

SIVB BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
March 6, 2021

Participants: Allan Wenck (President), John Harbell (Past President), Addy Alt-Holland (President Elect), Piero Barone (Vice President), Sukhpreet Sandhu (Secretary), Barbara Doonan (Treasurer), Kan Wang (Member-at-Large-PB), Todd Jones (Member-at-Large-PB), Michael Dame (Member-at-Large-IVACS), Cynthia Goodman (Member-at-Large-IVACS), Raj Deepika Chauhan (Program Chair), Michael Fay (Publications Chair), Wayne Parrott (Public Policy Chair), Marietta Wheaton Saunders (Managing Director), Maria Jenderek (For Awards discussion), and Michele Schultz (for Publications discussion)

The Meeting was called to order at 10am (EST) on **March 6, 2021. The meeting was convened by phone/zoom.**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Adoption of Minutes

The Board of Directors reviewed the minutes from the October 2020 Board of Directors Meeting.

Motion: A motion was made to adopt the minutes from the October 2020 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded and passed.

1.2 Adoption of Agenda

The Board of Directors reviewed the agenda for the March 2021 Board of Directors Meeting.

Motion: A motion was made to adopt the agenda for the March 2021 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded and passed.

1.3 Outstanding action items

The secretary read the outstanding action items and the board members gave updates.

OUTSTANDING ACTION ITEMS:

Outstanding Action items from the June 2016 Board Meeting

1. Action Item: Recommendation for the Long-Range Planning Committee to evaluate and develop programs targeting groups (e.g., postdocs) to join SIVB and forward those programs to Membership Committee. **2020 February Update:** No new updates. **2020 June Update:** Allan, Addy and Vivian will work together to make some recommendations. **2020 October Update:** Allan, Addy and Vivian presented some recommendations, but continued discussion is needed. The action item is **ongoing**.

Outstanding Action Items from October 2017 BOD meeting

2. Action Items: John Harbell the public policy committee approach Greg Davis at Sigma to help to write a public policy on GE animals. **2019 September Update:** John, does not feel qualified to take a lead on this point. Wayne suggested Alison L. Van Eenennaam to assist on drafting the position. Wayne will send John H. her contact information. **2020 February Update:** Wayne has sent John a few potential contacts and John is communicating with those contacts. **2020 June Update:** John has drafted a public policy statement with Alison L. Van Eenennaam but it remains to be figured out how this will be published. **2020 October Update:** John indicated that the plan is to have plenary session and engage members in this dialogue to tackle the issue of off target effects of gene editing and also draft the policy statement. The action item is **ongoing. March 2021 Meeting: The action item is COMPLETE.**

New Action Item: Finalize a position paper in response to the USDA.

A policy statement has been put together. But the statement should be published. There will be a session that Piero is convening. Alison has accepted to talk at this session.

Outstanding Action items made at the SIVB BOD Meeting June, 2018

3. Action item: Marietta will contact Albert Kausch as Education Chair to assist the students in next year's competition and to help formalize the process. **2019 September Update:** The Business Office will be preparing a draft SOP for the competition for Albert and the students review and revise to fit the program. **2020 February Update:** This information has been prepared and is being distributed to the Student Co-chairs and last year's poster competition organizers to assist with the 2020 Poster Presentation Competition. **2020 June Update:** Marietta and Brad will take this further for the 2021 meeting. **2020 October Update:** Marietta will provide a new protocol to accommodate the changes to Brad and the 2021 Student Co-Chairs. This item is **ongoing**. **March 2021 Update:** There will be no competition in 2021. The competition will be kept in the program agenda for 2022. **Due to the change of the 2021 meeting to a virtual format, this competition will not be held. The information will be provided to the Student Co-Chairs for the 2022 meeting in San Diego. This action item is COMPLETE.**

Outstanding Action Items (March 2019 BOD Meeting)

