

# RACI POLYMER DIVISION AGM MINUTES

**Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

**5:20pm-6:20pm AEST**

**Hall C, Cairns Convention Centre**

**Attendees:** Michelle Coote (MC, chair), Kris Thurecht (KT, chair-elect), Patrice Castignolles (PC, secretary), Marion Gaborieau (MG, treasurer), Greg Qiao (past chair), James Blinco (JB, Awards and Web coordinator), Stuart Thickett (ST, APSS coordinator), Adam Sutton, Amal Jayakumar Sivaram, Anna Gemmel, Arunpandian Balaji, Christopher Barner-Kowollik, Craig Bell, David Lewis (DL), Dewan Taslima Akhter, Frank Caruso, Gayathri Ediriweera, Graeme Moad, Greg Russell, Idriss Blakey, Jadranka Travas-Sejdic, James Oliver, Jan Lauko, John Quinn, Joshua Simpson, Kash Bhullar, Leonie Barner, Lewis Chambers, Liqiang Gu, Lukas Michalek, Ngwa Truong, Nathan Boase, Nicholas Fletcher, Per Zetterlund, Petri Turunen, Prashant Sonar, Rob Burford, Shauna Herbst, Georgina Such (GS)

**Apologies:** Iyer Swaminatha (IS, WA representative)

1. Confirmation of minutes arising from last meeting (November 2016)

DL confirm the minutes, KT seconds it.

2. Chair's report

- a. Overview of 2017/2018 including MACRO2018 awards session and National Congress

No formal APS has been possible due to the RACI Convention and Macro, but there has been a lot of activity:

- JB did a huge job in completely revamping our divisional website (<http://polymer.org.au/>).
- ST did an amazing job in putting together an organising committee for the APSS and organising a successful 18<sup>th</sup> APSS held at UniSA in Feb 2017. The 19<sup>th</sup> APSS will be held at USyd in Feb 2019, with plans for a 20<sup>th</sup> at ANU in Feb 2020. ST will update everyone at the AGM. Money from the CRC for polymers has been transferred to a special dedicated account at RACI.
- RACI Centenary Conference July 2017 – included a strong polymer division (PD) program organised by Neil Cameron and Idriss Blakey
- 16th EPF European Polymer Congress in Lyon, July 2017 – included a special Australian – European symposium was organized by Franck D'Agosto, Sebastien Perrier, Christopher Barner-Kowollik, Andrew Whittaker and Holger Schönherr.
- 4<sup>th</sup> China-Australia Polymer Meeting CAPM4 - a successful symposium organised by Andrew Whittaker to promote collaboration and cooperation with China
- Thanks to Martina and Seb for their successful organisation of MACRO2018. As part of this we decided to hold an APS Awards symposium (just before the AGM) in which recipients of the Sangster and Batteard Jordan medal received their awards and give keynotes. Frank Caruso was the Polymer award and GS was the Sangster award (hall C).

- The 40 age limit in the Sangster award was changed to “8-13 years of professional experience since highest qualification” to eliminate any discrimination
- In addition, the branches have been highly active (see branch rep reports).

RACI News:

- Benefit reserve has been abolished as of the last general assembly (MG to comment more). We are told by Roger Stapleford that it makes no difference as the benefit reserve was simply an accounting term and all activities judged on their budget and our previous 2 years fiscal performance. This does mean we should be strategic and proactive in spending profits from events on our divisional members.
- Equity committee (MC is part of it) has introduced a policy (approved by board) that includes minimal targets (30%) on gender equity in invited speakers and committees. Everyone organising a conference will need to indicate how the equity code is followed .For conferences, failure to meet these may mean failure to get RACI approval (and hence seed funding, insurance etc) in the future. A code of conduct and a reconciliation plan are also in the works. There is to be a named person to counsel in cases like harassment.

3. Treasurer’s report

a. Changes to RACI financial model

There is no benefit reserve any more. These \$60,000 from previous profit is not something the PD has any more. It did not really have it any way.

**[Polymer Division] 2016-2017 Financial year**

<i>Item</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expense</i>
36APS profit	\$15,335.57	
36APS seed funding returned ^	\$10,000.00	
36APS seed funding ^		\$10,000.00
New PD website design - installment 1 of 3		\$1,312.50
New PD website design - installment 2 of 3		\$1,312.50
New PD website design - installment 3 of 3		\$1,125.00
Hosting polymer.org.au		\$265.09
Polymer Medal		\$130.00
Bruce Guise Award trophy		\$80.91
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,335.57</b>	<b>\$4,226.00</b>

^ these have no incidence on overall Division budget and are not contributing to calculated totals.

