

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN CHEMICAL INSTITUTE INCORPORATED

ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY DIVISION

Telephone Meeting, 13 April 2006, 3:00 pm EST

1. Apologies and Welcome
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting on September 16, 2006 can be downloaded from the RACI Inc. Analytical Chemistry Division webpage; a more direct route is: http://www.cbms.mq.edu.au/raci_acdivision/Divisional_minutes.html).
3. Matters arising from Previous Meeting:
 - N.Porter was to clarify with Ms Glenda McCann, the RACI Accountant, with regard to a sum of \$6,089 deposited into the Victorian Group's account so that, if appropriate, the sum could be transferred to the Division account.
 - In consultation with S.Lewis, D.Davey was to prepare a letter to RACI Headquarter expressing the Division's disappointment in their action of making payment without moving through appropriate channels.
 - On behalf of the Division, D.Wong was to prepare a congratulatory letter to Professor M.Hearn for the Analytical Chemistry Division Medal 2005 award, and to invite him to speak at The 13th Research & Development Topics Meeting.
 - N.Barnett was to collect views from Division members and prepare a discussion paper on a testamur and naming the Division Medal.
 - D.Davey was to contact B.Maher and check if he would be available to attend the November National Assembly in Canberra. (As B.Maher was not available at the time, C.Ng agreed to represent the Division at the National Assembly. Refer to Appendix I for C.Ng's notes on the Assembly.)
4. Progress Report for the 18th Analytical Chemistry Conference (Interact 2006) – Ms Oana Chirila
5. Finance Report – Associate Professor Simon Lewis
6. Report from the Chair (including naming of Division Medal) – Associate Professor David Davey
7. Report for the 13th Research & Development Topics Meeting – Professor Neil Barnett
8. Call for nominations for Division Medallist 2006 – Dr Danny Wong
9. Other business

**RACI November Assembly Report
Canberra, 12th & 13th November, 2005**

This meeting was a similar format to the May Assembly with the Assembly meeting on Saturday and a workshop on Accreditation on Sunday morning. Finally, there was a presentation on marketing of RACI from our NT Branch President, Dr. Amit Kundu. There was an invitation for Branches and Divisions to join a working group. The atmosphere in the Assembly was cooperative, and the meeting went off smoothly.

The final report of “The Future of Chemistry” project was launched at Parliament House on the Friday evening. Gary Nairn, a scientist/politician who is Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, was present, and said nice things – time will tell if anything significant happens. Sheila Galacio (sheila@raci.org.au) will send copies to the Divisional Committee on request.

The President (Greg Simpson) reported that the emphasis in the coming year would be recognition/ profile of the RACI, and on education, taking a cue from the recommendations in the Future of Chemistry. There will be a concerted effort to get teachers more involved with the RACI.

The Executive Director (Elisabeth Gibson) reported on an initiative involving member benefits called Member Advantage is to be launched soon via Chemistry in Australia and that the RACI is to sponsor the new Australia Science Media Centre in Adelaide. The new office manager/accountant is Glenda McCann.

The Treasurer (Graham Taylor) reported that there was an operating deficit of \$106K last year. A training pack for Branch / Division Treasurers is being prepared. He reported that the RACI has \$1.5M in shares and \$800K in the bank and questioned if the RACI should be using the share portfolio for the members rather than as an income stream. HQ is working towards providing monthly reports for Division and Branch bank accounts.

With the retirement of the Honorary General Secretary (Jane Weder), Dr Jan Hosking was appointed to the position, giving our Division a direct link to the Board. Jane has been working on the Institute’s constitution and corporate governance. There will be a call for Board positions in March 06 with the elections being held in November 06. PHODS will be held in January 06 at University House Canberra.

The Policy Committee has been dissolved, the Qualifications Committee have produced the Awards Manual and the Chemistry in Australia Committee reported a \$6000 surplus.

Important Decisions

Special Projects:

- 1) Web based resources for the teaching of chemistry (SA, Chem. Ed., Polymer) – Funded
- 2) ‘Standards, Code of Practice’ (Vic) – Not funded.
- 3) ‘Multicultural Diversity within the RACI’ (Vic) - Not funded
- 4) ‘Chemistry Students’ (Chem Aust) - combined with 1)

National Convention: it was resolved to hold next Convention in 2010 in Melbourne, using the RACI Professional Convention Organiser (PCO). Elizabeth Gibson is the Interim Chair until a permanent chair is appointed. The Division potentially will have a conflict with Interact 2010 unless we decide to combine with the national convention. Assembly agreed with the appointment of a PCO as a part time position, budget \$86K for the first year. It was also agreed to appoint a Professional Development and Education Officer to raise the profile of the RACI through delivery of education programs, delivery of careers advice and professional development for members (part time position, seed funding of \$50k). The Board will review the budget and distribution of funds to Divisions and Branches to fund the PCO and PDE positions. There was a proposal to reduce the interest on accounts from 5% to 2.5% - the investment committee is to consider this proposal.

The Qualifications Committee have reviewed the Awards Manual and Process and has proposed electronic submission of nominations, a single calendar, National Office responsible for presentation of awards, harmonisation of award conditions (there may be implications to the Analytical Division Medal). A proposal for a new RACI Award for Contribution to Economic Advances was accepted.

Next Meeting: 20-21 May 2006, Melbourne; November meeting will be in Adelaide.

Clarrie Ng

Representative, RACI Analytical Chemistry Division.