

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN CHEMICAL INSTITUTE

ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY DIVISION

Telephone Meeting, 20 June 2000, 11:00 am EST

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (previously distributed)
3. Matters arising from Previous Meeting
 - Invitation of specialists in ICP-MS to deliver talks in November – Associate Professor Bill Maher
 - Consolidation of RACI Accounts (Attachment I) – Professor Brynn Hibbert
 - Letter to Dr Ian Southwell – Dr Danny Wong
 - Letter in support of Emeritus Professor Lloyd E.Smythe's nomination – Professor Brynn Hibbert
4. Finances
 - Financial Year 1998/1999 (Attachment II) – Dr Peter Carpenter
 - 15AC – Associate Professor Philip Marriott
5. Young Analyst Award (Attachment III) – Dr David Davey
6. Conferences
 - 16AC
 - Rosehill Gardens (Attachment IV) – Dr David Davey
7. Other Business
 - World Chemistry Congress (Attachment V)
8. Next Meeting

Consolidation of RACI Accounts

At the November Full Council in-principle agreement was given to the consolidation of RACI funds. The rationale for this proposal is to increase the return from RACI funds and to simplify the banking system. This proposal does not involve the distribution of subscription funds, for 2000/2001 35% of subscription funds will be allocated to the Branches and 2% to the Divisions.

Following discussions with the Commonwealth Bank regarding the implementation of a coordinated accounting system and feedback from the working party chaired by Trevor Appleton the following is proposed.

- < A coordinated bank account will be set up at the Commonwealth Bank, Bourke St. All funds held by the Branches, Divisions and the National Secretariat will be placed into this account.
- < A series of sub-accounts will be created in the main account. Each Branch and Division will have their own account, and other accounts can be set up for Groups or other requirements of the Branches and divisions. The accounts are not static; more accounts can be created and closed as required.
- < Each Branch and Division will determine how much of their funds they wish to invest and the remainder is placed into their sub-account.
- < These accounts operate exactly in the same way as the separate bank accounts now operate. Each account will have a deposit book and a chequebook. The only way in which money can be drawn from this account is by a cheque signed by the approved signatories, the Branches and Divisions will still control their finances.
- < The bank will send each Branch and Division a monthly statement to enable the relevant Hon. Treasurers to track their financial position.
- < The invested money can be transferred to the sub-account upon request to the National Office by the designated signatories, as is currently the practice. If required the National Office can issue cheques on behalf of the Branches or Divisions upon the appropriate request as is the current practice.
- < The funds for investment will be invested under the control of a Investment Committee, comprising the President, Hon. Treasurer, a Branch Representative, a Division Representative and the National Director. This committee would determine the amount to be invested, the length of the investment and the type of investments. It is envisioned this would be done in consultation with a professional Financial Adviser. Preliminary investigations with the Commonwealth Bank indicate a rate of 7% is not unreasonable and probably better could be achieved.
- < It is proposed that 50% of the interest received be returned to the Branch or Division whose funds had earned the interest.

Financial Advantages: (The relevant figures from the 1998/99 financial report are attached)

- < At the moment the RACI as a consolidated entity earned 4.4% interest on its funds. The Branches earned 2.3% whilst the Divisions earned 2.8%. If the Institute averaged 7%, then 3.5% return on the Branches and Divisions funds is better than currently earned.
- < Under the consolidated strategy the Branches and Divisions would not be liable for Bank Charges or Audit Fees. In 1999/98 the Branches paid more in Bank charges and Audit

Fees than they received in interest. The return on Division funds decreased to 1.7% when Bank Charges and Audit Fees are considered. A return of 3.5% would be significantly better than was achieved in 1998/99.

For the past number of years the Branches and Divisions have had their interest placed into a Special Projects account which has mainly been used to ensure sufficient funds are available for IUPAC 2001. It is crucial for the development of the RACI that funding is available for specific projects (eg. web page, conference underwriting, membership development, educational material etc.) and the other 3.5% interest will be placed into an account which will be available for use by Branches, Divisions and NS for approved projects.

The GST comes into operation on July 1st and the RACI will have to track all of its tax credits and debits. The RACI accountant is legally bound to report to the Australian Tax Office quarterly and to pay any tax which is due. This system will assist in the tracking of GST requirements but all Hon. Treasurers are responsible for reporting any GST credits and Debits to the accountant in a timely fashion. The debits and credits will be tracked to each Branch and Division and will be credited or debited to the appropriate Branch or Division.