<b>Starting Benefit Reserve</b>	<b>\$57,600.53</b>
Income - Expense 2016-17	\$11,109.57
Part kept by Division*	\$8,054.79
<b>Final Benefit Reserve</b>	<b>\$65,655.31</b>

\* Division kept first \$5,000, 50% of next \$10,000, 70% of the next \$15,000, and 90% of anything above

**[Polymer Division] 2017-2018 Financial year**

<b><i>Item</i></b>	<b><i>Income</i></b>	<b><i>Expense</i></b>
RACI National Congress	\$0.00	
RACI PD Student Travel Bursary - Fatemeh Karimi		\$1,000.00
RACI PD Student Travel Bursary - Dewen Zhou		\$1,000.00
Registration invited speaker - Frank Caruso		\$1,045.45
Registration invited speaker - GS		\$1,045.45
Breakfast for standing committee meeting at Macro 2018		\$402.27
Trophies for Sangster and Bruce Guise Awards		\$189.05
Polymer Medal		\$165.00
Polymer Medal - Courier		\$6.83
Hosting polymer.org.au - InteractiveOnline		\$271.46
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b><i>\$0.00</i></b>	<b><i>\$5,125.51</i></b>

There is no benefit reserve any more, accounting is done financial year by financial year with an expectation of a surplus over several consecutive financial years.

**[Polymer Division] 2018-2019 Financial year so far**

<b><i>Item</i></b>	<b><i>Income</i></b>	<b><i>Expense</i></b>
Polymer.org.au domain name with MelbourneIT		\$48.14
Medal, struck medal organised by RACI NO for Division		\$825.00
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b><i>\$0.00</i></b>	<b><i>\$873.14</i></b>

*Treasurer report - Marion Gaborieau  
Polymer Division -3 July 2018 - continued*

**[Solomon Foundation account] Financial year 2016-2017**

<b><i>Item</i></b>	<b><i>Income</i></b>	<b><i>Expense</i></b>
Interests		\$340.22
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b><i>\$0.00</i></b>	<b><i>\$340.22</i></b>

Beginning balance     \$30,000.00  
Ending Balance         \$30,340.22

**[Solomon Foundation account] Financial year 2017-2018**

<b><i>Item</i></b>	<b><i>Income</i></b>	<b><i>Expense</i></b>
Interest 27/07/17	\$46.55	
Interest 24/08/17	\$46.62	
Interest 21/09/17	\$60.05	
Interest 31/10/17	\$5.84	
Interest 10/11/17	\$45.62	
Interest 08/12/17	\$45.69	
Interest 15/01/18	\$58.85	
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b><i>\$309.22</i></b>	<b><i>\$0.00</i></b>

Beginning balance     \$30,340.22  
Ending Balance         \$30,649.44

**[APSS account] Financial year 2017-2018**

This account is specifically for holding Australasian Polymer Summer Schools.

The beginning balance was transferred from CRC for Polymers.

<i>Item</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expense</i>
Half of APSS 2019 accommodation		\$1,803.64
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$1,803.64</b>

Beginning balance \$9,780.00

Ending Balance \$7,976.36

Now we have 3 consecutive financial years to do a surplus. There are 2 pots of money separate of RACI: one with interest for part of the Solomon lecture and one for APSS (which used to be under CRC Polymer). The audience asks the question: what happens if we do not do surplus in 3 years? MG an MC answered: we do not know. All for accepting the report

4. Report from State Reps

*Western Australia: MC for IS*

RACI WA Polymer group had a series of successful visits from polymer chemists across Australia to increase the profile of UWA polymer research. They have hosted a series of seminars from speakers including UNSW, UQ, QUT, and overseas from France (Francois Ganachaud, Lyon) and USA. Most recent visit included Steve Armes who will be giving a plenary at the Macro. IS will continue to strive developing WA as a contributing node.

*Victoria: GS*

A workshop was organised yearly with two polymer prizes: \$1,000 to sponsor students to go to conference, Thanks to Michael Whittaker for contacting sponsors. A workshop is scheduled for november .

*Queensland, NB*

For the past 18 months the Queensland Polymer Group has been focussed on building connections between polymer scientists in Queensland. We have been running regular seminar/social networking events, which are hosted by a research group. The hosting group highlights their work through a few talks and it is followed by a social event – lunch or an evening BBQ. We have hosted five of these events over the past 18 months, and they have all been well attended: 40-80 participants).

We have also co-hosted local symposia, the Queensland Annual Chemistry Symposium (QACS) and the Soft Matter Symposium. QACS is organised by the QLD Branch with all local groups from all RACI division involved. There were 158 attendees for the event, including a strong contingent from the PD. This is a regular event now, and the QPG will continue to support it moving forward. We also co-organised a Soft Matter symposium with the Macroarc group from QUT, in the lead up to Macro 2018. This event was well supported with 80 registrants and 7 international speakers participating in a one day symposium.

