

**ACA Members' Business Meeting**  
**Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel**  
**Denver, CO**  
**Monday, July 22, 2016**

**Call to order.**

President Tom Terwilliger called the meeting to order at 5:14 PM.

**Agenda Item 1. Review of current agenda - Tom Terwilliger**

There were no additions to the agenda.

**Agenda Item 2. Review and approval of minutes from July 2015 Members' Business meeting**

There were no changes or corrections to the minutes.

<b>MOTION</b>	<b>Approve the minutes (Eric Montemayor/George Phillips, unanimous)</b>
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**Agenda Item 3. President's report – Tom Terwilliger**

Tom Terwilliger said, "The ACA is at a critical juncture. We're safe in a way because we have substantial financial reserves; unsafe because we've been operating at a loss for the last five years, which is unsustainable. Also, membership and meeting attendance have been declining for over a decade. Our Business manager and CEO will both be leaving in the near future. We've been thinking hard about future planning. Regarding finances, the ACA Council has been looking at methods to reduce costs and increase revenue. Increasing membership, careful cost cutting, streamlined meeting organization, increasing donations, and a succession and transition plan to ACA 2.0 are all important plans that will be discussed at this meeting and in the future."

**Agenda Item 4. Treasurer's report – Sue Byram**

Byram said, "How are we addressing the financial challenges? In the last six months I've looked over lots of financial details provided by S.N. Rao, who has been a huge asset to the organization as CFO, but as your elected representative I've been working with him to help your organization be sustainable. We have a large endowment for awards, plus we have the new Rognlie Award--many of you remember Dave Rognlie from attending this meeting over the years, he ran Blake Industries. The first Rognlie award will be in 2017 in New Orleans, and it will be for a

meritorious discovery or advance in structural science, and not a career award. What I've learned is the ACA has a limited source of revenue, including dues, meeting registration, vendor's ads in *RefleXions* and booth vendor fees from meetings. The first three sources are declining. The ACA currently has 1,017 members; the peak year was 1995, with approximately 2,500 members. This is not different from other scientific societies; one can speculate about the causes, but this seems to be the new normal. The ACA meeting last year in Philadelphia had about 600 attendees, and we're at ~560 for this year's meeting. Future meeting planning has budgeted ~700 meeting attendees, but this results in a financial shortfall. How can we increase our revenue and reduce our expenses? How do our dues compare to other societies? We raised our dues 6 years ago, but our dues are still low compared to other similar societies. For example, student dues are \$28. That's one category of what we're looking at for fund raising, and we have many additional ideas about how to increase revenue."

#### **Agenda Item 5. Vice President's report – Amy Sarjeant**

Amy Sarjeant said, "Strengthening the ACA Annual Meeting organization has been a focus since I started work on the planning of this year's meeting with Eddie Snell. I've sketched out a proposal for changing the way the meeting program is organized, to get the best speakers, the best sessions and best science possible. I'd like to have us all start planning the meeting earlier, by having people submit proposals early in the year to the Scientific Interest Group chairs, and during the SIG meeting at the annual meeting have a discussion about which proposals will attract the most interest and potential attendance. We'll have an additional planning meeting with all the SIGs so that we can coordinate efforts and minimize duplication. I'd like to see the SIGs come together to propose sessions; the Program Chair for the annual meeting will evaluate the proposals so that we target the audience, will present the plan to Council, and will also communicate the plan to the SIG officers and members. For this year, the method of meeting organization will stay basically the same, but we would like to be thinking in January about the planning for the 2018 meeting."

#### **Agenda Item 6. Past President's report – Chris Cahill**

Cahill said, "I've been busy planning for the ACA's future. I've morphed into the head of transition and succession, or ACA 2.0. We will need new personnel for the management of the society; do we reproduce the existing management structure, or do we use the American Institute of Physics (AIP), the International Union of Crystallography (IUCr), or something different? We're thinking about our relationship with our parent society (AIP), and asking whether we can tap into value added services, and the same can be said about the IUCr. The meeting is a critical component of our society. We will be focusing on shoring up the meeting, welcoming new communities, careful selection of meeting sites, and looking to minimize costs. We're seeing this as an opportunity to examine critically the meeting structure in terms of location, style, and so on."