4. Action item: The Development Committee will work to getting the past and current student co-chairs involved in grant writing for session support. **2020 February Update:** The students will be included on email communications as the grant writing proceeds. The action item is **ongoing**. **2020 June Update:** Student involvement in grant writing was limited due to the tight time frame in which the last grant was developed. Piero will take this up with Max and Sadanand to increase student involvement in grant writing process. **2020 October Update:** Sadanand is working on a 1-pg for the NSF grant submissions. Student Co-chairs will be involved in the next stage. This item is **ongoing**. **March 2021 Update:** The 1 page is complete. Student co-chair will be involved in the next steps. **This action is on-going.**

Outstanding Action (2019 September BOD Meeting)

5. Action Item: After the 2022 Hotel contract is signed, **Marietta** will look into Asheville, NC; Portland, ME; Savannah, GA; and Athens, GA for the 2023 meeting. **2020 February Update:** This process will begin when the 2022 Meeting contracts are signed. This item is **ongoing**. **2020 June Update:** Due to COVID-19, we had to switch gears and this will be discussed during this meeting. **2020 October Update:** Due to the change of the 2021 Meeting to a virtual format, we have secured contracts at Norfolk for 2023 and 2025 and are currently negotiation for a 2029 agreement. The next Annual Meeting location to be determined is for 2024 which is a World Congress and will need to be on the West Coast. **This action item is complete.**

Outstanding Action (2020 June BOD Meeting)

6. Action Item: Deepika will ensure to invite USDA/FDA representatives for panel discussion on stakeholder input on gene editing in animals/plants. **2020 October Update:** Deepika will connect with Anne Saltarikos regarding the same and get some feedback on the speakers. This action is **ongoing**. **March 2021 Update:** There was a change in the convener and Deepika working on identifying a speaker from Industry (Benson Hill) besides Alison van Eanemmen. **The action is COMPLETE.**

7. Action Item: Marietta will look at St. Louis, Grand Rapids, Memphis, Savannah, Asheville and possibly Portland to help narrow down the location for 2023 Meeting. She will present a summary of the pros and cons based on the criteria discussed in the meeting. **2020 October Update:** This action is **on-going**. **March 2021 Update: This action is COMPLETE.**

Action Items from (2020 October BOD Meeting)

8. Action Item: SIVB to create an Ad Hoc Social Engagement Committee as a team with each person having a specific responsibility. **March 2021 Update:** Related to action item 11. Allan has engaged a fresh post-doc and discussed the criteria for social engagement responsibilities. A Social Engagement Ad Hoc Committee met on February 19 by Zoom to discuss the Social presence of the SIVB and begin a discussion on the goals the Committee would be looking to fulfill. In attendance were Allan Wenck, Addy Alt-Holland, Michael Fay, Sylvia Mitchell, Christopher Bagley, Sarbesh Das Dangol, Marietta Wheaton Saunders and Michele Schultz. Allan will be confirming with Christopher and Sarbesh if they are willing to formally become the Co-Chairs of the committee. Items discussed included the current LinkedIn SIVB's Organization page, LinkedIn SIVB Group page owned by Todd Jones, potential other venues such as Instagram and YouTube, reviewing potential modifications to the current site setups, and creation of social media information to help "train" our members how to like and share content in and across platforms. **This action is complete.**

9. Action Item: Piero will take up the advertisement of the 2021 In Vitro Meeting in the Development Committee as an effort to increase our presence on the different social media platforms. Piero will coordinate with the Business Office. **March 2021 Update:** The Business Office provided flyers for the meeting to Piero and the Development Committee for disbursement. Piero will continue to advertise, already done a big job. **This action is on-going.**

10. Action Item: Marietta to send an attendees list from the 2020 meeting be shared with the Board. **March 2021 Update:** This list was sent to the board on February 26. **This action is complete.**

11. Action Item: The SIVB President will appoint a chair for an Ad Hoc Social Engagement Committee. This position can be open to Regular, Post Doc or Student members. **March 2021 Update: This action is complete.**

12. Action Item: John to write an article for the In Vitro Report to highlight the Len Schiff article about the SIVB and other historical content on the SIVB website. **March 2021 Update: This action item is COMPLETE.**

13. Action Item: The Business Office will ask Editorial Manager if line numbers can be added to manuscripts that are submitted in IVA for review before they are converted to PDF. **March 2021 Update:** The Business Office reached out to Editorial Manager and were able to have them activate a function that added line numbers to manuscripts as they were transitioned to pdfs for review. **This action item is complete.**

