

SIVB BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
TUCSON, ARIZONA
JUNE 13-14, 2008

1.0 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

- 1.1 Review of Board responsibilities.
- 1.2 Adoption of minutes.
- 1.3 Adoption of agenda.
- 1.4 Outstanding action items.

Meeting called to order on June 14 at 8:08 am by Todd Jones.

2.0 2008 WORLD CONGRESS UPDATE

- 2.1 Meeting statistics. David Ellis discussed the cost to bring in the Keynote speaker. Richard Heller indicated that we were short by approx. \$8K for this session and will talk with the Section Chairs about this. David asked Marietta Ellis if Dr. Swaminathan's talk had been advertised in the local news papers. He will work with her to generate a press release that can be sent to the local papers and television stations. Marietta referred to the meeting statistics in section 2 of the Board packet. There are 250 abstracts compared to 183 in 2007 and 350 at the last World Congress (2004). There are 100 fewer paid registrants compared to 2004. There are also fewer displays but we nearly reached the goal of 10 (have 9). Michael Horn suggested that we try to tap new exhibitors at the 2010 joint meeting with the IAPB (International Association of Plant Biotechnology) since there will be a great number in attendance there. Richard Heller suggested that if companies pay to put on workshops at our meetings, they should be allowed to display products. This also gives us more to offer the meeting attendees as well. Paul Price indicated that Sigma will be active at the 2009 meeting. Nancy Reichert suggested that we honor the exhibitors who have been with us for a long time.

David Songstad and Barbara Doonan were thanked for securing beer and wine donations, respectively, for the socials. Marietta indicated that we made our room block of 1035 and that the hotel has been very accommodating. The meeting appears to be in great shape. Both David Ellis and Marietta were applauded for their efforts.

- 2.2 Fundraising. John Harbell referred to the donation list in section 2 of the Board packet. With recent unlisted donations, the total contributions for the meeting totaled \$98,604. It was recommended that the Society apply for USDA and NSF funds in alternate years. Elizabeth Roemer suggested that we approach Bigelow Tea (Charleston-based company) for a donation, perhaps silent auction items for the 2009 meeting.

3.0 TREASURER'S REPORT

- 3.1 Barbara Doonan referred to the financial statements in section 3 of the Board packet. They appear to be in great shape. Richard Heller noted that the change in net unrestricted assets from December 2006 (\$53K in red) vs. 2007 (\$9K in red) is striking. Plus, we would have been in the black had we received Springer's 4th quarter payment. We will be \$20-30K in the black by the end of 2008. This is a phenomenal turn-around since bankruptcy was a real fear just four years ago. Partnering with Springer will also strengthen the SIVB.
- 3.2 April financial statements. Marietta Ellis referred to the April financial statements in section 3 of the Board packet. Net unrestricted assets changed from \$10K in the red in 2007 to nearly \$41K in the black in 2008. She also referred to the Section accounts and their 2007 expenses. The Sections will receive accounting reports on a quarterly basis.
- 3.3 SIVB Foundation update. Todd Jones said that since the Board wanted to establish an internal endowment fund under the SIVB umbrella instead of set up a separate Foundation, he suggested that a standing oversight committee be established which would mean a change in the bylaws. Prior to this, he recommended that an ad hoc committee be formed to determine the make-up and charge of the standing committee. Richard Heller said that a key question that will need to be addressed is who has control of the funds, the oversight committee or the Board? Marietta suggested that some of the Funds for the Future could be used to pay expenses during this planning process. Todd suggested that past and current Board members be part of this Ad Hoc Oversight Committee. Members will include Todd, David Altman, John Harbell, Richard Heller and William Smith.

4.0 MEETING UPDATE

- 4.1 2009 meeting update. David Songstad will be the 2009 Program Chair. Marietta Ellis referred to section 4 in the Board packet which listed items in the signed hotel contract. Rooms will be \$165 per night, and will include free airport shuttle, free full breakfast, and free cocktails at nightly Manager's reception. Shuttles to downtown will cost \$5. Attendees can arrive up to two nights early which will contribute to the room block. Food charges at the off-site venue (planned to be a plantation) can be applied to the hotel food minimum charge.

Student attendance was discussed. Wayne Parrott indicated that there may be a large number of students since many universities are within driving distance (Clemson, North Carolina State University, University of Georgia, to name a few). It was suggested that early student registration should be encouraged and those submitting abstracts should be given priority registration. If student funds are depleted, they could be charged \$100 or we could increase student initiative fund raising efforts. Richard Heller said that we should determine how many of the students who took advantage of free registration/membership stayed as paying members. Since this initiative has been ongoing since the 2003 meeting, there should be data available. The Secretary will be in charge of collecting/collating data to present statistics to the Board on an annual basis.

