

Division II: Inorganic

This report summarises activities of Division II since Beijing and some of the issues facing the Division.

Off-year Meeting, Seattle, August 2006

We had a very successful off-year meeting attended by 7TM's, 4AM's and 2NR's. Two additional AM's were due to attend but cancelled at the last minute due to (a) family bereavement and (b) travel problems. Key outcomes of the meeting are included in the summaries below. Minutes will follow in due course.

Interdivisional Sub-Committee on Materials Chemistry

This sub-committee also met in Seattle prior to the Division II meeting. In effect, the 7 attendees were drawn exclusively from Division II. We have concerns about the future of the sub-committee, in particular its status within IUPAC, its (lack of) funding, and whether its status is truly interdivisional. In many ways, it acts as a sub-committee of Division II in much the same way as the Commission 2.1 on Isotopic Abundancies and Atomic Weights. Issues discussed at the sub-committee are also included in the summaries below.

Projects

We have several current active projects which are proceeding well. We have a number of older projects which have stalled due to death or illness of the task leader and we are in the process, either of abandoning those, or seeking alternative task leaders. We have two cross-divisional projects at the approval stage, both with the Polymer Division, Division IV. Although it was hard to justify co-funding them from an inorganic perspective, our feeling was that these were excellent projects on Materials Chemistry and should be supported.

Following overtures to IUPAC from the Geology Union, IUGS, a joint IUPAC-IUGS project is now at the review stage with a Division II AM as task leader.

Conferences and Workshops

The IUPAC conference series on High Temperature Materials Chemistry continues with number HTMCXII to be held in Vienna in September 2006. Plans are already in-hand for the next conference, HTMCXIII to be held in Davis, California in 2009.

The third workshop in advanced materials WAMIII was held in Stellenbosch, South Africa in September 2005 and was regarded as a great success. Division approval has just been given for the next workshop, WAMIV to be held in Thailand in, probably, 2008.

Discovery and Naming of New Elements

The joint IUPAC-IUPAP working party on the discovery and naming of new elements has been re-activated following a considerable number of publications concerning new elements with atomic numbers in the range 112 to 117. Currently, the working party is evaluating the

literature to establish the authenticity of the claims for discovery of new elements. A progress statement may be given under item 20.

Commission 2.1: Commission on Isotopic Abundancies and Atomic Weights

Following the IUPAC decision to recognise the continued existence of Commission 2.1, and the positive response to the Division II proposal that funding from the Division II budget should be ear-marked to allow a biennial face-to-face meeting of Commission 2.1 members, there is general satisfaction with the possibility of co-ordinated, longer term planning of the future activities of the Commission.

Finances

The Division is spending more than the guidelines on non-project activities in this biennium, primarily because it is felt that we need to garner a cohort of enthusiastic TM's, AM's and NR's in order to have a vigorous and successful Division. Following the creation of Division VIII and transfer of all nomenclature-related activities to it, Division II has had not significant project interest in the traditional inorganic areas of organo-metallic and co-ordination chemistry and one of our objectives is to generate interest in projects in these areas. We now have several active and enthusiastic committee members in these areas and anticipate that projects may be forthcoming in the future.

Membership

The Division membership is settling into the three clear categories of Atoms, Molecules and Materials with a 2:4:4 split of titular membership. The Atoms group has the smallest membership but they also have guaranteed funding for Commission 2.1. The Division has had traditional membership in Materials drawn from the high temperature materials community and there is a very clear need to diversify this to encompass newer areas of Materials Chemistry.

A R West
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