

Minutes from the AGM of the Polymer Division of the RACI – 15th February 2011

In Attendance - 34 people. The following people were noted in the minutes:

Brian Hawkett (BH), Graeme Moad (GM), Chris Fellows (CF), Martina Stenzel (MS, Chair), Sebastian Perrier (SP), Lachlan Yee (LY), Wayne Cook (WC), David Lewis (DL), Greg Qiao (GQ), Rob Burford (RB), Graeme George (GG), Greg Russell (GR), Marianne Gaborieau (MG), Patrice Castignolles (PG), Amanda Ellis (AE), David Hill (DH), Robert Gilbert (RG), Andrew Whittaker (AW), Idriss Blakey (IB), Nathan Boase (NB), Ian Dagley (ID), Milena Ginic-Markovic (MGM) and Kevin Jack (KJ, Minutes).

1. Report from the Chair MS (see report)

- PPC11/31APS was a great success. Thanks to AKW and WC for organising, A profit of ca. \$75k was returned.
- APSS continues to be strongly attended and well appreciated by everyone. 11 APSS cost ca. \$10k to the PD. Thank you again to WC and the CRC for polymers for their ongoing efforts
- 32 APS was attended by ca. 290 people. Expectation is of ca. \$20k profit (not yet finalised) after student travel subsidies.
- Prizes were awarded during the year – JoD, Treloar, student travel.

2. Financial Report by the Treasurer (LY) – see budget

- + \$20k for the year, but \$30K float not included so ca. \$50k made

3. Report from State Reps

- MG reported on the highly successful polymer workshop run by the NSW group. Ca. 80 people attended. Thanks to MG and NSW team for organising.

4. Office Bearers

- Current SCM members are: Exec (KJ, SP, MS, GS, LY and CF); state/NZ reps (MG, IB, MGM, GQ, GR) and committee members (AE, RB, SC, MC, WC, DL, GM, AW, GR (also NZ rep))
- Secretary: Amanda Ellis nominated by KJ, LY seconded, elected
- SCM:

- Motion to amend regulations to empower the exec to make decisions while keeping the SCM informed.
- ID can this be amended here?; DL – yes
- GR why change what already works?
- SCM can include co-opted members
- DL – regs currently state 6 ordinary members, but currently 8. We can have more
- Motion not voted on
- Committee Members:
 - All current members wish to remain on committee
 - George Simon – previous past chair – nominated by MS, seconded RB, elected
 - Michael Monteiro – nominated CF, seconded LY, elected
 - Daniel Keddie – nominated WC, seconded GM, elected
- Student Rep: Nathan Boase – nominated KJ, seconded IB, elected
- Treasurer: LY- nominated GR, seconded RB, elected
- Awards Co-ord: CF – nominated GR, seconded SP, elected
- The possibility of an electronic archivist was discussed but it was decided that the current web co-ord (CF) could look after this role initial. DH asked if we could get historical information re Bruce Guise from his wife.
- International relations: RB noted that most people had good contacts already so just needed someone to oversee. The PPC councillors (GM and AW) would be an obvious choice. A new councillor needs to be identified, SP would be a possibility.
- New SCM members are: Exec (AE, KJ, SP, MS, LY and CF); state/NZ reps (MG, IB, MGM, GQ, GR) and committee members (GS, RB, SC, MC, WC, DL, GM, AW, GR (also NZ rep), DK, MM)

5. Solomon Lecture Series

- Chair-elect to invite and co-ord the state reps.
- KJ to start with series in 2011
- Should be every 2nd year (odd years)
- BH and AW to sound out Jean Frechet.

6. APSS

- ID (CRC for Polymers) reported that funding to continue for CRC at least until mid 2012. CRC will continue its support of this event at least until then. The next APSS will continue as usual; thank you to the CRC

7. Award Frequency:

- Polymer Medal: time to do this again next APS. GG awards committee to scope out possible nominees
- MS should have Sangster / Guise every alternate APS. Discussion about the order but it was generally considered that it should be next APS none, 34 APS Sangster, 35 APS Guise ... alternating from then.

8. Future APS

- SP noted 33 APS will be held at Wrest Point Casino in Hobart in February 2012
- A number of speakers are already confirmed.
- The cost will be \$980 for delegates and \$600 for students.

9. Student travel subsidies for 32 APS

- An email will be sent to delegates by MS. Intention to claim will have to be made by 1st March to finalise the budget.

10. Relationship between the PD and RACI. (Note not all speakers or comments could be captured due to rapid conversation and the difficulty to participate and take notes, key points are instead noted – in cases where a point was raised the identity of those contributing afterwards may not be specifically noted)

- MS reported on details of chairs meetings with the RACI and Rodger Stapleton's (RS) discussions at 32 APS
 - Noted monies lost in the GFC
 - Future will involve rolling budgets – currently set at 5 years but we have passed onto Rodger the need for a longer cycle
 - Rodger has been made aware of the unhappiness and disquiet within the PD at the the lack of transparency, lack of consultation and listening to divisions in the changes and the loss of monies earned through hard work.
- RB noted that underwriting provided by RACI is important and should not be underestimated.
- MS: some divisions are clearly losing money. Branches may also lose money but have an educational role.
- AW: Need clarity from the RACI – preferably written. Specifically the assurances of RS. Also how much underwriting / public liability is provided by RACI
- RB: becoming independent would require \$. Could leverage links with other divisions. Need a committee to do a cost benefit analysis of becoming independent.

- WC: Must consider that RACI may still go bankrupt. Now would be an ideal time to set up an umbrella organisation (Australasian Polymer Society as a working name).
- SP: RACI reports to be trying to fix itself. Should watch what it is trying to do/give time before making decision to sever ties.
- RG: Yes but we must start doing things now also.
- Many: could we have joint meetings between RACI and a newly formed APS.
- DL: Should also look at the true value of profits made by PD in the past – include expenditure of the PD also.
- MC: Would pay membership to a new organisation – APS
- KJ: Following on from DL can we do a full analysis of historical cash flow using records held by PD (CF in particular). Can use that in our cost benefit (SWOT) analysis and in any leverage discussion with RACI.
- Comment from Prof. Tom Russell US (not member of RACI) noted that from his experience in organisation that the PD seemed to be a major contributor to the RACI and should use this to afford more say in its direction. Could we get representation on the board?
- PG: French Polymer Group is independent already – we could look into its model.
- RG: Cereal Division is another model to be investigated.
- SP: Next year should give us a clearer picture
- WC, AW, RG, CF (et al): Should set up APS now at least as a shell.
- **Actions arising:**
 - Set up umbrella organisation now. Look at cereals division
 - Do a cost-benefit analysis of a new independent organisation
 - Gain a factual understanding of current strengths of PD – particularly their financial impact.
 - Take a balanced approach – i.e. also watch for positive changes in RACI before making ultimate decisions.

11. MS closes AGM due to time.