

## PRESIDENT'S SUMMARY REPORT OF COUNCIL AND BUSINESS MEETING ACTIONS

April 10-15, 1981

Atlanta, Georgia

Earl H. Wood, President

During approximately 24 hours of discussions held over the 6-day, April 11-14 period before and during the FASEB meetings in Atlanta, Council listened to and discussed the reports from chairmen of 14 of the Society's standing committees and task forces. Since these reports were posted during the meetings and will be published in *The Physiologist*, only items of particular interest will be mentioned herein.

It is noteworthy that for the first time in several years, the Society operating fund is in the black for the present year. Consequently, no dues increase will be necessary for at least another year; however, the current high rate of inflation will make a dues increase necessary probably in 1982 unless President's Reagan's economic recovery program is phenomenally successful.

The sectionalization of the Society's journals continues to be very successful both scientifically and financially. The Society is indebted to the leadership of the Publications Committee, chaired by Dr. Alfred Fishman and the efforts of Mr. Stephen Geiger and his staff at Society headquarters for this excellent state of affairs in this predominantly important function of American Physiology.

In the area of Public Affairs, negotiations are being initiated with a legislative affairs consultant in Washington with the objective of seeking assistance in society relationships with pending legislative actions affecting physiology; initially with particular reference to animal experimentation. Society members are urged to read the discussion in the April/May 1981 issue of *The Physiologist* concerning pending legislation at both local and national levels which, if passed, would impose severe restrictions on the availability and use of laboratory animals.

In this regard, a motion was unanimously approved requesting the Committee on Animal Care and Experimentation, chaired by Helene Cecil, to organize a workshop on animal experimentation issues at the Fall Meeting in Cincinnati to be cosponsored by the Association of Chairmen of Departments of Physiology.

The Centennial Celebration Committee is actively planning and promoting historical publications and other activities in preparation for the 1987 Centennial of the Society. Their recommendation that the Centennial Meeting be held in August 1987 in Bethesda, Maryland, hosted by the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, was approved. Various agreements with the National Library of Medicine, NIH, and the Smithsonian Institutions to participate in exhibits and other contributions to this meeting are being formulated.

The critically important questions of the number and format of future meetings and associated reports of the future meetings task force and program committees and the related formation of additional specialty sections of the Society and their representation on the Program Committees were discussed at length. Subcommittees were set up to investigate these questions further and, along with the newly formed Long Range Planning Committee, formulate recommendations for consideration at future Council meetings.

The statement of Organization and Procedures of a new section on Cell and General Physiology was accepted by Council.

In relation to FASEB meetings, Council affirmed sponsorship of the Society of Mathematical Biology as a guest society for 1982 and the Society of General Physiologists for the 1984 Spring FASEB meeting in response to requests from these societies.

A proposal was received from the Biomedical Engineering Society for APS sponsorship of its application for membership in FASEB. An ad hoc committee was appointed to evaluate the apparent value of such action to APS and FASEB and formulate recommendations to Council. The Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine is polling its membership concerning the desirability of applying for membership in FASEB with APS sponsorship.

In this regard, APS representatives have been instructed by Council to sponsor a proposal at the June 1981 meeting of the FASEB Executive Committee that a method be found to eliminate duplicate assessments for individuals who are members of multiple FASEB societies.

Dr. Robert Krauss presented a proposal to Council that FASEB purchase an additional 1.6 acres of land in order to provide an additional buffer against ongoing condominium residential developments which will abut against the FASEB campus. Procurement of this land would improve the prospects of obtaining zoning permits for construction of additional office space for FASEB member societies. Despite the reservations voiced by APS Council that the depletion of reserve funds required for this purpose might interfere with early construction of badly needed new office space, this proposal was approved by the FASEB Board.

The two major provisions upon which this approval was based were 1) that initiation of the purchase be predicated on the receipt of a one million dollar grant currently under consideration by an extramural donor, and 2) that the balance of the approximately 1.5 million dollar purchase price be covered by a \$500,000 mortgage on FASEB property for a period of five years at an interest rate of 12%. The interest and principal payments on the mortgage can be met from income (currently at 20%) from current FASEB reserve funds. Successful execution of these two provisions would allow purchase of this land without an increase in assessment to FASEB members.

Opinions were expressed by Council that the role of FASEB as an umbrella organization for the Biomedical Sciences is being clarified and that APS should continue to critically monitor FASEB activities. The progressive efforts of FASEB staff to achieve a high level of cost effectiveness and responsiveness to the needs of the constituent societies and the biomedical sciences in general justify APS support of continued actions towards these ends.

FASEB's initiation of a Summer Research Conference series starting in 1982 and patterned after the Gordon Research Conferences is a move toward support of the intimate scientific communication inherent in small meetings of this type, a format favored by many scientists over the large multidisciplinary usual FASEB type spring meeting.