Our final activity was to award a travel bursary to a student to attend Macro 2018. This was awarded through a competitive application process, to Lukas Michalek from QUT. The QPG provided \$560 to cover travel costs and a conference dinner ticket. We thank the support of the Macro organising committee who were able to provide a complementary registration as part of the prize.

Current Committee:

Chair – Nathan Boase

Treasurer – Nick Fletcher

Secretary – Christiane Lang

Student Representatives – Kristina Jovic, Anna Gemmell, Katarzyna Kepa

Standing Committee:

Aurelien Forget

Bronwyn Laycock

Craig Bell

Jan Lauko

Zachary Houston

Zhongfan Jia

NSW, PC:

Several talks: Dr Francois Ganachaud from Lyon, France at Western Sydney University (WSU), Dr Florent Jasinski from UNSW at WSU, Tanja Junkers from Monash University at WSU, + post MACRO: Dr Simon Harrison from Toulouse, France at WSU and Michael Silverstein from Israel at University of Sydney.

2 workshops:

- University of New South Wales (UNSW): afternoon of lectures organised by Per Zetterlund and Cyrille Boyer
- WSU: FFF workshop: 2 international speakers (Prof. Kim Williams from the School of Mines Colorado, USA and Prof. Frederic Violleau from Toulouse Institut National Polytechnique, France, + 2 local, 46 delegates: 39 academia (including 28 students), 1 government and 6 industry, 9 sponsors, a few 100\$ surplus expected
- Next workshop in Newcastle?

Current committee: chair PC, treasure: MG, secretary: Tony Granville, Student representative: Kash Bhullar, committee members: PZ, Markus Muellner (MM, USyd), Chris Garvey (ANSTO), James Oliver, MM to take over in 2019,

## 5. APSS update – Stuart Thickett

ST is the chair since 2015. The latest APSS, 18APSS attracted 50 delegates in SA. They made a profit. The combined 17+18 APSS made a profit of 4,100. The next APSS, 19APSS, will be at University of Sydney in February. Registration is opened. There is a link in the RACI e-mail (<https://polymersummerschool.wixsite.com/apss>). The event is now coordinated by RACI (since there is no CRC polymers any more). There are no sponsors lined up yet. Contact ST if you know potential sponsors outside the usual ones. The registration is cheap for students. ST asked everyone to encourage students to register.

## 6. Solomon Lecture

- 2019 Solomon Lecture

Solomon lecturers are eminent scientist who go around Australian in between APS (and for people not going to APS). The plan is to have one next year. MC and KT called for Idea on the lecturer. The Solomon lecturer need to spend 2-3 weeks touring Australia. Anyone with ideas should contact MC or KT.

## 7. Future meetings

### 37APS (KT)

There are many conferences to come but we still have APS! The next APS, 37 APS will be on 3-6 November 2019 at Twin Waters on the Sunshine Coast (during Melbourne cup). Everyone will stay at the same place. There is a brand new conference centre. The committee starts approaching plenaries.

## 8. Change to student travel subsidies

KT mentioned that there was not much application for subsidies. The PD needs to be working on a strategy to increase this despite and because of the change in the financial situation. One idea is to reduce the students registration upfront, although with cheaper accommodation for students (at APS). Many people are not aware of the many travel award. One idea is to amalgamate all awards in one award once a year, which would be strongly advertised. Some flexibility will be there to account for the fact that it is only once a year. This is to increase support to student. The awards could be renamed as the O'Donnell awards. One question was "who pays?". MG answer that it had been the PD so far and KT adds that now the PD needs to apply to RAC for it.

## 9. Committee membership

### a. Election for Executive

KT announces that there was one nomination for secretary: IS. IS was elected unopposed and approved at standing committee. IS has been the Western Australia state representative for a few year already.

### b. Election for 3 new standing committee members

- 1) Note that Liz Williams resigned as member and this position has been filled by Kristian Kempe as the next nominee from 2016 AGM.

The standing committee turnover consist in changing 3 members of the standing committee every 2 APS. There was 3 nominees: Leonie Barner (QUT), Jan Lauko (UQ), Jadranka Travas-Sejdic (Auckland). 3 members stepped down: David Lewis (Flinders U), Luke Connal (ANU) and Chris Garvey (ANSTO). KT moved to chair. PC moved to chair-elect. MC moved to past chair.

Other committee member (remaining) were: Dr Kristian Kempe (Monash U), Dr Kei Sato (Monash U) and Dr Georgina Such (U Melbourne). Lukas Michalek from QUT was nominated by NB as student representative.

KT proposed a motion for a fantastic job of MC as chair. It was voted by acclamation.

10. Any other business

None.