**Agenda Item 7. Discussion**

Joe Ferrara said, "I've been on the vendor committee for the annual meeting. We shouldn't schedule the general business meeting against the poster session." Terwilliger pointed out that the room was unavailable earlier in the day, and the business meeting should only overlap with the poster session by approximately 30 minutes. George Phillips said, "*Structural Dynamics* is off to a good start, the impact factor is 3.7 for the first year. I encourage everyone to send your articles to the journal." Andy Howard said, "A way to think about sustaining or growing the society would be to focus more than we have in the past on education. Also, that's one of the critical places that the two fundamental constituencies in the society have common ground: both small and macromolecular crystallographers have to focus on education. This is the first time I've attended the education talks, but not many macromolecular scientists were at those sessions. This could be related to how the educational sessions are scheduled." Katrina Forest said, "The dates for the ACA meetings dovetail with the ASBMB meetings, could we overlap with other meetings by being in the same city?" Elspeth Garman said, "The British Crystallographic Association (BCA) went through a similar entropic membership decrease. In 2003, the numbers were 828, but by 2009, the official membership was 600-700, and over 150 of the email addresses that we had on file were bouncing messages. So upon further inspection it was found that the real number of members was actually 370! The BCA membership is now back up to 640. Methods used to address the dire financial and membership situation included: raising dues; appointing an education officer for outreach; for all summer schools that the BCA sponsors, the students automatically become members (and thus the student membership of the BCA has risen from 44 to 169); we ran a 'Get a Member' competition, whereby anyone who officially encouraged over 10 people to become members had their name entered into a lottery to get a free membership." Jeff Beebe said, "I'm from the AIP, some of the other societies are having similar membership problems. Don't panic; don't think you need to change all the different programs and all the different ways you do things. At AIP, we realized that once we started adequately marketing the product, things improved. There's a lot of low-hanging fruit, it's not unusual that scientists aren't marketing specialists." A suggestion was made from an unidentified person that faculty members should pay for some of their student's membership fees. William Ratcliff said, "In the joint Neutron Scattering/Powder Diffraction/Materials SIG meeting, we discussed not just looking within our own community, but advertising outside for new members." Tom Terwilliger said, "We encourage further discussion on these topics and ideas. We'd love you to discuss this with members of the Planning Committee, Council Members, and yourselves."

**Agenda Item 8. Proposal to change bylaws to allow dues structure changes with Council approval**

Proposal is to change the text of ACA Rule 1.1 to 'Annual membership dues shall be set by the ACA Council.'

<b>MOTION</b>	<b>Approve the proposal (Joe Ferrara/multiple members</b>
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	<b>seconded)</b>
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A comment was made that this rule change would eliminate the total membership from the decision to change dues. Tom Terwilliger said, "You as a group vote us in to represent you, and we are empowered to make decisions for you." Thomas Koetzle said, "I would encourage caution." Andy Howard said, "Based on my experience with SigmaXI, the word from them is this way of doing things provides a flexibility that is useful." George Phillips asked, "I heard Sue Byram mention a number, does the Council have a number in mind?" Tom said, "We have a number, it's \$145, but we're just thinking about it." Amy replied, "Council members also pay dues." Judy Flippen-Anderson asked, "Why do you want that power without hearing from us?" Tom Terwilliger replied, "We don't want that power particularly, we thought the membership might not want to be asked every time this was considered. We thought it was easier and more appropriate to not have it a part of the rules." Cahill said, "The current rules state 'the dues shall be \$110'." Tom Terwilliger said, "We want you to be happy." Judy Flippen-Anderson replied, "The rest of the rules state that the dues change shall be approved by 2/3 of the membership at a business meeting." Tom Terwilliger said, "The Council will meet in October; the value of the change will be decided then—or we will decide it now, by vote." William Ratcliff said, "Are there any large organizations where you vote on the actual sum of the dues, such as the ACS? Otherwise, I think it makes it hard for them to do their job." Charlie Carter said, "It is useful to cite the example of the Geophysical Union. The dues are \$20; they do quite well with a modest dues structure because they have such a large membership. These questions are inter-related. I'm sympathetic with the difference between what is in the rules and what is being proposed." Tom Terwilliger replied, "I just tried to make this as simple as possible, I apologize." Bill Duax explained, "The way those bylaws were written was that at the time, the membership felt that the only way you could get people to come to the general business meeting was to propose a dues increase. I love the efforts that the Council is making, but maybe this is a bit dramatic." Someone asked, "Is there any proposal to change the other fees?" Tom Terwilliger replied, "Yes, the concept is for the student dues to increase from \$28 to \$30, and the retired dues to increase from \$44 to 50." Martin Donakowski said, "As YSSIG chair and ACA Council representative, I support this motion." Another person asked, "Can you give us a formula for the increase?" Tom Terwilliger replied, "We came up with the number \$145 based upon the data Sue Byram showed about the dues from other societies." Sue Byram said, "We're trying to solve a \$50,000 deficit (minimum), we feel we have to act, as we want the organization to be viable in five years." Another person said, "Coming from Canada, the fee increase seems high, where is the value coming from?" Thomas Koetzle said, "We're conflating two unrelated issues here. The first issue we're addressing here is a governance issue; the other is the structure of the dues. The two shouldn't be conflated." Jane Richardson said, "Next year is an IUCr meeting year, if the dues increase, would students choose to go to the IUCr meeting instead?"