The Local Organizing Committee includes Maud Hinchee and Lia Campbell. Potential Keynote speakers were discussed including Robb Horsch (Gates Foundation) and David Smoller (Sigma, Charleston). David Songstad indicated the need to identify a Keynote speaker early in the planning process.

- 4.2 2010 meeting update. Todd Jones referred to section 4 of the Board packet. We have a MOU (memorandum of understanding) with the IAPB. We will structure the meeting to be a joint plant and IVACS (In Vitro Animal Cell Sciences) meeting and hope it is a good joint event. This will not be an expensive meeting like the joint one held in Orlando in 2002, although the registration will be approx. \$600. We will also be allowed to fund-raise as opposed to the 2002 arrangement. Since the net revenue split from the meeting will be based on society affiliation of attendees (SIVB or IAPB), our members MUST check the SIVB box.

Richard Heller said that a large number of students taking advantage of the student initiative could be to our advantage, numbers-wise. However, there was concern about how many students our funds could accommodate. A long discussion ensued. Michael Horn suggested that all IVACS students be fully funded. For the free registration for PBS students: abstracts will be required and their major professor must be a SIVB member. Students whose abstracts are accepted will be given fellowships that will cover their meeting registration. We need to be specific about these requirements and that free student registration is not automatic as in the past. Todd Jones will need to work out the specifics regarding student registration with Roger Beachy. Todd said that Roger will put together his planning committee in the near future. Marietta Ellis would like to be on the Logistics Committee. David Ellis said that the SIVB should get a free booth at the meeting and that the SIVB logo should be included on all IAPB meeting flyers and announcements. Wayne Parrott said that the Sections should start developing their 2010 programs now.

5.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 5.1 Membership. Todd Jones noted that, in general, there has been a downward trend in membership since 2004 (2004=967, 2005=870, 2006=759, 2007=677). We should break out the Section numbers to compare the rates of decline to develop strategies to maintain current members and attract new ones.
- 5.2 Emeritus ratification. Todd Jones referred to David Jayme's request for Emeritus status. **Barbara Reed moved, and Paul Price seconded, that David Jayme be awarded Emeritus status. MOTION PASSED (11:0:0).** Emeritus status allows members to receive the journal (print copy, costs SIVB \$37). Richard Heller suggested that Emeritus members be allowed to choose between print or online versions of the journal. William Smith suggested that the Publications Committee look into this and that Springer should be asked for their opinion.

The names of members who died between June 2007 and May 2008 were also read. A question arose in regard to who in the SIVB should be notified about member deaths.

The Secretary and Section Chairs should be notified and notices should be put in the In Vitro Report.

- 5.3 Awards SOP (standard operating procedure). Pamela Weathers discussed the student award process and that it is functioning well. She was concerned about the proposed extra layer of oversight that the approved Awards SOP (section 5 of Board packet) added to efficient processing of student awards. **Pamela Weathers moved, and Elizabeth Roemer seconded, that point number 5 under Operating Mechanisms be changed to “SIVB Awards Committee will review all non-student award rankings from the respective committees and submit its proposal to the SIVB BOD for approval. Committee membership include: Awards Committee Chair, PBS: Chair + 2 appointed members, IVACS: Chair + two appointed members”, and that the arrow between Student Awards and Awards Committee Review be removed from the Approval Flow Chart. MOTION PASSED (11:0:0).**

David Ellis suggested that information about the Distinguished Service Award be included in the Awards SOP. **Elizabeth Roemer moved, and Pamela Weathers seconded, that the Distinguished Service Award be added under the Scope section of the Awards SOP with the following description – “Purpose: The Distinguished Service Award acknowledges a member’s extraordinary service to the SIVB, Eligibility: Eligibility is at the discretion of the President, Proposed limits: No limits are recommended.” MOTION PASSED (11:0:0).**

6.0 PUBLICATIONS

- 6.1 Publications update. Michael Horn indicated that Barbara Reed (new Publications Chair) has been participating and referred to section 6 of the Board packet. The transition to Springer has gone fairly smoothly, but many issues arose. Most major issues were resolved and the issue with BioOne is also now resolved. We need to draft a letter to BioOne or else the contract is automatically renewed. The deadline is in August. Currently, the BioOne payments are forwarded to Springer and are put toward our minimum. With Springer as the sole source for journal article downloads, we hope to go above the minimum which will mean more funds going to the SIVB. Michael also indicated that Springer wants a long-term relationship with the SIVB and we shouldn't be shy especially if journal revenues go much higher than minimums.

