

---

Date: 3-March-2015  
Location: San Antonio, TX  
Meeting Number: GS-E-2  
Attendees: Sharon Glotzer (Past Chair), Peter Olmsted (Secretary/Treasurer),  
Eric Weeks (Program Committee Chair), Michael Rubinstein, Juan de Pablo, Kathleen Stebe, Cristina Marchetti, Karen Daniels.

---

GS-E-2-1. The Fellowship committee was discussed. The By-Laws state that this shall be shared by the vice-chair (MCM). The current committed is Nicholas Abbott (Chair), Juan de Pablo, Paul Goldbart, Cristina Marchetti, Jonathan Selinger. An announcement for Fellowships will go out soon, with a deadline of 1 June 2015.

**Action: This has taken place**

GS-E-2-2. A nominating committee will be established shortly (chaired by the past-Chair SG) to have formal elections for the rotation beginning 2016, when the Chair-elect (MCM) will become Chair and the Vice-Chair position becomes vacant. Call for nominations is due by 30 April according to the bylaws, with the slate of nominations complete by 31 July. GSOFT members notified before 31 August with closing date of 15 October at the latest.

**Action: This has been established**

**Note:** Jacinta Conrad (University of Houston) has agreed to help with this.

GS-E-2-3. The Early Career Award committee was discussed. It was proposed that JdP be the next Chair of this Committee (having served as a member on the most recent award).

**Action: RK/JdP**

GS-E-2-4. A committee member (or other GSOFT member) will take charge of enhancing the membership via the Membership Ad Hoc Committee (see below).

**Action: Find Membership Chair**

GS-E-2-5. Strategies for attracting members: focus on students who will be the ultimate growth opportunity (to the APS and to GSOFT). It was noted that it is better to attract new members to APS, or students to sign up for their first groups, than to persuade more experienced APS members to add to their numerous list of groups.

- We discussed the possibility of joint ACS/APS activities, that could involve the ACS Colloid community, which has a very strong soft matter cohort.
- It was agreed that short courses would be beneficial in increasing membership, and as a fundraising opportunity.

<b>Action: KD/EW</b>
----------------------

- “Lunch with the experts” during the APS meeting, aimed at grad students [this works well for Polymer Physics GRCs, where speakers have students’ undivided attention during lunch/dinner].
- “Wednesday night talk” at the APS meeting with pizza and beer and an entertaining speaker, aimed at grad students.
- Advertise GSOF T at other meetings (e.g. Gordon Conferences, ACS, ...).
- Many people asked for ‘The GSOF T brochure’ when signing up at the GSOF T table. This would be useful for recruiting. A GSOF T bookmark was suggested. There could be other good ideas for promotional material.

If a brochure is available this summer then copies could be taken to the ACS Colloid Meeting (Pittsburgh), the Soft Matter GRC, etc.

Note: PDO approached Jesse Silverberg (research fellow at Harvard), who is willing to help design a GSOF T brochure.

- GS-E-2-6. EW noted that this year the APS GSOF T abstracts had increased by of order 50%, without drawing significantly from other groups. This was agreed upon as positive.
- GS-E-2-7. Soft Matter (RSC) would like to help GSOF T: e.g link with SM lectureship. Have prize winner publish a paper in SM?
- GS-E-2-8. We discussed a potential international prize/lecture in conjunction with partner organization(s) in the UK or the EU, which could alternate between continents [analogous to what is done between DPOLY and the UK Polymer Physics Group <http://www.aps.org/units/dpoly/awards/ukppg.cfm>].
- GS-E-2-9. The possibility of a prize winner publishing a prize-winning paper in a journal such as Soft Matter or Physical Review E was mentioned.
- GS-E-2-10. The idea of a “Graduate Student Ambassador” was mooted, who would help coordinate graduate student membership and potentially run (grad student) events at meetings.
- GS-E-2-11. SG will be running the scientific part of the March Meeting next year (Baltimore). This will feature a Kavli Symposium, for which one could have a crosscutting theme that has strong possibilities for soft matter representation (e.g. ‘defects’, ‘photonics’,

‘disordered materials’, etc). It would be useful create an ad hoc committee, probably convened by SG.

**Action: SG to coordinate**

GS-E-2-12. MR noted that there is still a need to coordinate all Soft Matter content at the APS meeting; DPOLY does a great job, but there are relevant soft talks in GSOF T, GSNP, DBIO, DFD, DPOLY (and probably more).

**Action: Volunteer needed for next year?**

GS-E-2-13. 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.

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].

**Action: Should GSOF T support this meeting?**

GS-E-2-14. Since we would like to accomplish a lot (more prizes, more members, activities at APS, larger meetings), we need more sponsors. Potential sponsors include companies (*e.g.* Solvay, Unilever, Dow, BASF, Exxon, Schlumberger, ...), journals (Springer/EPJE, PRE/APS, SM/RSC, ...).

We should prioritize different levels of funding needed, and devise an approach to various potential supporters with the different needs. All should consider possible supporters, and suggest to PDO/RK or approach informally.

**Action: All**

GS-E-2-15. Note: after the meeting EW reported that Springer/EPJE approached him and indicated willingness to support GSOF T.

GS-E-2-16. According to the by-laws GSOF T needs the following additional committees:

- (a) **Student Affairs Committee** – “A Student Affairs Committee will be appointed each year by the Past-Chair. Students and postdocs will be nominated to the Secretary-Treasurer by more senior APS members, and selected by the Executive Committee for two-year staggered terms. The Chair-Elect will chair this committee. This committee will solicit feedback from student members of the Unit with regards to programming at the Regular Meeting, tutorials and special programs of interest to the student members, and other issues related to the education, networking and career development of our student members, in an effort to best serve our student members through programming and other offerings. The Student Affairs Committee will endeavor to reflect an appropriate degree of diversity.”
- (b) **Development Ad Hoc Committee.** – “An ad hoc committee of volunteers will work with the Unit Chair and Past-Chair to raise funds for prizes and awards.”
- (c) **Membership Ad Hoc Committee** – “ An ad hoc committee of volunteers will work with the Unit Chair and Past Chair to enroll and retain members of the unit”

GS-E-2-17. **Next Meeting:** The next physical committee meeting will be held at the next APS March meeting.

GS-E-2-18. The bylaws suggest that we have at least a second meeting in the Fall by video/skype (or in person). This may be a good idea since we have so much to get moving.

**Action: RDK, PDO**

GS-E-2-19. For information, the **GSOF T Operating Procedures** (<http://www.aps.org/units/gsoft/governance/procedures.cfm>) and **By-Laws** (<http://www.aps.org/units/gsoft/governance/bylaws.cfm>) can be easily accessed.

25 March 2015

Peter Olmsted (Secretary/Treasurer)