

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee of HIST
March 26, 2000 Spring National Meeting, San Francisco

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

- 0) Minutes of the Fall, 1999, meeting were approved with minor corrections.
- 1) Ann Higgins, ACS - HIST Participation in the Landmarks Program
In mid-1999, the Public Affairs Board Committee appointed a taskforce to look at the structure of CHLF. As a result, at the December Board meeting an Ad-hoc Board Committee on CHLF was created.

The new committee

- reports to the Board of Directors via Public Affairs and Public Relations
- evaluates nominations
- solicit nominations from time-to-time
- make recommendations for Landmarks
- submit nominations to Board of Directors for approval. NOTE: The committee retains the right to refuse nominations with no appeal to the Board of Directors.

This committee will be evaluated in three years, but may become a standing council committee. The committee wants representation from HIST. The current composition of the Landmarks committee was retained, with Paul Anderson as Chair. Discussion centered on how to gain recommendations for people to sit on the Ad-hoc committee, and it was recommended that the chair of HIST should do so, with the approval of the HIST executive committee. It was also recommended that Ann's reports become a standing agenda item.

Also discussed was the need to set-up a formal reporting path for the Ad-hoc committee to HIST, and how/whether there would be support for a designated HIST member to attend the various CHLP ceremonies.

- 2) Reports:

2.1.a) Chair - Steve Weininger

a) Steve reported that he was receiving \$1000 from the ACS and \$1000 from CHF in support of the Futurism Symposium. He also reported that Larry Holmes would probably not attend the symposium due to illness in the family.

b) It was believed important to have a chemical historian serving on the Dexter Award Committee, in addition to the professional historians. Jim Bohning was invited to serve and accepted. The Dexter Award Committee currently consists of Larry Holmes, Larry Principe, and Jim Bohning.

c) Richard Rice and Harold Goldwhite are serving on the Awards subcommittee of HIST.

d) There was continued discussion of funding for the Dexter Award. Mary Virginia suggested that Steve write Arnold Thackray at CHF and ask them to continue to support the award. She suggested that CHF might give an additional \$1000 for the award, especially if HIST would cover some of the expenses.

Suggestions were made to ask membership if they wanted to endow the award. The general discussion then covered strategies to set up an endowment, in terms of seed money, matching money, etc. A possible change of name for the award was also discussed in the context of an endowed award. Jim Bohning suggested that if the name changes, that should be set before any endowment campaign begins.

Some executive committee members felt strongly about continuing the award as it is the only “public face” of the Division.

During these discussions, Vera Mainz announced that she and Greg Girolami would give \$1000 to the Division for use in travel awards, and would commit to a minimum 5 year commitment.

2.2) DAC believes there is a need to increase all Divisions visibility both inside and outside the ACS. Jim Bohning suggested that HIST “fly the flag” at regional meetings by finding regional member contacts and encouraging them to program for regional and local section meetings. Mary Virginia Orna reported that CHED is starting OUTREACH at regional meetings and finding out that it isn’t very easy. There is a strong dependence on the character and the chair of the particular meeting. She noted that John Kenney, New Mexico State University in Potosi, NM, is the task-force chair for CHED. She also noted that it is important to attend the DAC Program Chair meeting or other training meetings on this issue. The CHED taskforce is looking at a minigrant program for which DAC may have some money. There is a question of allocation of resources between Divisions and local sections. This discussion requires that the Divisions prepare to make a case for what they would do if they had resources available to them.

Steve said he would chair the HIST taskforce and Vera needs to send him the membership list as both a text file and excel file for that purpose.

Steve told DAC that the loss of the \$35 1-day registration fee for the national meeting is a great problem for HIST. Mary Virginia noted that a strong case can be made the HIST cuts across every other division in the ACS, and that this could be exploited in terms of contacts and money.

Vera reported that DAC offered to pay for a HIST officer to attend the last DOC meeting in January, but that no one was available to take advantage of the offer.