14. Action Item: The Business Office will work toward updating the committee pages to include a description of the committee and images of the chairs. **March 2021 Update:** The Business Office has begun to add the photos of Committee Chairs to the pages and has been working on finalizing descriptions of the Committees to place on the various pages. There are a few Committee Chairs from whom we need pictures, and we are reaching out to those committee chairs at this time. **This action item is on-going.**

15. Action Item: The Business Office to move the search button on the website to the top of the search bar so it is more easily accessible. **March 2021 Update: This action item is COMPLETE.**

16. Action Item: The Business Office will revise the main sivb.org site's menu headers so the top-level menu items will not link to a live page, but rather have the content as a submenu item. **March 2021 Update: This action item is COMPLETE.**

17. Action Item: Marietta will look in to putting mission and vision on the SIVB website. **March 2021 Update: This action item is COMPLETE.**

New Action Item: Marietta will move the mission, vision and values to a separate tab for increase visibility.

New Action Item: Board to discuss inclusion and diversity at the next meeting in June.

18. Action Item: The Business Office will look to revise the “About SIVB” page to bullet out the research topics for more visibility and searchability for SEO. **March 2021 Update: This action item is COMPLETE.**

19. Action Item: Cindy and Lucy will discuss options for additional webinar content from the 15th International Conference and look to provide a program for members. **March 2021 Update:** New ideas on the channel, whether webinar or podcast. Cindy suggested to discuss with the Social Engagement Committee. **This action item is on-going.**

20. Action Item: Piero will provide Marietta with a list of companies that may be a good fit for creating webinars for SIVB members. **March 2021 Update: This action item is on-going.**

21. Action Item: The Business Office will look for an appropriate way to add details regarding Life Membership to the website. **March 2021 Update:** It is on the website under membership. **This action item is COMPLETE.**

21. Action Item: The Business Office will revise the main sivb.org site’s menu headers so the top-level menu items will not link to a live page, but rather have the content as a submenu item. **This action item is complete.**

22. Action Item: Marietta will look in to putting mission and vision on the SIVB website. **March 2021 Update:** A new page including the mission, vision, and guiding values of the organization has been added to the website at <https://sivb.org/about-sivb/sivb-mission.html>. This item is included under the “About” dropdown menu on the website. **This action item is complete.**

23. Action Item: The Business Office will look to revise the “About SIVB” page to bullet out the research topics for more visibility and searchability for SEO. **This action item is complete.**

26. Action Item: The Business Office will look for an appropriate way to add details regarding Life Membership to the website. **March 2021 Update:** The Business Office has added a new page named “SIVB Membership Dues” which lists all membership types and their current rates including how one can become a life member. It has been placed in the “Membership” menu dropdown and the direct link to the page is <https://sivb.org/sivb-membership-dues.html>. **This action item is complete.**

1.4 Deceased Members/Emeritus Ratification

The board was notified of the passing of two emeritus members of SIVB, Valerie Williamson Weed and William J. Thomas. John Harbell noted Sandra Schneider’s passing in 2020. Wayne Parrott noted that Glenn Collins passed away in 2020.

Motion: Accept the Emeritus Status of Thomas J. Flynn. The motion was seconded and passed.

Motion: Accept the Emeritus Status of Jack Widholm. The motion was seconded and passed.

2.0 TREASURER’S REPORT

Finance Update:

Barbara Doonan provided an update of the finance update for December 2020 financials as per the information shared with the board in the packet. Barbara applauded the efforts of the Program Committee for the smooth transition to virtual event, maintaining the quality of the meeting and

keeping within budget. Barbara pointed out that financial figures to SIVB's good financial health. Barbara and Marietta have been working with the accounting firm since the change and that has been challenging. Overall in good financial shape. We are working towards the \$1M despite the challenges. Marietta noted good investments to the Society in 2020. Also the royalties from the Journals, especially from the Animal Journal have been a substantial amount. Kan Wang brought up the question about investment strategy and Marietta explained that it is a conservative investment strategy.