Wayne Parrott indicated that IV-P (In Vitro Cellular and Developmental Biology-Plant), needed to be listed in PubMed, which currently won't include the journal due to a low impact factor. Guy Smagghe said that perhaps changing the ISI category it is listed under could help. Richard Heller said that reviews/method papers were good as they counted for two years if published in January or February. Michael Horn indicated that all review papers are free open access to everybody which Springer is OK with to help increase the impact factors of both journals. All other articles can go open access immediately if the author(s) pay \$3K. Dwight Tomes suggested that we aggressively attempt to increase the number of pages in IV-A (-Animal), and that IV-P is pushing for high quality and quantity papers. William Smith indicated that since page charges for IV-A end this year, the number of submissions should increase.

David Ellis suggested that when meeting abstracts are submitted, the authors should automatically be sent an email with a PDF containing author instructions for IV-A or IV-P.

Dwight Tomes indicated that for IV-P, submission rates and rejection rates are high (increasing stringency of acceptance), and there are increased submissions from China and India. However, the tardiness of publishing the IAPB journal has impacted the timely publication of the IV-P journal. The Editor-in-Chief transition has been smooth with weekly meetings between Dwight and Greg Phillips. Dwight is now handling all new submissions while Greg finishes previous ones. Michael Horn said that we owe Greg a tremendous debt of gratitude and he should be acknowledged at the Business Meeting. Barbara Reed had nothing to report except that Nancy Reichert is the new ExPlants Editor.

Michael Horn referred to the draft Editor-in-Chief contract in section 6 of the Board packet. Dwight noted that the Springer funds for editorial assistance should be allowed to be used to pay for an assistant even if the assistant is the Editor-in-Chief and should also be used for meeting attendance. **Elizabeth Roemer moved, and Paul Price seconded, that the contract be approved with the following modification: under section 3.c. Editorial Office Stipend, “These funds can be used to employ an Editorial Assistant, and other necessary expenses including travel to the SIVB annual meeting.” MOTION PASSED (11:0:0).**

6.2 Springer reports. Both Springer Publishers Reports for IV-A and IV-P were included in the Board packet.

7.0 SECTION UPDATES

7.1 In Vitro Animal Cell Sciences Section (IVACS) update. Dennis Laska indicated that there were challenges regarding lack of manuscript submissions to IV-A and decreasing membership even with strong scientific programs. He will seek input and go back to the Section’s roots by doing more teaching/training. They will reposition their scientific program to provide training then follow with talks on the scientific applications. Section funding is in reasonable shape.

7.2 Plant Biotechnology Section update. Peggy Ozias-Akins said that Wayne Parrott was instrumental in bringing the two Sections together. The Section has done well financially and Fredy Altpeter secured >\$42K in contributions. Now it’s Michael Spencer’s turn then Kan Wang. A new student poster competition was initiated last year and this year, postdocs were included. There were 49 abstract submissions for the competition. Wayne indicated that changes made to the Section’s bylaws make them more similar to IVACS bylaws.

8.0 OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Annual Report approval. It was noted that the Fellows should be listed as SIVB Fellows and that the IVACS poster winners should be included under the awards

category. **Barbara Reed moved, and Pamela Weathers seconded, that the 2007 Annual Report be approved as amended. MOTION PASSED (11:0:0).**

8.2 SIVB Business Meeting agenda. A report by the Education Committee was added to the agenda. **Barbara Doonan moved, and Pamela Weathers seconded, that the Business Meeting agenda be adopted as amended. MOTION PASSED (11:0:0).**

8.3 Assignments and review action items. Nancy Reichert read new action items.

ACTION ITEMS

1. An Ad Hoc Oversight Committee was formed to recommend the mechanics of a standing oversight committee to oversee an internal endowment fund. Members are David Altman, John Harbell, Richard Heller, Todd Jones, and William Smith. William is the contact person.
2. The Secretary will take charge of monitoring statistics on students continuing to sustain SIVB membership and their attendance at meetings, and will present the statistics to the Board annually. John Finer is the contact person.

ADJOURNMENT

Pamela Weathers moved, and Mark Jordan seconded, that the Board meeting be adjourned. **MOTION PASSED (11:0:0).** Meeting adjourned at 1:36 pm (lunch break lasted 43 minutes).