

Astrophysical Chemistry Group of the RSC/RAS

1. Attendance and Apologies

Present: 13 members. Apologies were received from Prof. Wendy Brown

2. Chair's report

- The Faraday Division Interest Group Meeting was held in April 2017 in Warwick. The feedback from that meeting was positive and the RSC is looking to run a similar meeting again in 2019.
- An Faraday Discussion proposal around astrochemistry was submitted and accepted. The meeting will be held in Baltimore either in March 2020, August 2020, or March 2021. The precise date is dependent on the exact launch of the James Webb Space Telescope.

3. Secretary's report

- The membership of the astrochemistry group is currently at 232 with 20-odd RAS members. This makes us a medium-sized RSC Faraday interest group. RAS numbers are unclear, since RAS do not keep a record of this.
- We have served as one of the members of the Faraday Division council from 2014-2017.
- From the last AGM, emails have been distributed to the membership also *via* the APCHEM mailing list on Jiscmail (apchem@jiscmail.ac.uk).

4. Treasurer's report

- Balance at the end of 2017 was £629.85.

5. Elections

There were no nominations for treasurer. Prof. Mason was asked to serve for another year (Proposer: Helen Fraser, Seconder: Martin McCoustra). There were no objections, so Prof. Mason's term was extended by another year. Prof. Brown's and Prof. Sarre's terms were extended by another year by popular acclamation.

6. STFC Strategy

In April 2017 UKRI was formed. There is a focus in UKRI on challenge-led research. STFC were asking for input on the strategy going forwards. An email on that was sent

out *via* the APCHEM mailing list. A number of things are clear from the formation of UKRI.

- Best practice will be rolled out across the Research Councils.
- There will be more pressure on interdisciplinary research.
- STFC is facing some “real challenges.”

7. Brexit

A discussion about Brexit was held, but no clear conclusions was reached.

8. Past and Upcoming Meetings

Past Meetings

Support (either in kind or monetary) has been given in the past year to:

- Prof. McCoustra and Prof. Brown attended to the KIDA meeting in Bordeaux in September.
- A symposium was held to honour David Williams’ 80th birthday at RAS in September 2017.

Upcoming Meetings

- There will be a lab astrochemistry session at ECOSS in September 2018.
- There will be an IAU B5 Lab astrochemistry meeting at Jesus College, Oxford from 15-20 April 2019.

9. Any other business

- Dr. Ioppolo proposed that the next AGM will be held at QMU at the start of 2019. This proposal was accepted.