The National Secretariat does not rely upon interest monies for its operating costs and none of the increased interest earned will be used to pay these costs.

What this proposal will do:

1. Provide a greater overall return on the RACI funds.
2. Provide a greater return on Branch and Division funds.
3. Remove from the Branches and Divisions the cost of Audit Fees and Bank Charges.
4. Simplify the Banking system, making the audit easier.
5. Make tracking of GST credits and debits easier.
6. Retain the money for important projects.

What this proposal will not do:

1. Remove control of Branches and Divisions funds from the Branches and Divisions.
2. Increase funding to the National Secretariat.

Motion:

1. That all RACI funds are consolidated into one account with separate sub-accounts for the Branches and Divisions.
2. That half of the interest earned on RACI funds be allocated to the Entity whose funds generated the interest and the remainder allocated for approved specific projects.
3. An investment committee comprising the President, Hon. Treasurer, a Branch Representative, a Division Representative and the National Director to oversee the investment of the RACI funds.

Financial Year 1998/99

	All Branches		All Divisions	
cash	\$ 419,870.00		\$ 756,321.00	
Gross Interest	\$ 9,453.00		\$ 21,434.00	2.8%
Bank Charges	\$ 2,726.00		\$ 1,522.00	
Audit Fees	\$ 7,538.00		\$ 6,734.00	
Net Return	\$ (811.00)	.	\$ 13,178.00	1.7%
	Canberra		Analytical	
cash	\$ 10,216.00		\$ 220,353.00	
Gross Interest	\$ 219.00		\$ 123.00	0.1%
Bank Charges	\$ 57.00		\$ 202.00	
Audit Fees	\$ 353.00		\$ 563.00	
Net Return	\$ (191.00)	.	\$ (642.00)	-0.3%
	NSW		Cereal	
cash	\$ 171,210.00		\$ 202,321.00	
Gross Interest	\$ 4,809.00		\$ 5,062.00	2.5%
Bank Charges	\$ 1,430.00		\$ 434.00	
Audit Fees	\$ 2,109.00		\$ 484.00	
Net Return	\$ 1,270.00		\$ 4,144.00	2.0%
	NT		Chem. Ed.	
cash	\$ 10,884.00		\$ 24,109.00	
Gross Interest	\$ 517.00		\$ 145.00	0.6%
Bank Charges	\$ 69.00		\$ 119.00	
Audit Fees	\$ 59.00		\$ 502.00	
Net Return	\$ 389.00		\$ (476.00)	-2.0%
	Qld		Colloid	
cash	\$ 58,413.00		\$ 6,571.00	
Gross Interest	\$ 567.00		\$ -	0.0%
Bank Charges	\$ 186.00		\$ 66.00	
Audit Fees	\$ 939.00		\$ 739.00	
Net Return	\$ (558.00)	.	\$ (805.00)	-12.3%
	SA		Electrochem.	
cash	\$ 12,430.00		\$ 3,483.00	
Gross Interest	\$ 289.00		\$ -	0.0%
Bank Charges	\$ 242.00		\$ 4.00	
Audit Fees	\$ 403.00		\$ 485.00	
Net Return	\$ (356.00)	.	\$ (489.00)	-14.0%

		Tas		Environ.	
cash	\$	5,712.00		\$ 7,533.00	
Gross Interest	\$	140.00		\$ 3.00	0.0%
Bank Charges	\$	32.00		\$ 2.00	
Audit Fees	\$	130.00		\$ 485.00	
Net Return	\$	(22.00)	.	\$ (484.00)	-6.4%
		Vic		Inorganic	
cash	\$	64,386.00		\$ 12,710.00	
Gross Interest	\$	1,388.00		\$ -	0.0%
Bank Charges	\$	526.00		\$ -	
Audit Fees	\$	2,825.00		\$ 531.00	
Net Return	\$	(1,963.00)	.	\$ (531.00)	-4.2%
		WA		Med. & Ag.	
cash	\$	86,619.00		\$ 8,335.00	
Gross Interest	\$	1,524.00		\$ -	0.0%
Bank Charges	\$	184.00		\$ -	
Audit Fees	\$	720.00		\$ 485.00	
Net Return	\$	620.00		\$ (485.00)	-5.8%
				Organic	
				\$ 3,022.00	
				\$ 2,109.00	69.8%
				\$ 439.00	
				\$ 485.00	
				\$ 1,185.00	39.2%
				Physical	
				\$ 9,843.00	
				\$ 1.00	0.0%
				\$ 5.00	
				\$ 485.00	
				\$ (489.00)	-5.0%
				Polymer	
				\$ 251,848.00	
				\$ 13,971.00	5.5%
				\$ 251.00	
				\$ 520.00	
				\$ 13,200.00	5.2%
				Solid State	
				\$ 6,193.00	
				\$ 20.00	0.3%
				\$ -	
				\$ 485.00	
				\$ (465.00)	-7.5%