3.0 SIVB IN VITRO ONLINE MEETING UPDATE

3.1 Program Update:

Deepika provided an update. Information shared in the packet. All the plant and animal symposia are set, except for a couple where title are awaited. The Joint Symposia had to be cancelled due to lack of speakers for this session. Deepika and Piero put together another session instead as listed on page.

Question raised about silent abstracts and discussed pursued. Cindy gave report on the Invertebrate Conference and she is very pleased with the transition from live to virtual meetings. Deepika noted an article will be published on in the In Vitro Report.

3.2 Meeting Update: Marietta gave an update on the transition to a virtual meeting including the tag line. Following the October Board of Directors Meeting, the Executive Committee reviewed the hotel contract and the current news regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. In early December, SIVB approached the hotel to see if we could cancel the contract without penalty, but the hotel was not amenable. We were too far out to invoke the Force Majeure clause and the hotel felt that they could support the event with social distancing. The Business Office worked with the hotel to reduce the cancellation fee from \$75,726 to \$98,443.80 per the original contract down to \$50,000 with the caveat that we would negotiate a new agreement with the hotel for 2023. The Business Office further negotiated to have the Hilton apply \$15,000 of the cancellation fee to the 2023 contract, another \$15,000 to apply as the deposit toward the negotiation of a contract at the Hilton in Norfolk for 2025, and a \$13,000 to apply to a deposit on a third contract for the 2029 SIVB meeting. After the Business Office completed negotiations that allowed us to keep all of our concessions with a only slightly increased room rate for each contract, the 2023 and 2025 contracts were approved by the Executive Committee and the Board prior to signature by the Treasurer. The 2029 contract is currently under discussion.

The Business Office worked with the Executive Committee and Program Committee to find a new name to rebrand the event to clearly indicate that this would be a more interactive and vital virtual event. The committee chose to proceed with the tag of "In Vitro OnLine," playing with the concept of the whole event being at your fingertips. Following this, the Business Office had a new logo designed with feedback from Piero. The Website was updated to complete the rebranding of the event.

The Business Office worked with Cadmium CD and the confirmed production company, EZ AV to make the arrangements to produce and present the 2021 virtual program and negotiate the best possible costs while still offering a quality product. Presentations, if not part of the simu-live program, will be released in real time with the speakers logged into their moderation screen to view and address questions from the attendees as they are posed. They will not appear visibly on the screen but will be addressing questions during the time of their presentation. The Business Office will be working with the session conveners to determine which symposia may require additional interaction and will look to moving those sessions to Remo or some other similar mechanism, if necessary.

Marietta shared the 2021 meeting statistics. Registration as of February 26 is at 173, which is slightly

lower than last year's meeting around this same time at 175. Registration is down by 15 members, 1 nonmember, 6 research technicians, 3 Post Docs, and 9 speaker(free) registrants. We are up by 15 group registrants and 1 emeritus and we have 49 free student registrations. Abstract submission are down significantly compared to the same time last year. We are down by 19 student and 44 regular abstracts and are up by 6 speaker abstracts. Following this meeting, they will continue to send out broadcast emails on alternating topics reminding members of the March 31 deadline for poster abstract submission and to register for the meeting.

The Business Office came up with an exhibition plan for the virtual meeting utilizing Cadmium CD's Exhibitor Harvester and Virtual Exhibit Expo. There would be two levels of exhibitor, similar to the two levels we offer to our in-person exhibitors, which vary based on the number of URL links, PDFs, and videos exhibitors will be allowed to upload to enhance their virtual booth. The hours for the designated exhibition time were reduced to 4.5 required hours with the exhibitors having the ability to schedule video chats with attendees at any time outside the advertised exhibition hours. This limited the required responsibilities of the exhibitors during the meeting while providing them with the greatest flexibility to reach their potential audience. We also invited exhibitors to participate in the virtual receptions to allow them the opportunity to casually reach out to attendees that might have wandered by their booth if there was an in-person event.

3.3. Fundraising Update

Piero gave the fundraising update. Excellent progress in contributions raised. We have almost the same amount as last year. Many contributions from PBS, including new company entrants e.g. Plastomics.

