaw changes require multiple levels of approvals. She hopes to complete the process by late 2007 to be voted by DBP membership for final approval.

(4) J. Raul Grigera, chairman of the ICBP conference in 2007, Aug 27-31, in Montevideo, Uruguay, asks DBP members to participate. The conference is sponsored by IUPAP, IUPAB, and FEIASOFI. The deadline for abstract submissions is June 1. Bahar offers to post it in newsletter. [Editor's Note: [See pages 6-9 and 30-31 of this issue.](#)]

Gunner introduces the next DBP Chair, Dean Astumian.

Astumian pledges to serve for the DBP, and to work and share the love of science with DBP members and students. To help funding of research, he urges the attending members to sign the Congressional letters prepared by the APS and send to own States' Congressional Members for funding impact.

6:40 pm. Meeting adjourn