

IUPAC
DIVISION-III

Organic and Biomolecular Chemistry

Committee Meeting held in University of Toronto, 15th August 2002.

Present: Prof. T. Tidwell (Toronto, President), Prof. D.St.C.Black (Sydney, Vice-President); Prof. T. Norin (Stockholm, Past President), Prof. G.M.Blackburn (Sheffield, Secretary), Professors Ivanov (Moscow), Nicotra (Milano), and Rauter (Lisbon).
Apologies for absence were recorded from: Profs. Craig, Hearn, Isobe, Koomen, McNaught, Powell, Rosario, and Tundo.

MINUTES

1. Minutes of the previous meeting (Brisbane, June 2001) previously circulated were accepted with minor changes and signed.
2. Matters arising from the Minutes. All minor matters arising were dealt with properly. Major items appear under the appropriate Agenda items below.
3. The President submitted his Report (attached, Appendix 1).
4. Reports from Sub-Committees
 - a) Organic Synthesis (Prof. Black)

This dealt with the Christchurch ICOS-14 Meeting, July 2002, attended by 480 participants (Australian, Japanese, USA). In a short discussion of OPCW Dr. Frank MacDonald was identified as a potential future activist with interests in IUPAC developments of this ilk.
 - b) Biomolecular Chemistry (Prof Ivanov)

The Chairman indicated that the three types of Meeting supported by this S/C share much material and significant overlap. There is scope for unification of these activities. E.g. the New Delhi Meeting Jan-Feb 2004 will have Biodiversity, Natural Product Chemistry, and Medicinal Applications and is likely to overlap in some measure(s) with ISBOC-7 in Sheffield, June 2004. This should be discussed more widely. Dr. Gordon Cragg was asked to write to Prof. Parmar to verify the dates for this Meeting, which had drifted significantly.

Prof. Norin gave a brief Report on the Biodiversity Meeting in Antalya January 2002. Possibly the most successful Meeting was that on Natural Product Chemistry in Florence (ISCNP-23, August 2002) attended by some 500 participants and with over 200 posters.
 - c) No Report was received from Prof. Tundo on Green Chemistry.
 - d) Photochemistry (Prof. Braslavski)

e) Structural & Mechanistic Chemistry

Prof. Tidwell reported that there were 275 participants in the Sand Diego Meeting (ICPOC-16, August 2002). The next meeting would be held in Shanghai in 2004 and there is a tentative, sound bid for ICPOC-18 for Warszawa in 2006. Some consideration was given the possible future Chairs for this Committee. There was also a brief discussion on the work of Prof. Nudelman on Latin American core-curriculum development.

f) Biotechnology (verbal appraisal of present situation from Prof. Black)

There was a long discussion of the present and future position of this S/C, which is closely linked to the present personal situation of its Chairman, Prof. Milton Hearne. A need to revitalise this body was accepted and Profs. Black, Norin, and Tidwell were asked to try to identify potential successors to Prof. Hearne.

g) Nomenclature (Div-VIII, ex. Dr. McNaught).

The Division-VIII Report on Nomenclature was formally accepted.

5. Interdisciplinary Working Party on Bio-molecular Chemistry

Prof. Norin reported that he has undertaken to lead future activities of this W/P in succession to Professor Pandit. He expected to reactivate this initiative in Ottawa with e.g. a meeting with the Physical Chemistry Division, which now has a biophysical component to its name. It was agreed that IUPAC should devote a 2 hour meeting to this interdivisional activity.

GMB

6. Evaluation of Project Proposals

a) General Discussion of Procedure

Prof. Black recommended two *modi operandi*: (a) that an initial donation of half the funds requested should be made; a recommendation to higher sources should be addressed upwards. (b) The Division should fully fund all requests approved until its funds are exhausted then press for additional funding from central sources. After discussion, the Committee AGREED that its Vice-President should undertake responsibility for Projects *ex-officio*. He should distribute Projects to all Committee members. They would be asked to reply within two weeks to him. The responses would be co-ordinated and the four Divisional Offices should determine the recommendation to be made. Where appropriate, additional referees should be requested from Proposers, who might be selected from among members of the Divisional Committee.

It was AGREED that this proposal should be confirmed by the President and two Vice-Presidents and circulated to Committee members for implementation as soon as possible.

7. Consideration of existing Project Proposals

(i) Tundo - Green Chemistry

This was given strong support from Profs. Tidwell and Black.

- (ii) Koomen - Development of Microbial Drug Resistance
This received strong broad support. GMB suggested the name of Dr. Peter Machin (Glaxo SB) as a further referee.
- (iii) Nudelman - Core-Curriculum for Latin America, \$1000 has been allocated already to this Project.
- (iv) Fahmy - It was recommended that support should rather be given to an existing book on this subject.
- (v) Scott - Amid generally favourable support, the names of two additional referees were suggested (who?)
- (vi) Tundo & Black. This project was received with enthusiasm. One further referee was needed (and identified?)
- (vii) Braslavsky - Subject to referees Reports, this Project should be approved.
- (viii) Ivanov & Vartolomeev - This Project was given strong all-round support. It seeks an additional \$6000. Consideration was given to sharing this cost with Prof. Anders Kallner (Division-VII). Action to be taken by TT and TN.

TT, TN

9. New Project Proposals

The Image of Chemistry was discussed in some detail. In particular, there was focus on the beneficial role of organic chemistry in agriculture, environment, conservation etc. It was decided that this area was the responsibility of the S/C on Green Chemistry. The task of presenting organic chemistry in early schooling ("First schools", "Primary Schools") was identified. This topic was deemed to be for joint activity with the Education Division. GMB was asked to make contact with the RSC Education Committee.

GMB

10. Plans for Ottawa GA 2003.

This seemed to be well in hand and a very successful meeting was predicted.