3.4 Student Update

Evan and Alperen provided an update on the workshop. The workshop will include 2 talks, both pre-recorded. Also the Q&A will be pre-recorded. A survey will be sent out to the students.

4.0 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 AND 2029 MEETING UPDATES

4.1 2022 Meeting Update To prevent any penalties due to SIVB cancelling the contract for the 2020 World Congress on In Vitro Biology in-person meeting, the SIVB has negotiated a new contract with the Town and Country San Diego for the 2022 meeting. During the negotiations, the Town and Country noted that it would need the SIVB to release meeting space at the end of the day on Tuesday, June 7. This allowed SIVB to negotiate lower hotel and food costs, so we agreed to the adjustment. This means that the scientific program for 2022 will end on Tuesday, June 7 and there will be morning scientific tours provided on Wednesday, June 8. It is possible that there may be additional scientific sessions held on Saturday, June 4.

Suggestions for Program Chair were Mae or Kolla and Board agreed.

Action Item: Michael Fay will contact Mae and follow up with the Board on her acceptance.

4.2 2023 Meeting Update: To reduce the penalties due to SIVB cancelling the contract for the in-person 2021 In Vitro Biology Meeting, the SIVB has negotiated a new contract with the Hilton Norfolk the Main for the 2023 meeting. By doing so, we have been able to apply \$15,000 of the \$50,000 charged cancellation fee as a deposit on the 2023 meeting. The dates of the meeting were

To further reduce the penalties due to SIVB cancelling the contract for the in-person 2021 In Vitro Biology Meeting, the SIVB has negotiated a contract with the Hilton Norfolk the Main for the 2025 meeting. By doing so, we have been able to apply another \$15,000 of the \$50,000 charged cancellation fee as a deposit on the 2025 meeting. During the negotiations, the Business Office worked with the Hilton Norfolk The Main to increase the amount that could be applied to the deposit from the cancellation fee while keeping all of our concessions. One of the ways it was able to do so was by releasing the meeting space at the end of the day on Tuesday, June 10. This means that the scientific program for 2025 will end on Tuesday, June 10 and there will be morning scientific tours provided on Wednesday, June 11. It is possible that there may be additional scientific sessions held on Saturday, June 7.

2025 Meeting Update: To even further reduce the penalties due to SIVB cancelling the contract for the in-person 2021 In Vitro Biology Meeting, the SIVB is negotiating a third contract with the Hilton Norfolk the Main for the 2029 meeting. By doing so, we will be able to apply another \$13,000 of the \$50,000 charged cancellation fee as a deposit on the 2029 meeting. In the Hilton's original offer, they only suggested that they would provide an additional \$5,000 as a deposit, but the Business Office was able to negotiate the higher amount due to potential changes to the length of the meeting, similarly to the 2025 meeting. Final concessions are being determined at this time and will be approved by the Executive Committee prior to a contract being signed. It is expected that they will be very similar to the concessions and required Food and Beverage minimum as the 2025 agreement with the exception of a new clause regarding a review of the actual guestroom and meeting space usage in 2025 to determine if a potential increase or decrease in 2029 is warranted.

2029 Meeting Update: While the SIVB has had to pay out \$50,000, upon the completion of a 2029 contract, \$43,000 of this amount will be applied to deposits on future SIVB meetings and the cancellation of the in-person 2021 In Vitro Biology Meeting will have only incurred a loss with the hotel of \$7,000.

4.3 2024 World Congress: At the last board meeting, the board suggested the following locations for the 2024 World Congress on In Vitro Biology for the Business Office to begin to research: St Louis, Portland, San Diego, Vancouver, Las Vegas, San Antonio, and Seattle. World Congresses are traditionally held on the West Coast.

With the additional responsibilities due to the conversion of the 2021 meeting to a both virtual and live event, the Business Office has not yet begun to reach out to new cities, but this will begin in earnest immediately following SIVB 2021: In Vitro OnLine so an update can be provided to the board by the Fall meeting.

Suggestions for St Louis, Portland, San Diego, Vancouver and Las Vegas, San Antonio, Seattle.