2.3) Bulletin

Paul Jones did not attend so Steve gave his report. The next issue of the Bulletin in Volume 25(2), slated for a September 2000 publication. It will be a memorial issue for Aron Ihde, who died in early 2000. The M. J. Nye Dexter award address will be in volume 26(1). Steve also announced that a donor had offered to finance 10 library subscriptions/year to try to seed subscriptions. It was suggested that Paul contact the librarian at CHF (Elizabeth Swan, eswan@chemheritage.org) to ask about those schools with a History of Chemistry/Science program. Another source for names was the chair of the committee on education of HSS, Lisa Rosener.

3) Program - Roger Egolf

a) Roger reported that he attended the DOC meeting in Spring 2000.

b) The Washington meeting in Fall 2000 has six symposia scheduled, five general and the award symposium.

- Chemistry in Washington 100 years Ago
- Dexter Award
- Historically Important Chemical Educators
- 20th Century Chemistry before WWII (1901-1939) - organized by R. Rice
- Co-sponsor with Professional Relations - Overview of NSF Programs on the 50th Anniv. of NSF.

c) Roger reported that a problem is developing with respect to Sci-Mix. Only posters that are in scheduled poster sessions can now enter Sci-Mix, which means a significant loss of exposure for HIST.

d) Symposia for San Diego are Chemistry in WWII (1939-1957) (Rice) and Chemists Don't Only Do Chemistry. Symposia for Chicago currently is only Late 20th Century Chemistry (1958-2000) (Rice). The next Dexter Award symposia should be at the next spring meeting, and the next Arch. Symposium should happen next year. A list of those who are members of the Arch. sub-division of HIST should be sent to the organizer.

4) Sec.-Treas. - Vera Mainz

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

b) There was a discussion about placing an advertisement about the Division in Chemical Heritage - Vera needs to find out the cost.

c) The Treasurer's Report indicates a continuing stagnation with respect to funds since we continue to draw on our reserves. The discussion about library subscriptions was continued, with a suggestion to correlate members with ties to libraries. Jim Bohning offered to help sort out contacts.

d) Vera noted that we need to hold an election for councilor this fall. However, whether we elect one councilor or a slate for all offices, the cost to the division is the same. Currently, we have the following officers and terms:

Steve W. Chair, 1999, 2000

Richard R. Chair-Elect, to serve as chair in 2001, 2002

Vera M. Sec.-Treas. 1999, 2000, /2001, 2002

Ben C. Councilor, 1999, 2000, 2001

Albert K. Alt.-Councilor, 1999, 2000, 2001

Mary V. Orna Councilor (term was 1997, 1998, 1999 - she was appointed for 1997, and elected for the remainder of the term in late 1997 at the same election in which Steve was elected chair.)

Vera suggested that at the election this year, we fill the councilor position (term 2000, 2001, 2002), and also have an election for the next chair-elect (to start the term as chair-elect in 2001, 2002, serve as chair in 2003, 2004), as well as the other councilor and alternate councilor positions (with term to be 2002, 2003, 2004).

Then, in 2002 we can have the next election for

councilor (term 2003, 2004, 2005)

Sec.-Treas. (term 2003, 2004)

chair-elect. (to start the term as chair-elect in 2003, 2004, serve as chair in 2005, 2006)

councilor (term 2005, 2006, 2007)

alternate councilor (term 2005, 2006, 2007)

This sets up a two-year election cycle for all offices, letting us be ahead of the game with respect to councilors and allows one election every two years instead of two every three years.

There was approval of this recommendation and an election committee was selected.

5) Councilors

Ben Chastain -

Council Committee on Public Relations staffing seems to have stabilized. Anne Higgins is the CHLP/ACS staff person, as per her earlier report. Ben continues to serve on this committee.

Mary Virginia Orna -

elected vice-chair for Nominations and Elections Committee taskforce for fair election practice and serving on the committee on minority and women in governance.

6) Jim Bohning

Jim is now retired; he noted that the HIST archives currently reside in boxes at CHF and offered to organize these files. Steve was directed to send Arnold Thackray a letter giving HIST approval to this venture. Jim also said he intended to contact past officers and see if they have any relevant material.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.