Members present in favor of the motion: 55. Opposed: 27. Abstained: 6.  
Motion does not pass.

<b>MOTION</b>	<b>Change the annual ACA dues for regular members to \$145, for graduate students to \$30, and for postdoctoral students and retired members to \$50. (George Phillips/Joe Ferrara)</b>
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Members present in favor of the motion: 69. Opposed: 13. Abstained: 6.  
Motion passes.

### **Agenda Item 9. ACA Speaker Policy – Tom Terwilliger**

Tom Terwilliger said, “A Speaker Policy has recently been posted on the ACA web site. The Policy has been designed to promote diversity reflecting the crystallographic community in planning committees, session chairs and speakers. Please check it out and we welcome feedback on the policy.”

### **Agenda Item 10. How to help out and be a part of the ACA – Tom Terwilliger**

Methods outlined included:

- Bring more people to the meeting
  - Your students, your colleagues
- Join a Scientific Interest Group (SIG)
  - Help shape the next year’s meeting program
- Volunteer to:
  - Chair a session
  - Be a Program Chair
  - Become a SIG chair
  - Serve on an ACA committee
  - Be a social media guru
- Run for an ACA Council position
- Help with outreach
- Help with RefleXions newsletter
- Volunteer with the History Portal
- Submit your articles to Structural Dynamics
- Volunteer to be a Poster Judge or Chair
- Nominate your colleagues for ACA Fellow and Awards

The ACA Council decides what the ACA will do

- Long-term planning
- Changes in ACA structure
- How the ACA spends its money
- ACA activities

Elected members of the ACA Council are

- Vice-President – Amy Sarjeant
- President – Tom Terwilliger
- Past President – Chris Cahill
- Secretary – Diana Tomchick
- Canadian Representative – Michael James
- Treasurer – Sue Byram

Ex-officio members of the ACA Council are

- CEO – William Duax
- CFO – Narasinga Rao
- YSSIG Representative – Martin Donakowski
- IUCr Representative – Hanna Dabkowska
- Director of Administrative Services – Marcia Colquhoun

ACA Committees (Officers)

- Communications (Graciela Diaz de Delgado, Ilia Guzei, Katrina Forest, Jim Fettinger)
- Continuing Education (Kraig Wheeler, Edward Collins, Andy Howard, Danielle Gray)
- Data, Standards and Computing (Stephen Burley, Paul Davie, Joe Ferrara)
- Nominating (Ward Smith, Martha Teeter, Louise Dawe)

ACA Volunteers include

- *RefleXions* Editors (Judy Flippen-Anderson, Thomas Koetzle)
- Historian (Virginia Pett)
- Photographer (Peter Mueller)

Consider publishing in the ACA Journal

- *Structural Dynamics*

The ACA Scientific Interest Groups (SIGs) (Officers)

- Biological Macromolecules (Barry Finzel, John Tanner, Blaine Mooers)
- Fiber Diffraction (Joseph Orgel, Olga Antipova, Paul Langan, Rama Sashank Madurapantula)
- General Interest (Graciela Diaz de Delgado, Carla Slebodnick, Allen Oliver)
- Industrial (Eugene Cheung, Andrew Brunskill, Richard Staples)
- Light Sources (Allen Orville, Pawel Grochulski, Marian Szebenyi)

- Materials (James Neilson, Paul Forster, Simon Billinge)
- Neutron Scattering (William Ratcliff, John Greedan, Anna Llobet)
- Powder Diffraction (Tiffany Kinnibrugh, Olaf Borkiewicz, Craig Brown)
- Service Crystallography (Victor Young, Alexander Filatov, Brandon Mercado)
- Small Angle Scattering (Alex Hexemer, Kushol Gupta, Lilin He)
- Small Molecules (Yulia Sevryugina, Stacey Smith, Danielle Gray)
- Young Scientists (Martin Donakowski, Vicky Doan-Nguyen, Kimberly Stanek)

### **Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.