

MI-ASM Board Meeting
January 23, 2007
Brighton Bar & Grill

Members Present: Mary Ann Cardani, Dan Clemans, Mike Cohen, Ralph Gorton, Don LeBlanc, Jeff Ram, Mike Ryan, Jim Vandenbosch, JudithWhittum-Hudson

Members Absent: Mike Huband, Paul Pagano, Debra Hanna, Silvia Rossbach, Kris Baumgarten

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at approximately 7 pm. Members expressed that their thoughts were with our Pfizer colleagues as they face the challenges presented by Pfizer's closing of the Ann Arbor facility

Minutes approved: Jim V. moved that the minutes of the October 2006 meeting be approved. Dan C seconded the motion and all approved.

Spring meeting: The board then discussed plans for the Spring meeting. The Spring meeting planning committee includes Jeff, Judith, Alan Hudson and Melody Neely, all from Wayne State. Jeff passed out printed materials detailing the arrangements. The meeting topic is "New risks and new defenses: The technology of bioterrorism". One of the original speakers, Keith Marotti, will not be able to speak at the meeting so the committee will contact other potential speakers. Among the suggested names were Gary Nable, Phil Cunningham from Wayne State University, Armand Donabedian, Paul Keim and Vishna Arlingdupa (sp?). A block of 10 rooms has been reserved at the Inn on Ferry Street, a B&B near the Wayne State campus. Shuttle service is available (within 5 miles of Inn). Student housing has also been arranged. Jeff announced that the Associate Dean Daniel Walz of the School of Medicine of Wayne State University will give \$500 toward the fees for Dr. Luther Lindler.

For student housing arrangements, Jeff indicated that 75% of the total fees must be guaranteed and a 50% deposit is required. Rooms & parking will total \$40/person based on 2 people/room. A committee member will contact Sue Bagley to determine how many students from Michigan Tech will be attending. Chapter advisors should alert their students that plans for student housing must be made well in advance (a minimum of 2 wks before meeting date).

Student members from the Wayne State chapter will plan a Friday evening social. Substantial refreshments (e.g., pizza) will be provided. The time for the student gathering will overlap the Board dinner.

Lodging reservations for the Inn at Ferry St. must be made by March 15th.

Corporate Partner report: Mike C. spoke about corporate partners and stressed that our members need to identify additional partners. Please talk with the reps that service your labs and encourage their support of MI-ASM. Traditionally, a corporate partner has paid for or contributed toward payment of, the Saturday Continental breakfast. Mike asked if

Wayne State had a possible connection. Judith will approach the Fisher rep and Mike C will speak with Alexandra Howell. Have any potential partners contact Mike C. after you have approached and prepped them. Primary contact for the Spring meeting should be Jeff R or Judith. Mike C. indicated that currently there are 11 corporate partners who are up to date with their support and 7 who are recently out of date. He also stated that this represents 62% (18/ 29) of our partners.

Mike further expressed concern about the future role of corporate sponsors. Many of the partners are now part of Thermo-Fisher rather than separate companies. Our need for support will increase. Can we explain that our need for support is getting greater and ask our partners to increase their support? Branch 13 will be facing a change in its economic status as the economy in our region is struggling. We need to consider means for future support.

Facing the Future: As part of a brain storming session, we discussed that we should get UM and MSU on board, but acknowledged that efforts have been made in the past to do so. Remind UM and MSU that this is an excellent venue for student presentations. Daniel suggested that we try some new strategies, including focusing more on environmental microbiology and going after companies involved in this area, such as NSF (a testing and protocol non-profit organization) should be approached. Partnership fees: for \$100, partner can exhibit at a meeting. For \$300/yr. they become partners and can exhibit at both the fall and spring meetings.

Fall '07 meeting: The Fall 07 meeting was also mentioned. We need to find a corporate partner to sponsor the meeting. Mike R recommended that the sponsors could be invited to the mixer or board dinner. He also suggested that we might be able to include a tour of one of the vineyards located in the Leelanau Peninsula.

Newsletter: The next agenda item addressed finding a person to edit our Newsletter. Jim V has done an excellent job as editor, but is ready to relegate this responsibility to someone else. The best candidate would be a full time faculty person. Dan Clemans was mentioned. Advertising on our website was also recommended. The job entails editing material submitted by members. The newsletter is sent out 4-5 weeks before the Spring and Fall meetings.

New blood: The board expressed a need to consider ways to maintain a strong MI-ASM. Mary Ann suggested that we ask meeting attendees to fill out a form indicating their interests in future meeting topics and their interest in serving on the board. We will also solicit for this information on our website. The need to find additional corporate sponsors is also an important aspect of future planning.

Nominations: Nominations for officers were discussed. The past president (Dan Clemans) is in charge of nominations. Silvia should send Dan and the other board members the last registration list for perusal. Those people who have been coming regularly to our meetings might be potential candidates. Board members should check the

list for people they know who would be good candidates for board positions. Positions to be filled this Spring are President elect, Treasurer and Alternate councilor.

Financial report: The board reviewed the financial report prepared by Mike H. Our account balance is \$18067.68. This figure includes the Gerhardt funds. Don pointed out that we have not been reimbursed for Dennis Cvitkovitch who was paid as a Fall 07 speaker but had to cancel. A suggestion to increase our registration fees for members from \$25 to \$30 was argued. We agreed to maintain the current fees for Fall 07 but will, however, revisit this suggestion. We should solicit opinions from faculty before altering the fees. We will discuss the meeting fees and dues at the Spring Board meeting. Judith pointed out that we may also want to revisit paying for board dinners. Each member could pay for his own. It was also recommended that Jeff or Judith try to get Wayne State to reduce the cost of lunch for the Spring meeting. Twelve dollars/person should be a reasonable cost. The lunch in Lansing CC was in the \$10 -\$11 range.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Cardani (for Silvia Rossbach)