

MI-ASM Meeting Minutes  
January 10, 2005

The MI-ASM board meeting was held in the Renaissance Room at the Sheraton Hotel in Lansing. The meeting was called to order at 6:20 p.m.

**Members present:** Kris Baumgarten, Mary Ann Cardani, Mike Cohen, Ralph Gorton, Silvia Rossbach and Judith Whittum-Hudson.

**Minutes:** The minutes were reviewed. Mike Cohen pointed out that, in the 6/10/04 minutes, NSF should be spelled out since it can refer to the National Sanitation Foundation or the National Science Foundation. It should also be noted in the 10/9/04 minutes that the date for the Spring meeting was finalized as April 2, 2005. Mary Ann will correct these items in the written minutes. Silvia moved that the minutes from the June 10, 2004 and October 9, 2004 meetings be approved. Ralph Gorton seconded the motion. The minutes stand approved.

Judith emphasized that we should make sure that Jeff Ram from Wayne State is invited to our board meetings. (Who will contact him?)

**Treasurer's Report:** The report was reviewed. Mike Cohen asked to have the report revised to separate out the Gerhardt endowment dollars from other funds. Judith will contact Melody Neely to inquire about this and also to determine the final bill from the Fall meeting at Crystal Mt.

Members discussed how to best allocate our dollars. Should we limit food costs at meetings and use this money for other activities? One suggestion was to provide support for participation by Community Colleges. Judith is concerned that travel dollars are also scarce. The board agreed to discuss this at a meeting when more board members are present.

**Secretary's Report:** Mary Ann reviewed the attendance at the Fall meeting. There were 80 people registered and 75 in attendance. The attendance breakdown by institution was as follows:

|                                 |           |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Central Michigan University     | 6         |
| Delta College                   | 1         |
| Eastern Michigan University     | 10        |
| Ferris State                    | 1         |
| Montcalm Community College      | 1         |
| Michigan Stated University      | 7         |
| Michigan Technical University   | 11        |
| Northern Michigan University    | 2         |
| Pfizer                          | 6         |
| University of Michigan-Dearborn | 3         |
| University of Michigan – Flint  | 5         |
| Wayne State University          | 5         |
| Western Michigan University     | 4         |
| <u>No affiliation noted</u>     | <u>13</u> |
| Total                           | 75        |

It was gratifying to see the UPTWIG members well represented.

**Education Chair:** Kris had no report at this time. Silvia asked which student chapters had been officially approved. Mike said that they are approved at the National ASM meeting and Ralph pointed out that all 7 of our chapters are approved and appear on the MI-ASM website. Faculty advisors should update Kris on the activities of their chapters.

Mike Cohen suggested that we could create a position for an education liaison to interact with the faculty advisors. The primary concern of the existing education chair would be to focus on the students. The liaison could work to set up grants and let faculty know that dollars are available for research funding. This person would deal with any grant applications. Ralph advocated for making the Gerhardt awards more competitive. Mike recommended that we give the idea of a second education chair careful consideration and defer making a decision until the next meeting.

**Past President's report:** Mike Huband was absent. Silvia reported that she received a \$2600 check from Michelle Crispino at National ASM for support of UPTWIG participation at the Fall meeting. Mike Huband and Mike Cohen are up to date on funding requests from Pfizer.

**Gerhardt Fund:** There was no update. Silvia will write to Dr. Gerhardt with a yearly update of the fund awards. There is an application form for the Gerhardt fund on our website. We need more publicity about travel awards. Ralph will announce the awards on our website.

**Spring meeting:** The spring meeting will be held on April 2, 2005 at Delta College. It will be co-sponsored by Michigan Community College Biology teachers (MCCB). MCCB is willing to sponsor the afternoon workshop. The Board will have dinner with the speakers on Friday evening. Only Board members, their spouses and speakers are invited to dinner. Kris will contact the Bay Valley Hotel for group rates for Board members and speakers.

Kris has reserved a room for the meeting at Delta. A continental breakfast and box lunches will be provided.

**Speakers and Topics:** Since Communicable Diseases is the targeted topic Judith suggested that we could ask speakers to address 'Responses to Infectious Diseases after Natural Disasters'. Mike Cohen will call the CDC and ask for a speaker. If this falls through, Judith can pursue a speaker for this topic. Silvia can contact the Red Cross. The 2<sup>nd</sup> speaker may be Carl Pierson, retired director of Infectious Diseases at U of M hospital. Judith will contact Dr. Victor di Rita (Microbiology and Immunology, UM Medical School). When the speakers are confirmed, the board member in contact with a speaker should ask them to send a biography to Ralph. Ralph will update the website with meeting details as soon as these are

available. Kris will look into an afternoon workshop. She'll contact MCCB and may ask Carl Pierson or his replacement to give the workshop. The workshop session will accommodate 20 -25 people.

Additional items: Please give any information about the Spring meeting to Ralph for posting. Driving directions need to be sent to him. About 15 easels are needed for posters or posters could be hung on walls. Let students presenting the posters know what is available and what they will need to bring.

Registration forms received for the Spring meeting should be sent to the Board secretary, Mary Ann Cardani. Mary Ann will send an e-mail to the registrant to confirm receipt of the application.

**Job Postings:** Posting of employment opportunities on our website was debated. Job postings could be sent via e-mail to our website. Posting would be up for 1 month and could be renewed. The postings can be free at first, but we can issue a charge if we get inundated. Mike Cohen will contact Mike Ryan at Central to see if he would be willing to maintain the Employment Opportunities site. We would add Mike Ryan to the Board if he accepts the job.

**Corporate Partners:** Hardy Diagnostics is a new sponsor. The page on corporate sponsors needs to be updated. Mike Cohen will contact Jim Vandebosch and have him remove the corporate logos from the electronic form of the newsletter.

**Newsletter:** Please send all information for the Spring newsletter to Jim by the beginning of February.

**Fall '05 meeting:** Judith advised having the Fall '05 meeting at the Ford Conference Center with UM-Dearborn and Wayne State as joint sponsors. There are many activities in the area for participants to enjoy. An environmental topic would be appropriate. Sonia Tiquia from UM-D and Jeff Ram should be contacted (by whom?)

**Student Awards:** Silvia reported that we will receive a discount on the books we present as student awards.

**Adjournment:** Mike Cohen moved that the meeting be adjourned. Silvia seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 8:50p.m.