

Minutes
Board Meeting MI-ASM

July 19, 2006
Christie's Bistro, Sheraton, Lansing

Meeting started at 6:50 pm

Members present: Kris Baumgarten (Educational Chair), Mary Ann Cardani (President-Elect), Daniel Clemans (Past President), Mike Cohen, Ralph Gorton (fall meeting organizer, Website Maintenance), Mike Huband (Alternate Councilor, Corporate Liason, Treasurer), Don LeBlanc (President), Paul Pagano, Silvia Rossbach (Secretary), Jeff Ram (spring meeting organizer), Mike Ryan (University and College Liason), Jim Vandenbosch (Newsletter Editor)

Members Absent: Debra Hanna (Treasurer), and Judith Whittum-Hudson (Councilor)

The Minutes of the April 1, 2006 meeting were approved with minor changes (attached).

Fall Meeting 2006: Ralph gave an update about the fall meeting to be held at the West campus facility (MiTEC) of Lansing Community College on Saturday, October 7. Three speakers are confirmed: Waksman speaker Dr. Dennis Cvikovitch (University of Toronto), Dr. Lawrence Shimkets (University of Georgia), and Dr. Mavin Whitely (in October: University of Texas-Austin). The suggested agenda was changed to include the poster session with the coffee break at 10 am. Mike C. questioned the tradition about the video taping of all lectures. In the past it was necessary to keep the twig from the UP informed, however recently we gave the student chapters from Michigan Tech additional travel funds. Jim has a nicely organized collection of digitalized presentations. It was decided to keep the tradition, because of the possibility that K -12 teachers could benefit from it. Mike C. suggested the need of release forms signed by the speakers. Mike H. will look into it. A central storage for release forms will be needed. Mary Ann asked whether there is a central storage for meeting minutes.

Ralph will bring a laptop in reserve to the meeting, with the hope that the speakers will bring their own. We expect 12 posters and we will have to pay for the easels. We have 5 tables for vendors and 3 tables for registration. Don will get the speaker's bios and titles for the talks very soon and send on to Ralph for posting. Don will send a small paragraph about the meeting to Michelle Crispino at national ASM for posting on the branch meeting website. Mary Ann will organize the speaker's dinner at Friday, October 6 at Christie's Bistro. It was decided that there will be no student mixer this time. As in the past, each student chapter that attends will receive \$300 to help with the travel costs. Phil Gerhardt will be invited to attend the meeting and the dinner on Friday. Ralph will do the invitation. Don will order the books from ASM for the student prizes, probably 3 copies of Gerhardt's Manual. Ralph presented details of the costs for the meeting (~ \$4,000).

Mike C. questioned the efficiency of the poster judgment procedure. However, according to people involved last time, it run very smoothly at the spring meeting. Student presenters were clearly marked on the posters and students were present to guide the jurors through their posters. Mike C. will send language concerning the poster judging to Ralph for posting on the website.

K-12 Outreach Program (Daniel): Daniel wants to increase the visibility of the MI-ASM to educators. Daniel had submitted a Branch diversification proposal and obtained funding for it from National ASM. It entails having booths and presenting at the 2006 Metropolitan Detroit Science Teachers Association (MDSTA) on Saturday 21, 2006 and at the 2007 Michigan Science Teachers Association (MSTA) on March 15-17, 2007. Daniel is looking for volunteers. Don may be able to volunteer. Jeff volunteered to go to one of the events. Travel money is available.

MI Community College Microbiology Teachers List (Kris): Kris in the process to get a list of all microbiology teachers at community colleges, but she encounters difficulties.

Spring Meeting (Jeff): Jeff asked for financial aid to found a student chapter at Wayne State University, so that the students can help with the meeting. Mike C made the motion to grant \$300 to Jeff Ram for jump starting a student chapter at Wayne State, Silvia second it. Motion passed. Mike H. suggested that they use part of the money to travel to the fall meeting. For the spring meeting, Jeff wants to form a local organizing committee which should include Judith Whittum-Hudson, Allen Hudson, Phil Cunningham, and perhaps Melody Neely. Theme of the meeting: Zoonoses, Environmental Testing, or Energy (would fit with our interest in Derek Lovely as speaker with his microbial fuel cells talk). Environmental Testing is the favorite of Jeff, because it is his research area and the involvement of the potential donor National Sanitation Foundation (NSF). Mike H. observed that NSF always said they wanted to contribute but never did. The theme of the meeting was not decided, but the title of "Environmental Testing" did not find approval, because the title should be somewhat more exciting. More details are forthcoming via e-mail. Jeff as the local organizer does not have to worry about the income for the meeting, but has to try to keep the costs reasonable and in the same range as the fall meeting (\$4,000).

Treasurer's report (Mike H): We obtained \$4,500 from National because of Daniels efforts and we have around \$24,300 in our accounts (includes Gerhard Endowment).

Other business: Mary Ann suggested to include graduate students on the board. Silvia knows a graduate student at MSU, who was previously active in the student chapter at Western Michigan University and comes to the meetings regularly. She could be contacted, if the board wants to include a graduate student. Mike R. suggested to do something about the avian flu and perhaps make a link to CDC from our website.

Meeting adjourned: 8:55 pm

Respectfully submitted, Silvia Rossbach