

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - POLYMER DIVISION

JUNE 10th 4 PM (AEST)

Minutes:

1. Welcome and apologies

Patrice welcomed everyone to the online zoom, he commented on the strong turn-out and asked for any apologies. There were no apologies received.

2. Confirmation of previous minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by Marion Gaborieau and seconded by Killugudi Swaminatha Iyer.

3. Chair's report

Patrice's report talked about the need to cancel the APS planned for 2020 in the Blue Mountains due to COVID. This meant there was no APS since the last AGM. The Division did conduct a number of successful events including 2 APSS events and the Future in Polymer Science Festival (an online event to showcase junior researchers). Patrice also talked about his move to France in the coming days, thus the need to transfer leadership of the Division. David Lewis thanked Patrice for his service during a challenging time, a number of other people also did this in chat function or in their reports.

4. Treasurers report

Marion report provided information about strong profits from the APSS event in 2020 as well as a small profit for the Future of Polymer Science Festival. She also informed us about the balance in the David Solomon Lecture account (approximately \$31,000). She is also stepping down from this AGM.

5. Report from State Representatives

NSW – Markus Muellner

NSW had a successful series of online seminars in 2020 called the Polymer Lunch Bars. They have also received funding for the NSW Government to have an in-person event at Sydney University. Rob Chapman is also organising a literature club.

QLD – Jan Lauko

QLD has done a number of social events in 2021/2021 as well as an online seminar series with some impressive international speakers.

SA – Amin Khodabandeh

SA are working on building stronger links within SA community by building links with other organisations.

VIC – Georgina Such and Tanja Junkers

VIC has had limited activities due to issues with multiple lockdowns however they had one online seminar.

TAS – Stuart Thickett

TAS had nothing to report for same reasons outlined above.

NZ – no representative

WA - Killugudi Swaminatha Iyer

WA normally have in-person seminars however this was not possible due to lockdown. Iyer mentioned a new initiative to investigate microplastics in water that could be of interest to our community. Please contact him if interested and he will direct you to Minderoo Foundation. Iyer also mentioned Cameron Evans would be taking over as WA rep from this AGM.

6. Diversity and Inclusion

Georgie showed the AGM the key goals of the RACI in the area of Diversity and Inclusion, which include the need to develop targets around under-represented groups. Georgie suggested we agree as a division to mirror the aims of the RACI Congress which are 40% female participation for invited speakers. There was discussion on the need to support this idea by having initiatives at the conferences to support childcare among other things. Tanja brought up the need to consider all kinds of diversity, however it is hard to measure in all cases. It was decided other types of diversity should be considered where possible. It was also discussed why it is important to do this, to promote younger women and thus help them thrive in polymer chemistry. **This proposal was agreed on.**

7. APSS Update (Stuart Thickett)

There were two events held since last APSS. The first one was in-person event in Feb 2020 (ANU). There were 46 attendees at this event, which also received excellent sponsorship. The next APSS was held online in Feb 2021 and this was fully online, there was no cost associated. Stuart thinks it would be wise to wait to do the next APSS until it can be in person.

8. Solomon Lectures

The Solomon Lecture was planned however it could not go ahead due to COVID. Thus, it is yet to be decided when this will be. There was discussion that combining it with the upcoming PPC in Brisbane 2022 might make the most sense.

9. Future Meetings

38APS and RACI Congress – Iyer talked about the plan for RACI Congress in June 2022 which involves having three days with one stream. This will combine some joint symposium with other organisations and some that are purely from the polymer community. Iyer also talked about when to schedule the 38APS. There will two conferences in 2022, RACI Congress and PPC (December) so the feeling was it would be better to leave it to the following year. He also mentioned the possibilities are to have it in WA or perhaps in NSW due to easier travel for participants. There was also discussion about having an online ECR event in early 2022 to promote networking and presentation skills.

PPC – Martina talked about the move of PPC from this year to December 2022 due to COVID restrictions on international travel. She hopes that she gets strong engagement from the polymer community and that the RACI Congress and PPC are not too close. The discussion felt that it was not to close as different people would go to the RACI Congress.

10. Committee membership

Patrice thanked the members of the steering committee which will be stepping down, Leonie Barner, Luke Connal and Jan Lauko. He then read out the new roles:

ECR Rep - Amin Khodabandeh

Steering Committee – Yvonne Mah, Kristoper Killan and Robert Chapman

Web Coordinator – Stuart Thickett

Treasurer – Nathan Boase

Secretary – Luke Connal

Chair Elect – Georgina Such

Chair - Killugudi Swaminatha Iyer

Past Chair – Kris Thurecht (due to Patrice leaving)

11. Any other business

Marion and Patrice were thanked again for all their support to the Polymer Division over a long time. Patrice then closed the meeting.