

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING OF
THE COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON
NOMENCLATURE, TERMINOLGY AND SYMBOLS (NTS)
WASHINGTON, D.C., AUGUST 17, 2009

Opening Remarks

Committee chair Peter F. Rusch convened the meeting at 2:05 p.m., welcoming attendees and requesting self-introductions around the table. Attendance was recorded by attendees check-marking and affirming or correcting address data on the official list of committee participants.

Persons in attendance were: Mark Benvenuto, Narayan Bhat, Jonathan Brecher, Elise Ann Brown, I Censullo, H. N. Cheng, Frank Creegan, Clark Dehne, Jerry Fenske, Mark Freilich, Carmen Giunta, Derek Horton, Bob Howell, Paul Karol, Don MaClean, Lisa Nash, Donivan Porterfield, Jeffrey Rahn, Peter Rusch, Michael Scott, Jerry Sarquis, Michael Sheets, Les Sperling, Jim Traynham, Andrzej Wilk, Tracy Williamson, and Jeffrey Wilson,

Administrative Tasks

Rusch noted the recent death of longtime NTS committee member and friend Jack Stocker and asked committee members to share their thoughts and memories. Derek Horton noted Stocker's Biochem song book, Carmen Giunta remembered Stocker's contribution as a tour speaker and the symposium he recently organized on the lighter side of chemistry, Mike Scott fondly remembered meeting Stocker at a meeting 20 years ago, and Paul Karol noted that Stocker was a true ambassador of chemistry. It was also noted that his obituary appears in the August 17, 2009 issue of C&EN.

Minutes approved with no corrections.

Agenda finalized.

Next Executive Meeting set for Monday, March 22, 2010, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m., in San Francisco, CA.

It was noted that three members the NTS Committee are members of the first class of ACS Fellows: Herb Kaesz, Jim Traynham, and H. N. Cheng.

Rusch will give an oral report (to go along with the written report in the Council agenda) to help raise the visibility of the Committee. Oral report will call attention to the topic of the redefinition of the kilogram, mention of element 112, and other activities.

Discussion on the Future of the Committee

Redefinition of the Kilogram – Symposium and Next Steps: Symposium on the redefinition of the kilogram, set for San Francisco meeting, has backing President-elect, Joe Francisco. Karol will be in charge of the symposium. Items to be considered: volunteers, summary of the situation, alternate definitions, 2011 deadline for the redefinition, how does redefinition impact chemistry (it would impact education but would have little practical impact). Frank Creegan (DivCHED) expressed his interest in contributing to the symposium. Rusch asked if the redefinition would have any impact on the publishing community.

Questions and concerns raised about the symposium: Jerry Fenske asked if there would be enough material for a presidential symposium. Clark Dehne and Karol suggested that more interest might be generated if the symposium addressed Avogadro's number or the mole, respectively. Bob Howell questioned whether the symposium could generate enough interest or would we be talking to ourselves and Jeff Wilson asked, who would really be impacted by the change. Nuclear chemists and metrologists were both suggested as possible groups who would be affected. Karol stated that NTS should get the ACS to take a position on the redefinition on the kilogram. The ACS's position could then be presented to the National Academy, which could pass the information onto CPIM and/or BPIM.

After much discussion there was a general consensus, that there would probably be enough information to hold a presidential symposium, Karol will look into this further. First major task would be to determine who are the major stakeholders. Also, it was suggested that NTS should take a formal position on the redefinition after the symposium. Abstracts would need to be submitted in mid October.

External Collaboration and Committee Resources: Albert Censullo reported that there were several opportunities but no support. Need to consider what liaisons we should have within the Society, nationally, and internationally, and why. Also, need to consider if there is a mutual interest.

Naming of Element 112 – Copernicium: Rusch described the procedure associated with naming a newly synthesized element. Scientists from the Center for Heavy Ion Research in Germany have proposed the name copernicium, symbol: Cp. Much discussion about potential problems with the name ensued with Wilson urging the Committee to not get involved. Rusch polled the Committee on whether our group should take action, 10 voted in favor, 1 voted against. There was enough committee energy to respond to IUPAC in a reasoned manner to suggest Benvenuto/Karol/others thoughts on the name. It was decided that the Committee should possibly respond to IUPAC in a reasoned manner about the concerns of Benvenuto, Karol, and others about the name, and that Karol would contact the German group informally to discuss pronunciation concerns.

