

Minutes Annual General Meeting RACI Polymer Division

Wednesday 16 July 2003, Sheraton Hotel Noosa

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

David Sangster moves that the minutes be approved, Graeme George seconds. Minutes approved.

2. Chairman's Report

Andrew Whittaker handed out the chairman's report and the items were discussed.

- *26 APS.* 26APS will probably break even.
- *State Groups.* State groups in need of financial support should apply to the Division. Sufficient funds are available.
- *PD Secretary.* Gemma Thompson will be contacted to see if she is interested in fulfilling this role (2-3 days/month). Her primary role will be to facilitate communication and to maintain the web pages (which have been done by a company). After some discussion it was decided that the secretary should be a fixed position rather than a rotating one.
- *Head office.* Andrew attended three assembly meetings. He will pass on his experiences to David Lewis, the new Polymer Division chairman. The financial strains on the RACI have diminished mainly because *Chemistry in Australia* is attracting more funds. Since we currently do not have enough funds to become a stand-alone polymer society, we should be more pro-actively using the RACI facilities and apply for special project funds. Graeme George mentions that these special projects are funded by 50% of the interest raised from the centralized RACI accounts. We could think of certain educational projects such as the one initiated by Scott Kable in the Physical Chemistry Division.
- *Consolidation of PD funds.* The discussion on whether we should consolidate PD funds within the RACI as other Divisions have done is still ongoing. We currently get more interest than if we consolidate. Points have been raised to keep the situation as is, because we should not be supporting the weak groups. However, Graeme George points out that we could get the money back through

the special projects and the point has also been raised that we can still create some trust funds. It was agreed that whatever we do, we should get the best deal.

- *Approval.* Chairman's report approved

3. Treasurer's Report

Chris Fellows reports a loss of about \$44,000 of which a large part is due to the student travel subsidies (~\$20,000). The current status of the account is \$285,000.

The treasurer's report was sent to the PDSC members before the 26APS, but due to some printer problems, there was no hard copy available to be approved at the AGM. Andrew apologized for this and Bob Gilbert expressed his strong disappointment. It was decided that the treasurer's report would be sent to those present and interested for approval. This proposal was moved by David Lewis and seconded by David Sangster.

4. Election of PDSC Members

The following office bearers were nominated and elected:

David Lewis – Chair

Greg Russell – Chair Elect

Andrew Whittaker – Past Chair

George Simon – Secretary

Chris Fellows – Treasurer

Other members:

Chris Lukey

Michael Monteiro

Mike O'Shea

Stephen Clark

Wayne Cook

Two more people need to be appointed as members of the PDSC. The PDSC will nominate these two people.

5. IUPAC

Bob Gilbert will still serve two more years on the committee, but has strongly expressed that an Australian replacement be sought. The PDSC will take the lead in finding this replacement.

6. Other business

Wayne Cook will set up a special task group to define a special project aimed at attracting new and more students to polymer science and engineering. The polymer community is shrinking and we need to do something about it. Such project would be a good candidate for a RACI Special Project.