

Date: 4-March-2015
Location: San Antonio, TX(17:45 PM)
Meeting Number: GS-BM-1
Attendees: Sharon Glotzer (Acting Chair), Peter Olmsted (Secretary/Treasurer), Eric Weeks (Program Committee Chair). Around 50 APS/GSOFT members or interested parties were in attendance.

- GS-BM-1-1. Mary Galvin started the meeting by giving an overview of funding opportunities based around the *Materials Genome Initiative (MGI)* (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/mgi>). This spans multiple government agencies and, contrary to frequent misunderstanding, is not limited to big data instruments, but also to projects that interleave experiment, modelling, theory, simulation, and data together. Andy Lovinger and Mary Galvin presented a longer version of this information at the end of the DPOLY business meeting later in the evening.
- GS-BM-1-2. SG presented an overview of the structure of the committee and its membership. A nominating committee will be established shortly to have formal elections for the rotation beginning 2016, when the Chair-elect (MCM) will become Chair and the Vice-Chair position becomes vacant.
- GS-BM-1-3. SG announced the inaugural Early Career Award, which was given to Todd Squires (UCSB) earlier in the week.
- GS-BM-1-4. SG announced that the Fellowship Committee had been appointed, and nominations would be shortly requested (with deadline 1 June 2015).
- GS-BM-1-5. PDO presented the membership numbers. Before the meeting GSOF T had roughly 700 members. It was estimated that 200 new members has signed up, with an anticipated 100 more to be signed up by the end of the meeting. The stated goal is to obtain membership sufficient for Division status (3% of APS, or roughly 1500 members) within a year.
- GS-BM-1-6. PDO presented the financial accounts. At the moment the income and expenses balance, including support and costs for ‘slushies’ given away as part of the membership drive at the March meeting.
- GS-BM-1-7. EW presented statistics about Soft Matter talks at the March meeting. The number of GSOF T (category 2) abstracts increased by about 50% this year (from roughly 200 to roughly 350), without changing the abstracts submitted to related soft matter units (DPOLY, DBIO, GSNP).

GS-BM-1-8. PDO presented a rough summary of the plans for the group and the immediate future, much of which focuses on ideas for increasing membership and making the March meeting even more vibrant for soft matter. Ideas included short courses at the March Meeting, ‘lunch with the experts’, evening pizza and beer, joint APS/ACS activities, more prizes (youth, experience, etc).

GS-BM-1-9. It was noted from the floor that a booklet or other method to coordinate all Soft Matter content at the APS meeting would be welcome (embracing GSOF T, GSNP, DBIO, DFD, DPOLY, and perhaps others).

GS-BM-1-10. MR discussed a proposed international soft matter conference to be held in North America every three years. It would be held in years that do not clash with the International Soft Matter Conference that is held in Europe every three years, and would ideally in future be coordinated with an Asian Soft Matter conference. Each International meeting would serve to focus on the respective community, and allow significant international representation. There is no analogous meeting in North America, and the APS meeting doesn’t serve the same focus as the European model, which has so far had three parallel session and much longer talks than at the March Meeting. There was a brief and constructive discussion about this possibility.

The proposed inaugural meeting would be in Boston in June 2017 [note: the Soft Matter Gordon Conference will probably be held in August 2017, based on previous years].

GS-BM-1-11. Attendees pointed out that the business meeting clashed with other business meetings (e.g. DPOLY, GSNP). It was agreed that this should be avoided if possible.

GS-BM-1-12. An attendee asked about whether or not we should or could have a GSOF T reception (for example, to recognize our award winner).

Next Meeting: The next business meeting will be at the APS March meeting in Baltimore in 2016.