Change to Standards Committee: Rusch opened discussion on whether NTS should consider becoming a standards committee. Currently, within the Society, Analytical Reagents and Professional Training both set standards. Wilson asked: "What would we produce?" Rusch suggested publications. Guinta felt the name, Committee on Standards or Standards Committee was too specific. Horton was happy with our current title, but added that we could add Standards at the end, i.e., Nomenclature, Terminology, Symbols, and Standards. Leslie Sperling agreed. Mike Scott suggested that Symbols be dropped and Standards added. It was suggested that we only make a change if it promotes the group.

Goals and Metrics: Goals and metrics reiterated with little discussion.

Task Force Reports

Nomenclature Generation Software Update: Censullo reported that optical character recognition (OCR) is being used to extract chemical structure information from printed or graphical representations of structures. He noted that much progress has been made in OCR software and provided a brief description of four representative products (KéKulé, CLiDE, OSRA, and chemoCR) on the market in a written report handed out to the committee. Currently, no products on the market are able to recognize hand drawn structures. This information will be put on the NTS website.

Nomenclature Wikipedia Entry Update: Mark Benvenuto reported that currently it is very difficult to put in a new entry but fairly easy to add references to existing nomenclature sites. Benvenuto presented three courses of action that could be taken, (i) fight to get an entry, (ii) do nothing, or (iii) reference NTS on existing nomenclature sites which requires no registration. Benvenuto would make a list of potential sites and Guinta volunteered to help with entering the references on the sites.

International Chemical Identifier – InChI: Jeffrey Rahn handed out a written report giving a general overview of InChI. The purpose and scope of InChI was addressed and examples were provided. Rahn expressed his opinion that InChI was not something that NTS Committee should be too concerned about but should be aware of.

Polymer Nomenclature: Howell reported that a new "Compendium of Polymer Terminology and Nomenclature" had been published and that former NTS Committee members Ted Wilks and Val Metanomski were editors. He noted that IUPAC has been unsuccessful in getting people to follow the rules because they are too confusing. IUPAC has prepared a 2 page report on how to use the rules.

ISO Opportunities: Herb Kaesz was not present to offer a report.

Old Business

IEEE SCC 14 Committee: Studies questions regarding quantities, units, and systems of measurement. SCC 14 maintains the American National Standard for Metric Practice, and advises all IEEE on questions regarding metric practices and the application of International System of Units (SI).

2011 International Year of Chemistry (IYC): Guinta reported that the History Division would ask Chemical Education to cosponsor a symposium at the 2011 National meeting. He noted that 2011 was the 200th anniversary of Avogadro's gas Law. It was noted that the themes for the 2011 National meetings were not a good match for IYC. Traynham suggested that a half day event for the Spring meeting might be better than the Fall meeting.

Pacificchem 2010: No commitment from the committee.

Division of Chemical Education: Committee agreed that more cosponsorship with Chemical Education was needed. A closer relationship with Chemical Education will be useful in disseminating nomenclature information to the members of the Society and society in general.

Committee Website: Donivan Porterfield volunteered to work on the website and stated that the new website software is much easier to use and will make website more dynamic. The Committee wants the website to show our worth.

New Business

Nanotech Wiki project is dead but the someone on the Committee needs to survey what is out there and determine if there is anything the Committee can do. Need to find out who is interested in Nanotech Wiki. Sperling stated that Lehigh University offers a 2-day nanotech course and would be willing to solicit possible recruits. Tracy Williamson volunteered to try to determine ACS members interest in nanotech terminology and ask what they think NTS should concentrate on and what NTS might do.

Andrzej Wilk from U.S. Pharmacopeia spoke to the Committee in search of volunteers with medicinal and pharmaceutical expertise to work on committees that help decide on the content in the agency's compendium and to help approve names of drug products. Those interested can go to USP.org for information on how to apply.

Review Actions and Conclusions

Benvenuto and Guinta will work on Wiki Nomenclature; Karol will find out if Presidential Symposium on the redefinition of the kilogram is viable; all Committee members will work on external collaborations/liaisons; no formal action on element 112 will be taken, but Karol will contact the group informally to discuss pronunciation concerns; Censullo will continue working on nomenclature software; InChI is laid to rest; Howell will work on establishing liaisons for polymer nomenclature; Guinta will continue working on 2011 IYC symposium for Anaheim meeting; Karol will work on potential publication in *J. Chem Ed.* on the kilogram/Avogadro's number; Porterfield will work on the website; Williamson will work on nanotech; and the Committee will hold its Executive Meeting in San Francisco from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 22, 2010.