

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN CHEMICAL INSTITUTE
ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY DIVISION
Telephone Meeting
3 August 1999

Meeting commenced at 11.00 am, 3 August 1999

On-line: Prof. P. Haddad (Chair), Dr P. Carpenter (Treas), Prof B. Hibbert (Chair Elect), Mr S. Carswell (Qld), Dr C. Ng (NSW), Associate Professor W. Maher (ACT), Dr A. Poynton (Vic), Dr D. Davey (SA), Associate Professor David Parry (NT) Mr I. Sills (WA), Dr I. McKelvie (Secretary)

1. Apologies

Philip Marriott, Geoff Scollary

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Matters arising:

Divisional Poster: P Haddad was investigating scanning and printing of poster.

Visiting Lecturer: It was agreed that this initiative should be continued, but with limited financial support, i.e. to no more than \$2000. P Haddad to advise Sandy Das Gupta of the situation.

14 AC: An enquiry had been received from Jerry Guilbault (Univ Cork) as to publication of an article submitted for publication in *Chemistry in Australia* in association with 14AC. D Davey to locate article and arrange for its inclusion in the AISAS proceedings issue of *Chemistry in Australia*.

3. Finances

Annual financial reports were due on 31 July. The Divisional report had been dispatched to P Haddad for signing.

The only change in financial situation from the report made at the 7/7/99 meeting had been costs of \$386.30 associated with the May full council meeting

As at 30 June 1999, the Division had \$58,858 in its account

It was expected that there would be a refund of the \$30,000 advanced to AISAS'99/15AC.

The Treasurer expressed concern at the lack of income and the dwindling balance.

4. Conferences

4.1 *15AC/AISAS '99*

P. Carpenter reported that it was expected that there might be a loss of \$5 - \$10K because of some items of conference expenditure had been more expensive than predicted. Some accounts were still being challenged.

4.2 16AC

The future of the AC's was discussed. With finances in decline (the last two AC's having made a loss), the questions posed were:

- How to improve attendances at these meetings, and how to run them profitably?
- Where to hold meeting?
- How to manage the AC around the IUPAC Meeting which has an embargo of 6 months on either side.
 - Do we have enough people to sustain high-cost conferences with accompanying instrument exhibitions – or should we revert to University venues (which excluded instrument exhibitions).

D. Parry suggested that it wasn't coincidental that the last meeting to make a profit was the last held in conjunction with the Environmental Group. It was noted that in Darwin (1995), 1/3 of the numbers were from Environmental Division.

P. Haddad indicated that approaches had been made to the Environmental Division which now has very strong links with Environment. Toxicology and SETAC (Society for Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry).

It was suggested that for future financial viability, the solution may be to have a joint environmental and analytical division. A. Poynton suggested that linking of Analytical Chemistry and Environmental Chemistry divisions alone would be short-sighted, esp. as there was potential to collaborate with other groups, such as clinical biochemists, agricultural and veterinary chemists, and eg, the Aust and NZ Society for Mass Spectrometry. I.Sills suggested that the AC could be run as part of the National Convention as per the model of American Chemical Society meetings. P. Haddad suggested that it was too soon for this to happen.

It was generally agreed that the Division would target smaller meetings, which could be held at lower cost venues, with the potential to return higher profits. The Treasurer (P. Carpenter) suggested that the Division could run a 200 delegate conference and still make a profit if a low cost venue was used. D.Davey suggested that if the exhibition was dropped, the conference could circulate between different states.

(Ed Butler joined conference at 11.35 am).

The timing and location of the next meeting was discussed. B. Hibbert and C. Ng suggested that because of the proximity to IUPAC meeting in Brisbane in early 2001, the next meeting be held in December 2001 or Jan/Feb 2002. It was agreed that C. Ng and B. Hibbert would approach the NSW Analytical group to determine whether t16AC could be held in Sydney. D. Parry suggested that C.Ng should contact NSW Environmental Chemistry Division members to enlist their support for the meeting.

P. Carpenter suggested that organisers should budget to make a profit, not just break even, and this was supported by the Chair who argued that while there were sufficient reserves to support R & D, there was a need to turn the finances around.

4.3 RSC Electronic Conference

B. Hibbert reported that he had been in contact with the organisers of this electronic conference which would be held in early/mid November .

4.4 *7th R&D Conference*

A progress report from the organising committee had been provided by the Secretary, Christine Wasiowych. The organisers were expecting an attendance of approx. 100. All bookings had been made and a web site had been established. In answer to D.Wong's question regarding advertising, it was reported that asked whether the meeting had been publicised. Registration forms to be sent out in late August. Some sponsorship had already been received.

5. Other Business

D. Davey proposed a Young Analytical Chemists award. To be discussed at future meeting.

6. Next Meeting

Prior to next full Council Meeting in November.

Meeting concluded at 11.58 am.