

Date: 2-Nov-2015  
Location: Teleconference  
Meeting Number: GS-E-3  
Attendees: Randy Kamien (Chair), Peter Olmsted (Secretary/Treasurer), Eric Weeks (Program Committee Chair), Michael Rubinstein, Juan de Pablo, Cristina Marchetti (Chair-Elect), Karen Daniels, Eric Weeks, Jean Delannoy, Erik Luijten (Vice-Chair Elect), Linda Hirst, Nick Abbot (Vice-Chair).

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- GS-E-3-1. A welcome was extended to Erik Luijten (Vice-Chair Elect) and Linda Hirst (new Member at Large)
- GS-E-3-2. PDO reviewed the financial and membership status. We currently have 1121 members. Financially we are now in good shape, with  $\sim$  \$19k assets and estimated dues of \$5k to receive in January.
- GS-E-3-3. RK outlined the conditions of the **Early Career Award**. Solvay have guaranteed it for three more years (2016, 2017, 2018). To make it a permanent award requires an endowment of roughly \$120k.
- GS-E-3-4. KD summarized plans for the **March Meeting**.
- (a) GSOF T is sponsoring or co-sponsoring 9 invited sessions, including the two sessions in honor of Sir Sam Edwards.
  - (b) There are also 20 focus sessions sponsored or co-sponsored by GSOF T.
  - (c) KD and EW have organized a Tutorial Series for the Sunday before the March Meeting, which will treat a different aspect of Soft Matter every year. The topic for 2016 will be **Colloids and Granular Materials**.
  - (d) There will be a Prize Session on Wednesday morning.
  - (e) The poster session will combine GSOF T, DBIO, DPOLY, GSNP, and DFD.
- GS-E-3-5. We discussed other March Meeting activities.
- (a) We will have a reception (drinks and nibbles) on Wednesday evening to honor Ivan Smalyukh as well as the APS Fellows (Haim Diamant, O Lavrentovich, and Thomas Truskett).

**Action: Membership Committee to Organize reception**

- (b) APS Fellows will be awarded at the Business Meeting.

- (c) The Business Meeting will be held on Wednesday evening in an attempt to avoid clashes with DPOLY and other business meetings.

**Action: Randy and Eric finalize business meeting plans**

- (d) We will have a membership table.

**Action: PDO and RDK to arrange rota and details for membership table.**

- (e) We discussed giving away silly putty, gumballs or other (potentially edible) soft matter.

**Action: Karen and Randy on gumball duty.**

- (f) Solvay will help with the presentation of the prize, and can also give out pens, etc at the membership table.

- (g) We discussed an Executive Committee dinner or lunch, without a resolution.

**Action: Randy et al.: decide on ExComm meeting plan.**

GS-E-3-6. **New Soft Matter Journal from Elsevier:** Elsevier has approached a number of the ExComm about a new journal on Soft Matter. The committee was not in favor of a new journal and didn't see a clear need. It was noted that an Open Access journal would be distinct from existing Soft Matter journals (Soft Matter, EPJE, Physical Review E, PCCP, Macromolecules, Journal of Rheology, Langmuir, etc).

**Action: Any action, Randy?**

GS-E-3-7. **IUPAP:** Sharon and Randy (maybe others?) had been approached by IUPAP about forming a commission on Soft Matter. Some commissions are quite high profile (e.g. Statistical Physics awards the Boltzman medal and has triennial international meeting). They have asked for representation and advice from GSOFT. Cristina and Michael volunteered.

**Action: MCM and MR to participate in IUPAP discussions**

GS-E-3-8. **International Soft Matter Conference:** MR gave an update on the proposed International Soft Matter Conference (for 2017). Originally RSC proposed sponsoring it (~ \$100k). MR had suggested running it from a US-based society, and approached APS. There was confusion about who would bear financial responsibility; MR had obtained assurance from APS that GSOFT would not bear responsibility at least the

first time. GSOF T had declined to organize it, not wanting to get involved in a large financial commitment at an early stage.

There was much discussion about how a triennial Soft Matter meeting would fit with two other triennial meetings: the European-based International Soft Matter Conference (ISMC) organized through Softcomp, and the Liquid Matter Meeting organized by the European Physical Society. If all three meetings run, then there is a major international soft matter meeting every year. An alternative suggestion would be to combine the Softcomp ISMC with a US meeting (and perhaps later an Asian version) that rotates among continents every three years. This would require negotiation with Softcomp (PDO was an ExComm member until moving here), and potentially the EPS. Such a meeting could also run under the IUPAP umbrella.

There was no consensus, and a small subset will discuss different options and possibilities.

**Action: MR, RDK, and PDO to discuss further. Other volunteers?**

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9 November 2015

Peter Olmsted (Secretary/Treasurer)