

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee of HIST
April 13, 1997

The meeting was called to order at 5:13pm.

- 1) Announcements concerning the various social events for the week were made.
- 2) The Agenda was approved.
- 3) The minutes of the meeting of March 24, 1996 were approved with two minor corrections. a) Laurel Adelman is no longer a member of CHF, and b) there is a new CHF PR officer, Marie Stewart, Director of External Relations/Affairs.
- 4) Reports:

4.1. Chair - Harold Goldwhite

- a. The ACS sent us a copy of a Divsional Code of Practice. We are in agreement with this document.
- b. An ACS task force is meeting April 14 to discuss developing the membership base and educating the divisions about recruitment techniques. Harold planned to attend this meeting.
- c. Awards: The 1997 Dexter is going to Prof. Bernadette Bensaude-Vincent, and the 1997 Outstanding Paper Award is going to Dr. David E. Lewis, for an article published in issue 17/18 of the *Bulletin*.
- d. A reminder that in 2000 the International Chemical Congress of Pacific Basin Societies will meet in Honolulu, HW, Dec. 14-19, 2000.
- e. The Office of Industrial Relations has asked to work together to strengthen ties. This is something we should follow up on.

4.2. Secretary-Treasurer - Vera Mainz

The 1996 ACS HIST Annual Reports were discussed (and are attached), as well as summaries of our current financial condition. At current prices, it looks as though the Division can support the publication of two "double" issues a year. The impact of the higher division dues will be seen by the end of the year. Paul Jones noted that he had written a letter to current ACS President Paul Anderson summarizing the "late troubles" with the *Bulletin*, and has had no answer. Harold plans to write to him again, asking for some of the ACS discretionary money to help publish at least one issue of the *Bulletin*.

4.3. Bulletin Editor - Paul Jones

Paul Jones discussed a handout that showed the cost of the last three issues. He noted that he had experienced some trouble with the labels over the last year, and would find it very useful if he could have a printout of everyone's labels in order to keep track of who has been sent copies of the Bulletin.

He noted that all members of the Executive Committee should encourage local universities to subscribe. We should also make an effort to find our members who have dropped their HIST membership. If we contact them, and note the current Bulletin publication schedule, it may be possible that some will rejoin. Vera was requested to pursue getting this information. Mary Virginia

cautioned to be careful in wording of any letter sent to these ex-division members; CHED has had mixed response when attempting to contact their lapsed members.

Paul believes that we should be able to get the cost per 96 page issue to ~\$5/issue and cost per 64 page issue to ~\$4.00. Going to a 32 page issue may not provide that much decrease in the issue price.

Issue #20 will have a 1997 date, should also have the cumulative subject and author index, and will also be the last issue to carry the free Wotiz advertisement. Paul noted that the Bulletin has a backlog of Dexter Award papers that will provide a focus for one of the 1998 issues.

4.4. Councilor's Report

Mary Virginia Orna: This is her second year serving on the Nominations and Elections Committee of the ACS. She is serving on the subcommittee for Region 2 Board of Directors and the subcommittee on Minorities and Women (concerned with getting minorities and women to stand for office). She believes that the status of women should probably be left alone, and more attention should be given to minority recruitment. One important point is that you first have to run for councilor in order to be able to stand for committees, and you also have to run for local section offices. Anyone with suggestions should send them to her.

Ben Chastain: Ben is still serving on the Committee on Public Affairs. He was appointed to this committee two years ago, but has never been elected to it. However, since this committee does not discriminate between liaisons, elected officers, and appointees, this has not caused any problems. He has asked again to be appointed to the Divisional Activities Committee. This committee usually works with local sections, but is starting to work with the Divisions and other ACS committees.

4.5. Program Chair - Richard Rice

Richard noted that we have a very good program for this meeting. He also thought that the newsletter that headed the abstracts was a nice touch. He also noted that the Program Committee (himself, John Borchardt and Roger Egolf) couldn't meet at San Francisco as the other two members were unable to attend.

Newsletter: Richard requested that abstracts for all four co-sponsored symposia be printed but only two made it in. He was unclear as to why two symposia were left out.

Las Vegas - Fall 1997: No symposia are scheduled. Originally, Jenny Oxley from the Gordon Conferences had contacted Richard about sponsoring a symposium on the 60th anniversary of the Gordon Conferences. However, she changed her mind, and indicated that the Gordon Conf. would be doing something separate from the ACS. Currently he has three abstracts for general papers.

Paul Jones will be putting together a symposium for Boston (Fall 1998). For Dallas (Spring 1998), we will have the Dexter Symposium, Symposium on the History of Chemistry in the Southwest (T. Strom), and possibly Symposium on Women in Chemistry (although this may move to Boston).

Harold noted that he recently received an email from Norman Standish and Jeff Dolbear from the Division of Petroleum Chemistry about organizing a symposium celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Division.

Richard noted that his term expires at the end of the year.

4.6. Other Committee Reports

Mary Virginia reported on the National Landmarks program. #12 is Ray Chem in Menlo Park. #13 is Dow Midland (end of May). Dow is celebrating their centennial this year with a traveling exhibit called "Chemistry is Electric". #14 is Gilman Hall on the Univ. of California Berkeley campus on Nov. 20th. She also noted that there has been some discussion about the future of this program, as having so many landmarks may dilute their importance. For now, however, no changes will be made, barring an attempt to distribute them geographically, if possible.

Mary Virginia distributed a written report from CHF. They are looking for educational ideas that fit in with the history of chemistry. For example, using the Landmarks program with curriculum development. One project currently under way is at Harvard Univ. where undergraduates do experimental work on art objects at a museum in Boston. They then write reports on the objects historical relevance.

5) Nominating

We need a Nominating Committee appointed in order to put together a slate for an election this fall for Chair-Elect and Councilor. The recommendation was that Joe Lambert be chair, with Marty Saltzman and Jane Miller also serving. They will report on the slate at the Las Vegas meeting. The election should be held in October so results can be reported no later than the first week in December.

6) Frequency of Division Programs

Written statements by Harold Goldwhite and Richard Rice are attached. There was some discussion, but the result was no action. Therefore, the Division will continue to support programs at both National meetings.

7) Change of meeting day of ACS Council

It has been proposed to change the meeting day of ACS Council from Wedn. to Tues. during the National meetings. Mary Virginia pointed out that the reason for the current meeting on Wedn. is that Councilors, because they have to meet with their reporting committees before the Council Policy meeting on Monday, can't meet with both their Division and fulfill their commitments as Councilors unless the Council meets no sooner than Wedn. She made a formal motion to oppose the change. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

8) IUPAC wanted someone from HIST to act as an observer at their meetings. However, since IUPAC doesn't pay any expenses for observers, no action was taken.

9) Division Planning Discussion - some discussion of this issue took place, mostly in the context of the focal area of programming at the Divisional Officers Caucus.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:04pm.