Young Analysts Award

Preamble

The development of young professionals is vital to maintain/improve the present standing of analytical chemistry in our region. It is thus proposed that an award be created to recognize the importance of analytical chemistry in the Australian community by awarding a prize every one or two years to a young professional analytical chemist.

Name and Value of the Award

We must make the award prestigious by giving it an appropriate name and value - Young Professional Analyst Award / Medallist. or similar; or, Award /medal with title honouring a famous chemist, Prominent Industrial Analysts; or Outstanding Academic, CSIRO or Government scientist with strong industrial connections and reputation.

Value: Minimum \$1000 plus a certificate and/or medal.

Two Proposed Structures:

1. Competition through State events/National final

Each state group will promote an event;

To promote and enhance the practice of chemical analysis;

To encourage active involvement in the activities of RACI and analytical chemistry division in particular;

To foster communication and understanding amongst younger members of the profession.

Age and Eligibility

Those entering the competition will be under 35 years of age at the closing date for the competition, and be RACI members, Australian citizens, or residents presently seeking citizenship.

Entry

The event will be promoted locally, and an entry form be made available by post or on the internet (?);

Entry for the state event would require evidence of excellence in performance, for example achievement within an industrial arena in analytical chemistry demonstrated by reports/conference or international papers, or a single special achievement such as a licensed / patented method or equipment development; or,

State and National Finals

On the basis of the entry quality, state finalists will be selected and be invited to give a 10-minute presentation at a state function. At the end of the event, a panel of members would award a prize to the value of \$100-200 to the best presentation based on clarity, technical merit, originality, ingenuity and the lessons learnt from the experience.

A National final will be held with talks presented by state winners lengthened to 20 minutes. A panel would select the winner on the same lines as at the state level. The national winner would then repeat the talk (?) and be presented with the award of \$1000 at the national conference.

Advantages and Disadvantages

For: Avoids dominance of larger states. Much local organisation and responsibility. A national panel makes final decision from preselected entrants. Could be part of R&D conference already being held. Would gain local and national publicity (double value).

Against: Depends on local Groups, their strength and funds for promotion and initial prizes. Stretches Division funds, if a national final means travel support required to reach selected location.

An award is always awarded, with occasionally the quality of the award being suspect.

2. Nominations Avenue

Division will promote the award/medal each year (or each two years?):

To promote and enhance the practice of chemical analysis;

To encourage active involvement in the activities of RACI and analytical chemistry division in particular

To foster communication and understanding amongst younger members of the profession.

Nominations

Nominations would be called for and require two written supporting submissions by senior chemists/peers.

Age and Eligibility

Those nominated for the competition will be under 35 years of age at the closing date for nominations (or at such an age when achievement were made?), and be RACI members, Australian citizens, or residents presently seeking citizenship.

The prize should recognize excellence in performance, for example:

3- 5 years of achievement within an industrial organisation in analytical chemistry (the achievement would need to be measurable through internal reports/ conference presentations/ papers / publicised activities; or,

a successful launching/running/ of an analytical company or service by a young chemist; or,

a single special achievement such as a licensed / patented method or equipment development; or,

Condition III above could mean an academic chemist may be eligible for the prize, but the nomination would need to be supported by at least one industrial person using the method or piece of equipment developed.

Joint Awards and No Award

A joint award may be possible under eligibility criteria II and III. Question: Would the prize value then double?

No prize would be awarded if the designated quality of nomination was not forthcoming.