11. Divisional Committee Membership 2004-2005

It was felt timely to review the Titular membership. Prof. Braslavsky (2000?), Hearn (2000 - family reasons), Ivanov (1996), Norin (1996), and Nudelman (2000?) would retire at the end of this term of office. There was a general feeling that the size of the Committee should be reduced progressively from 14 to 12 TMs as long as this could be achieved while maintaining a constituency, age, and sex balance and keeping the representation of the six sub-committees in focus.

It was agreed that the Nominating Committee should be reconstituted under the chairmanship of Professor U. Pandit to bring forward nominations for 2 TMs by March 2003. (Old Nominating Committee: R.Breslow, S.V.Ley, G.Modena, J-M Lehn, U.Pandit, R.Noyori,)

11. The Committee gave serious consideration to the higher levels of IUPAC Committee membership. The name of Sir Harry Kroto (Sussex) as a potential IUPAC Vice-President was considered and it was agreed that delicate soundings should be made. The name of Professor Jeremy Knowles (Harvard) was also discussed in this context.

12. Future Plans.

A general questionnaire from SPUC (Strategic Planning Unifying Committee) ed. Przbylowitz, had produced a weak response. The Division-III Committee was asked to check for its completeness.

There was discussion of the state of a document on Nomenclature of Protecting Groups.

This was to be investigated further by the Chairman TT

Targets for funding a Prize for Natural Product Chemistry were considered. GMB and DStCB were asked to sound out Dr. Yusuf Hamid (Cipla, Mumbai) GMB

The possibility of a Biomolecular Award was considered with candidate bodies being identified as: Sigma, Kodak, Fujii, Olympus, and some others.

13. Date and Time of Next meeting.

This will be held during the Ottawa GA in August 2003. Time and place to be advised.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 16.30.

G.M.Blackburn

Secretary 10.07.2003

Appendix 1

President's Report

2001-2002

Open Letter to the Division Committee of the IUPAC Division of Organic and Biomolecular Chemistry. 14 June 2002

Dear Colleagues,

The summer, which is a major time for IUPAC activities, is upon us, at least in the northern hemisphere, and I wish to give a report on activities of the Division. The Division Committee will be meeting in Toronto on Thursday-Friday 15-16 August 2002, and it is hoped that as many of you as possible will be able to attend this, which is just after the Bioorganic Symposium in Toronto. We have major business to conduct, particularly in the formulation of new projects, which is our first objective for the period 2002-2003.

We were informed in March 2002 that the Budget of our Division was being cut by \$8,000 from what was promised us at the Assembly in Brisbane, the reason being that we had appointed four extra Titular Members. This reduction was contrary to our understanding, and my request to reverse this decision was refused. Further the Bureau of IUPAC requires that 75%, or \$33,700, of our remaining budget be spent on support of projects in the period 2002-2003, and our Division is in the embarrassing position of having not yet spent any of this, and of having no new projects approved for funding so far this year. Therefore it is imperative that all members take it upon themselves to help remedy this situation

Four of our Sub-committees will be meeting during the summer as follows:

Photochemistry Sub-committee: 19th IUPAC Symposium on Photochemistry, Budapest, Hungary, 14-19 July 2002

Organic Synthesis Sub-committee: 14th IUPAC Symposium on Organic Synthesis, Christchurch, New Zealand, 14-19 July 2002

Structural and Mechanistic Sub-committee: 16th IUPAC Symposium on Physical Organic Chemistry, San Diego, California, 4-9 August 2002

Biomolecular Sub-committee: 6th IUPAC Symposium on Bioorganic Chemistry, Toronto, Canada, 11-14 August 2002

These meetings provide the opportunity for the Sub-committees to put forward new projects for consideration, following the procedures outlined at http://www.iupac.org/projects/form_guide.html I cannot stress enough the need for such action, as I must report at the Bureau meeting in Paris 14-15 September on the activities of our Division, and we have already been criticized for having organized ourselves with a Sub-committee structure, which has been termed an attempt to perpetuate the old Commission structure. Those unable to attend the Sub-committee meetings can forward their suggestions to

the Sub-committee Chairs, or to me or any others of the executive. Also any individual, whether a member of IUPAC or not, can propose a project.

Of our remaining Divisional budget \$2,000 was allocated to each of our 5 Sub-committees, leaving \$1,122 for the President. Thus there are negligible funds I can give for attendance at any of these meetings, and requests for help should be sent to the Sub-committee Chairs. However if any Sub-committees anticipate they will not spend their allocation please notify me, as unspent funds are returned to IUPAC.

I request that each Chair provide a written report on their Sub-committee's activities at the Toronto meeting so I can prepare a Divisional report for the Bureau Meeting. The Toronto meeting will end by 15:00 on Friday August 16, and will be held in the Davenport room on the 3rd floor of the Chemistry building at 80 St. George St. For those not attending the Bioorganic Symposium I recommend the Quality Hotel Midtown at 280 Bloor St. W. (corner of St. George) as a convenient place to stay. Reservations should be made promptly (<http://www.qualityinn.com/res/hotel/CN312/>), as this is peak tourist time. A further item of business at this meeting will be devising a procedure for allotting out funds to projects.

For 2003 the Division Committee will meet at the IUPAC Assembly in Ottawa, Canada, 10-15 August. Titular members will have their expenses paid to this meeting, and details will be forthcoming from the Secretariat before the end of the year.

Comments are welcome, and feel free to share this information with members of Sub-committees. I have tried to be candid in this report, and trust that our current difficulties will be overcome.

Sincerely,

Tom Tidwell
President, IUPAC Division of Biomolecular Chemistry
Department of Chemistry, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario M5S 3H6
14.06.2002