

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee of HIST
March August 22, 1999

The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm.

1) Bert Ramsay attended the Executive Committee meeting to discuss recent problems he had encountered. He had submitted an abstract for the 125th Anniversary of Tetrahedral Carbon organized by Peter Ramberg, and it was withdrawn involuntarily. Discussion centered on how the withdrawal was dealt with, why it happened, and who controls the withdrawal process. V. Mainz was asked to check with Peter Ramberg and find out who authorized the withdrawal for the ACS. Dr. Ramsay also discussed the possibility of hosting a one-half day workshop.

2) Steve Weininger discussed the Year 2000 activities for the Division and the 125th Anniversary of the ACS in 2001. Steve noted that the "History of Futurism in Chemistry" symposium would be going forward for the San Francisco meeting, and that DAC had given \$500 in support of this symposium. Steve also reported that the Dexter 1999 symposium would be held in San Francisco for Mary Jo Nye, and that the 2000 winner would be honored in Washington. With respect to the ACS anniversary, it was felt that the HIST should ask other Divisions and local sections to be aware of the anniversary during their programming. Roger Egolf noted that during the Program Chairs meeting in Dec. 1998, he volunteered to serve on the organizing committee for this "event". Roger also thought that HIST should have a co-listing with any other Division planning a symposium honoring this anniversary. Roger suggested that local section histories would be appropriate during this anniversary celebration, as well as looking at Divisional Creation - When New Fields Arise. There was a discussion of whether a division should use the date of their probationary status or full status approval for an anniversary date. We also discussed Jim Bohning's project on past ACS Presidents (presented up to 1904) and whether the group he has finished could be published.

3) Reports:

3.1.a) Chair - Steve Weininger

a) Steve led a discussion on the Dexter Award and its current status. The committee felt that the amount of the award should be increased, and asked Steve to talk to D. Abrahams.

3.2) Sec.-Treas. - Vera Mainz

a) Vera discussed trying to find members lost since 1997. Our membership has been fairly stagnant since then, hovering around 820.

b) A report was given on some ambiguity in the 1995 Outstanding Paper Award. It was unanimously agreed to award it to Ken Caneva, and send a copy to Steve for approval.

c) A motion was made and approved to appoint an Awards Taskforce, members to be appointed by the Chair, to investigate current Division awards and recommend any further action on the manner of selection, the jury requirements, the

sources of funds and all other matters pertaining to these issues. A report was requested for the San Francisco meeting in Spring 2000.

3.3) Program - Roger Egolf

- a) Jack Stocker is still interested in a Science in Science Fiction II symposium for a future meeting.
- b) For San Francisco, Spring 2000, the symposia will be the Dexter Award (Mary Jo Nye), Jan Hayes is organizing Not Only Chemists Do Chemistry, Steve Weininger is organizing the History of Futurism in Chemistry, and Ed Wasserman was discussing an Introduction to Polymers symposium.

3.4) Editor of the Bulletin - Paul R. Jones

- a) Issue No. 24 is ready to be printed. Paul reported that the Dexter Award paper from Sy Mauskopf was long and that revisions had been time-consuming.
- b) The Editorial Board met today (Paul, Herb Pratt, and Peter Ramberg) and recommended changing the numbering of the issues. Starting with the first issue for 2000, we would switch from Number 25 to Volume 25, number 1. Two issues are planned for 2000, with a cumulative index in the Fall.
- c) The lag time for publication is now 1-2 years.
- d) Paul discussed how to increase subscriptions - possibly a small advertisement in Chemical Heritage.

3.5) Councilors

Ben Chastain -

Council Committee on Public Relations staffing seems to have stabilized. Anne Higgins is the CHLP/ACS staff person. He reported some possible changes in how the committee is structured and setup (e.g., who they report to, whether HIST should have formal representation).

Mary Virginia Orna -

Nominations and Elections Committee

Noted that Ted Benfey and Jim Bohning were sponsored by CHF for their talks at the symposium honoring the anniversary of CHED.

Serving on a subcommittee on Women and Minority Affairs

N&E is setting up a task force to oversee the content of the N&E website.

The committee is writing guidelines for fair election practices.

She may be asked to be an associate member on the Society for Education.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.