

Minutes of Meeting  
Executive Board of the Four-Year College and University Section  
National Association of Biology Teachers  
Gatlinburg Room, Marriott Hotel, Memphis, Tennessee  
October 15, 2008

Members Present: William Rogers (2008 Chairperson); Teddie Phillipson-Mower (Vice-Chairperson); William Kroen (Secretary/Treasurer); Jacqueline McLaughlin (Past-Chair); TJ Bliss; Judy Day; Jean DeSaix; Don French; Jan Haldeman; Rob Loeb; Ann Lumsden; John Moore; Kim Sadler.

1. The meeting was called to order by Bill Rogers at 5:35 PM.
2. Bill Rogers asked for a motion to approve the agenda; Jan Haldeman moved this approval (second by Ann Lumsden). The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.
3. Bill asked for a motion to approve minutes of the 2007 Executive Committee meeting in Atlanta, with editorial changes of 'Bill Williams' to 'Bill Rogers' [New Business, Item D] and 'Judith Reddy' to 'Judith Heddy' [Committee Reports, K, Undergraduate Program]. Judy Day moved approval of these amended minutes (second by Jean DeSaix); motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

### **Officers Reports**

1. Chair (William Rogers) – A thank you is given to all for doing things during the year, particularly Judy and Jackie for the symposia at this meeting.

As noted at the NABT Board Meeting today, Jaclyn Reeves-Pepin is the Director of Development, so we need to coordinate with her the sponsoring of our events to prevent one company from being hit repeatedly. Bill also noted that W.H. Freeman has replaced Biozone as sponsor for the Section breakfast, and was pleased with this sponsorship.

Program of 4Y Section events was emailed to members but was unfortunately too late for inclusion in News & Views. Several committee members thought this was very useful and had shared it with others.

A '2Y strand' box highlights selected talks in the Program and in News & Views this year. This is an experimental idea from the national office to increase participation by those members. Our section will be highlighted in the program next year.

Attendance is hoped to be 1000 this year, but it is clearly down due to the economy; the hope is that we will break even on the overall event.

2. Vice-Chair (Teddie Phillipson-Mower) – Thanks go to Anne Lumsden for a list of past presidents.
3. Secretary/Treasurer (Bill Kroen) – Budget report listing a balance of \$4,900 prior to this convention.
4. Past Chair (Jackie McLaughlin) elected to make no comments.

### **Report of Committee Chairs or Representatives**

**A. John Moore:** NSF and AAAS invited NABT (and a host of others) to a new initiative on undergraduate education; refined list of societies includes us. **Check the previous facts.** They are looking at undergrads, particularly the first year. AIBS likes our guidelines for programs but there are suggestions to be made that will be returned to us for refinement. Charge for our Section is to review these guidelines.

At the same time, Eileen Gregory is presenting a poster tomorrow for guidelines for a full-year, 28-unit general biology sequence. She is looking to do a survey on the key components that are taught. There is a “charge” (in the work) to the 4Y to work with 2Y to develop what actually needs to be taught in the first year. Eventually objectives and “standards” might need to be created, particularly in light that there is nothing presently. NABT seems to be in the forefront here, and the 4Y and 2Y Sections needs to create a list/group of people interested and willing to consult and provide guidance on educational components for the educational portion of other researcher’s grants.

Jackie makes a motion (second by Jan Haldeman) to establish an *ad hoc* First-Year Undergraduate Biology Committee from the section to work on content and objectives in first-year courses. Jackie shows a book called “Scientific Teaching” and mentions the symposium on Friday as relevant to this discussion. Teddie asks how this surveying really will be done, and what exactly will be the charge(s) to this or other groups. John Moore says that we need to seize the day and go after whatever grant money and interest is out there. Much discussion around the table ensued. Jackie agreed to lead the effort in Eileen’s absence. Jean DeSaix noted that College Board just surveyed AP instructors to see what is taught (check this), so there is other information potentially available. Motion finally voted and approved unanimously by voice vote.

**B. Awards Committee:** Jackie McLaughlin, Chairperson, announced the 2008 award winners after thanking the executive committee members who read applications. Dennis Venema received the Four-Year College Biology Teaching Award sponsored by Pearson Benjamin Cummings; his talk will be at 4:00 Friday during the Professional Development workshop. Donald French received the Four-Year College Biology Research/Teaching Award sponsored by Leica Microsystems, Inc. Bill Rogers also noted that Don Cronkite will be awarded Honorary Membership and Randy Moore will receive the Evolution Education Award on Friday at the Honors Luncheon.

**C. Convention Planning Committee:** Bill Kroen, acting as chair, reported that there are 27 posters slated for the Section Poster Session on Thursday at 7:00 PM. The event is sponsored again by John Wiley and Sons. The student poster competition is sponsored by Vernier Science. Kathy Gallucci and Steve Christenson have agreed to be judges, but one more person is still needed. Jackie volunteered Mary Kate Reeves-Hoche.

The Section committee working session will be Saturday morning at 7:15 AM. Members of the Four-Year Section are encouraged to participate in committees.