Advantages and Disadvantages

For: Simple in format as just one judging panel required; follows approach used for medal.

Cheap, with single promotion campaign and with just one winner to be supported to attend the national conference.

The award's prestige within the chemical profession would be enhanced if the award is not automatically awarded.

Against:

Publicity only gained at Conference and depends on press involvement on that occasion.

Difficult committee judging at Division level.

AC Division Conference 2002

Rosehill Gardens

Comparison with Racecourse venues in general seems warranted.

Meals

Service and food quality should be excellent.

Conference Rooms and Costs

Main plenary theatre facilities probably OK to good. Check.

Smaller conference rooms (50-100 people) are low ceilinged (3 metres) and probably thinly partitioned.

In latter, audio quality may be poor, and sound-proofing between rooms also poor. Check.

Speakers requirements

Examine carefully question of costs for microphones for speakers and that of moving mikes to allow questions from the audience for each smaller room. Check.

PowerPoint, Overhead projection and Slide projection availability and cost for all rooms. Check.

Watch extras and their costs. Check.

Accommodation and Public transport access

Accommodation availability, quality and cost on nearby transport routes within say 30 minutes has to be looked into. Check.

Attachment V

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From: Warren Lawrance [mailto:warren.lawrance@flinders.edu.au]
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2000 11:32 AM
To: raci@flinders.edu.au
Subject: For Division Chairs: Divisional inputs into World Chemistry Congress

Dear Division Chairs,

Please see the email below from Mary Garson concerning the WCC. To Branch presidents, sorry for clogging up your email: sending it via the raci@flinders address was simplest.

Cheers,
Warren

X-Sender: chmgarso@dingo.cc.uq.edu.au
Mime-Version: 1.0
Date: Tue, 23 May 2000 13:15:29 +1000
To: Warren.Lawrance@flinders.edu.au
From: Dr Mary Garson <M.Garson@mailbox.uq.edu.au>
Subject: Divisional inputs into World Chemistry Congress

Dear Warren

Graeme George has reported to the National Organising Committee for the World Chemistry Congress (WCC) that there is strong support and enthusiasm from Divisions to his recent report presented at Full Council. This is very pleasing to hear. The Divisions are major stakeholders in a successful outcome of this high profile meeting.

In our planning, we are constantly trying to find ways to maximise the involvement of Divisions in the Congress. Two recent ideas include:

- presentation of RACI Divisional Awards during appropriate sessions of the WCC program
- student poster competition

In your capacity as Divisional Representative on Full Council, can you please circulate this email to Division Chairs and ask them to email me back information on the following:

1.

Advice if the Division holds a student poster competition at Divisional meetings, and if yes, do they wish us to incorporate this activity into the WCC on their behalf. If there are any special terms or conditions of the Poster prize, these need to be passed (via me) to the subgroup of the Program Committee who will organise the Poster displays. Of course the Division will select the judging panel.

This is a good time to remind Divisions that we view the poster sessions as a most important component of the meeting. All delegates are strongly encouraged to submit poster abstracts and posters on any chemical topic are welcome.

2.

Advice if there are any high profile Divisional Awards that the Division wishes to see presented during a theme session (eg. Burroughs Medal or Organic medal etc could be awarded during a keynote session of Theme E)

Finally if Divisions have other creative ideas about how they can be further incorporated into the WCC program, please feel free to pass them onto me or any other Committee Member.

Thanks for your help and inputs,
Mary
(For Executive Secretariat)

Please visit my web page at <http://www.uq.edu.au/~chmgarso>

Visit Brisbane and share the science and events of IUPAC2001: see <http://www.ccm.com.au/wcc> for details; Secretariat email wcc2001@ccm.com.au

Associate Professor Mary Garson
Chemistry Department
The University of Queensland
BRISBANE 4072
(Executive Secretary IUPAC2001; Executive Secretariat email wcc2001@chemistry.uq.edu.au)

Ph (+61)-7-3365-3605
Fax (+61)-7-3365-4299
Message (+61)-7-3365-3815

Prof. Warren D. Lawrance
School of Chemistry, Physics and Earth Sciences
Flinders University
G.P.O. Box 2100
Adelaide S.A. 5001
AUSTRALIA

Ph: 61-8-8201 2029
Fax: 61-8-8201 2905
Email: Warren.Lawrance@flinders.edu.au

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