

IIS Board of Trustees Meeting 7th June 2015

Present: Alban Allentoff, Jens Atzrodt, Volker Derdau, Dave Hesk, Carolee Lavey, Ken Lawrie, Brad Maxwell, Thomas Moenius, Boris Czeskis, Tomáš Elbert

1. Princeton Update

DH updated the BoT on the status of the Princeton meeting. As of June 5th, there were 196 registrants, which include 16 exhibitors. A total of 18 counties are represented with 56% of delegates coming from the USA. There are a total of 96 signed up for the conference banquet which will be held at the Nassau Inn.

The scientific programme includes 9 plenary lectures, 1 Melvin Calvin Award presentation, 4 Wiley young scientist award presentations, 63 oral presentations in the parallel sessions and 27 posters. Several of the parallel sessions were extended to accommodate a surplus of submitted papers.

DH also updated the BoT on the current status of the symposium budget. Total expense as of June 5th is expected to be \$138,293. The projected total income is \$232,233, which includes \$81,063 from the Heidelberg meeting. DH also noted that \$19,600 in sponsorship was raised by Crist Filer which exceeded the original goal of \$10,000.

DH also commented on several aspects of the conference organization that worked well and several that turned out to be challenges. The Scientific Advisory board did an excellent job under Brad's leadership of selecting and confirming plenary speakers well in advance of the conference and also selected the session chairmen in a similar timeframe. The session chairmen and poster session chairman did an outstanding job in proactively planning and organizing their sessions. Most sessions contained a balance of invited and contributed papers.

The initial build and launch of the conference website through Cvent was achieved on schedule about 1 year before the conference and hiring a Cvent specialist to build the event was money well spent. After some initial issues setting up the merchant account, the 'online' payment system on the website appeared to work well. The Cvent website notification and emailing tool was easy to use and the ability to modify and update the website was easy with excellent customer service available through Cvent.

Support from Princeton Conference services also was excellent. Design of the floor plan in the Frick building to allow the co-location of the exhibitors, posters and all the meal breaks was put together by Princeton conference services. They also were very helpful with the selection of daily menus at the university and also for the menu at the banquet at the Nassau Inn. The signage put up by Princeton Conference services was excellent.

Some challenges were noted. The 'online' registration tool turned out to be overly cumbersome and the abstract submission tool was not very effective. As a result DH resorted to manually pulling the abstracts from the website and distributing them to the respective session chairmen by email. The room block at the Nassau Inn turned out to

be too small and as a result several late registering delegates had to find accommodation at alternative hotels.

The conference proceedings will be published as full peer reviewed articles in a special edition of JLCR in a similar manner to Heidelberg. DH will be in contact with KL after the conclusion of the conference to initiate the process. Based on the response rate from Heidelberg, it is likely that 15-20 submissions will be received. The tentative deadline for article submissions will be the end of the year. A title listing of all the papers will be included in the edition.

The BoT then held a substantive discussion about the future state of the international meetings. It was noted that attendance has dropped significantly from the early to mid-1990's where 350-400 delegates typically attended to around 200 at the current meeting. Attendance at Heidelberg was 249. It was agreed that while the goal should be to look for broader participation in the meeting to boost attendance, the meeting series continues to remain viable with an attendance of 150 plus delegates as this will support a full scientific schedule over the 4 days.

2. Financial report

AA updated the BoT on the current IIS finances. The Bank of America account had a balance of \$243,077 as of Jan 1st, with revenues through June 8th of \$127,710 against expenses of \$12,448.

3. 2015 Elections

CL reported on the final outcome of the BoT election process. Due to the number of nominations matching the available posts, it was not necessary to hold an election. Presidents for the 2016-2018 term, with the order to be decided, will be Jens Atzrodt, Marwan Elmasri and Brad Maxwell. Vice-President: Bruce McKillican, Chief Financial Officer: Alban Attentoff, Executive Secretary: David Hesk, Regional Trustee-Europe: Volker Derdau, Regional Trustee- North America: David Schenk, Regional Trustee-Asia Pacific- open. The BoR representative on the BoT will be selected from members of the BoR by the end of 2015.

Post meeting note: Marwan Elmasri will serve as President in 2016, Brad Maxwell will serve as President in 2017 and Jens Atzrodt will serve as President in 2018.

The BoT then held a substantive discussion on how to increase member participation in the BoT and the IIS in general. JA noted that for the past 4 years the CED has made available grants of €4,000-€5,000 available to academics with on average 2 grants per year being awarded. As a condition of the grant, the awardee is expected to present their work at the Bad Soden CED meeting and as a result participation from academics at Bad Soden has increased.

4. Membership update

DH updated to the BoT on the current membership status. There are currently 169 members paid through the end of 2015, 72 paid through 2016 and 39 paid through 2017. As has been previously been discussed, declining membership continues to be a challenge. TM noted that while the Romanian Chapter continues to be active through

the BoR, attempts to contact the BoR reps in the Russian and E. China chapters have been unsuccessful. DH noted that several delegates will be attending the conference from China, and this is a potential opportunity to assess interest in re-activating the E. China Chapter.

5. 2018 site selection

Tomáš Elbert presented a proposal to the BoT to host the 2018 meeting in Prague, Czech Republic. The location will be at the National House of Vinohrady which contains sufficient space for Plenary, parallel sessions, posters and the exhibitors. The venue is located about 10 minutes' walk from a number of major hotels or 5 minutes' walk from the Metro. Hotel rates begin at €80 for 3 star and €100 for 4 star.

The projected registration fee will be €450 with €300 for academia and students. The proposed meeting dates are May 20-24th 2015, which would immediately follow the 18th Radiochemical conference which is scheduled to be held in Marienbad, Czech Republic, which is located 100 miles from Prague, on May 13th – 18th 2018 and it is proposed to offer a 10% registration discount for attendees of both conferences.

Total income from 120 full registrations, 50 academics and students and 15 exhibitors is projected to €139,000. Total projected expenses for the hire of the venue, speaker expenses, meal breaks, etc. are €134,250. The organizers originally were planning for attendance of 300, but after feedback from the BoT, the organizers are now budgeting for a total attendance in the region of 150-200.

The local organizing committee will consist of Dr. Tomáš Elbert, Prof. Jan John, Dr. Ondřej Lebeda, Dr. Aleš Marek and Prof. Pavel Drašar. It is proposed to have the symposium website run by the Czech Chemical Society. A Scientific advisory board will be formed with input from the IIS. There are several locations for the banquet under consideration.

After a discussion among members of the BoT and BoR, it was agreed to award the 2018 meeting to Prague under the leadership of Dr. Tomáš Elbert.

Post meeting note: The proposed meeting dates of May 20th – 24th coincide with several public holidays in Europe, hence the organizers will look to change the dates of the conference.

6. WCI

BM reported that he had been approached by the Secretary of the WCI to join a committee set up by WCI to improve contacts between WCI and other groups in the isotope community. The committee will comprise of a total of 7 individuals with representation from Japan, Belgium, India, North America, Argentina, and South Africa with a future representative to be appointed from Australia.

BM also reported that DH and BM will put together a short summary of the Princeton meeting to be published in the WCI newsletter

Next BoT meeting

This will be held in September or October and will be organized by BM.

David Hesk
IIS Executive Secretary