Bill Rogers then thanked Bill Kroen for all his hard work

**D. Professional Development Committee:** Kim Sadler reminded all about the Professional Development Day on Friday. There are seven sessions on the schedule. Feedback from last year indicated interest in the best practices in teaching, so the program will concentrate on this topic this year. There is time slated for discussion between sessions. There are 25 lunches on order (at an exorbitant price) for the keynote address by David Dressler (from Oxford) at the 2Y/4Y Teaching Symposium. Jackie has plaques for our guests.

**E. Pre-College Outreach Committee:** Judy Day reported a successful symposium today. She noted that her 55 handouts were gone as an indication of attendance; an estimated 35 were present for most sessions. Eleven speakers concentrated on assessment, while 16 posters detailed outreach programs. Vernier and Texas Instruments sponsored the day’s events.

NABT has approached this group to form a new K-12 Outreach Section, since the present group does not fit with the 4Y section. Judy stated there are pros and cons to doing this, and the group discussed becoming an informal “section” in the future. This would allow the group to have their own website under NABT. Judy is herself no longer doing outreach after transferring to the university hierarchy, so this is her last symposium as she steps down; Susan Flowers (Washington U) will take on running the symposium next year. They likely

plan a half-day Wednesday afternoon with a keynote speaker dealing with assessment. Bill R. thanks her for all her hard work with applause in the entire room.

**F. *Ad Hoc* Graduate Student Committee:** TJ Bliss (Chair) will host a student social Thursday at 4:30 after meeting at the exhibit opening; they plan to go to the hotel restaurant then return for the posters. The committee meeting will be Thursday morning to solicit some interested graduate students to work on items for next year.

He raised concerns that their session on Friday will occur against Judge Jones' (Dover ID trial) talk, and wondered about moving or ending early. After much discussion, it was agreed that their talk on a joint faculty-student panel about a science education research journal club should continue for the full time.

The group has also created a Facebook group that has had some limited discussion. TJ requested that he be briefed on section activities sooner in the year to plan a better time for the social event. His group proposed having a student poster competition, and was informed that this already occurs. Jackie is fully supportive of the group's efforts and hopes that corporate sponsorship might be obtained with a really good proposal.

**G. Nominating Committee:** Jan Haldeman reported that the nominee for Secretary/Treasurer for 2009 is Elaine Gregory.

**H. Membership Committee:** Nick Balster accepted in 2007 but is unable to attend. Bill R. gave a report stating that after the "big" membership committee meets tomorrow, Bill R. or Don French will meet with him to use the materials from national office about guidance and specifics for future work in this area.

**I. *Ad Hoc* Undergraduate Biology Program Guidelines:** Ann Lumsden reworked the guidelines last winter and there were some changes by the committee. She will rework them again and then have them available for use. The question was raised about putting them on the NABT website, and most in the room agreed that it should stay on our section site unless approved by the Board.

**J. Publicity/Webmaster:** No report since Bill Rogers was not exactly sure what is going on, particularly with NABT is still working on its own website. Don French noted that with John Moore as the big president, it is time for someone else to take it over and redo our section site. Suggestion made to contact Jackie R-P to see what national is doing (with an outside contractor working on the site) and then recruit a person to take on this task at the breakfast.

**K. *Ad Hoc* By-Laws:** Donald French (Chair). Thankfully there is nothing on this topic this year.

**L. Historian:** Jean DeSaix requested that all committee chairpersons send their reports so that she can send them on to Reston for the record.

### **New Business**

A. Issues relating to the Topics for Introductory College Biology Courses and Programs were already covered above in Sections A. and I.

B. Section By-laws require that an *ad hoc* committee can only exist for one year, so the Graduate Student Committee must be named a permanent committee to continue. Bill Rogers made the motion (second by Bill Kroen) to amend the By-laws to create a Graduate Student Committee to promote participation of students within the Section. Lots of discussion ensued concerning how broad "students" should be. Motion was approved unanimously by voice vote, allowing the membership to vote on this item at the Business Meeting.

C. Bill R. made a motion to change the name of the section Research/Teaching award to the Four-Year College and University Biology Research in Teaching Award so that it shows that research has been conducted on teaching at the college or university level. Motion was seconded by Teddie P.-M. and approved unanimously. Leica Microsystems would be notified that the name change has been made.

D. Bill R. (second by Teddie P.-M.) made a motion to change the name of the section Teaching Award to the Four-Year College and University Biology Teaching award. The motion was approved unanimously.

E. Don French questions, regarding the poster competition, the requirement that the poster have only one name on it. Since many institutions link travel funds and promotion to presentations at meetings, could this not be changed to reflect student(s) as first author and a faculty mentor as second? Bill K. agreed to have the Convention Committee look on these issues during the year.

Hearing no other business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bill Rogers (Bill K. seconded) at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

William Kroen, Ph.D.  
2008 Secretary/Treasurer  
Four-Year College and University Section  
National Association of Biology Teachers