5.0 AWARDS

5.1 STUDENT AWARDS

With the change of the 2021 meeting to a virtual event, the Executive Committee reviewed the available Student Awards to determine whether they should be offered in 2021. Last year, all awardees had been chosen and the recipients notified prior to the transition to a virtual program, so the Executive Committee voted to present all student awards to their recipients as long as the student properly completed their presentation for the meeting (upload and audio recording). Certificates and award funds were mailed to the each of the winners

after the close of the meeting.

This year, the transition occurred prior to the deadline for submitting 2021 student award applications and there had been no promises made to applicants regarding which awards they could receive. Most awards are for quality presentations. Since students can still make their presentations online, the Business Office has modified language of the Cellular Toxicology Award, Joseph F. Morgan Award and John S. Song Award for this year to remove the requirement to provide travel expenses in their application; however, the Student Travel Award is specifically for travel expenses.

The Executive Committee voted to not offer the Student Travel Award in 2021. Due to the fact that the amount available in the Student Travel Award Fund does not support the funds required support each year's recipients, it was stated that there will be no additional funds offered in 2022.

The full list of student awards being offered for 2021 is as follows:

- Gordon Sato and Wally McKeehan Award (2 recipients)
- Cellular Toxicology Award
- Wilton R. Earle Award
- Honor B. Fell Award
- Hope E. Hopps Award
- Joseph F. Morgan Award
- Philip R. White Award
- John S. Song Award

The Student Awards Committee was informed that if after reviewing the applications, they determine that there is not an appropriate candidate to receive a specific award, they do not have to present that award to anyone this year; nor should the Committee feel obligated to present an award to every candidate, unless their application warrants it.

Maria Jenderek joined the call to present the recommendations of the Award Committee regarding the nominations received for 2021. There were total 7 nominations. Prior to the discussion, Cynthia Goodman and Addy Alt- Holland recused themselves.

5.2 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Cynthia Goodman was recommended by the Awards Committee to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Motion: Present Cynthia Goodman with the Lifetime Achievement Award. The motion was seconded and passed.

5.3. FELLOW AWARD

Addy Alt-Holland and Vivian Dayeh were recommended by the Awards Committee to receive the Fellow Award.

Motion: Present Addy Alt-Holland with the Fellow Award. The motion was seconded and passed.

Motion: Present Vivian Dayeh with the Fellow Award. The motion was seconded and passed.

5.4 DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST

For Ian Curtis nomination, a discussion pursued after the question raised by Kan Wang. Several Board members questioned the scientific merits and accomplishments listed. Discussion also pursued on the need to revisit the nomination criteria. Board decisions regarding this nomination were put on hold for further discussion.

Action Item: Allan Wenck to have additional discussion with the board to determine a final vote regarding this nomination.

5.5 EARLY CAREER AWARD

Jessica Rupp and Daysha Ferrer Torres were recommended by the Awards Committee to receive the Early Career Award.

Motion: Present Jessica Rupp with the Early Career Award. The motion was seconded and passed.

Motion: Present Daysha Ferrer Torres with the Early Career Award. The motion was seconded and passed.

Maria Jenderek left the meeting.

6.0 PUBLICATIONS

Michele Schultz joined the meeting to give an update on the publications. The Animal journal is not currently publishing within the months listed on each issue; however, submission rates have been steady and we have published 9.5 papers per issues. Springer is more concerned with article count budgets (paper budgets) as they are more focused on the online publication of the journal and how robust the tables of contents are for each issue as most readers are online. There will be special review issue on 3D Organotypic Culture Methods coming out for the February issue.

The Plant Journal is currently meeting its page budget if not higher and is averaging about 15 papers per issue with a good flow of manuscripts. The special tributed for Trevor Thorpe was offered via open access for 2months after the article was published. David Songstad has continued to have concerns when he has accepted a manuscript and asked Springer to publish it “as is” but Springer has changed the style of the article during the typesetting of the manuscript. While these corrections are caught at the proof stage, David has voiced frustration that he has provided the content in the correct format, but it continues to be changed and he has to revert it back.

Michele noted that we are in the beginning phase of negotiations for the new journal contracts with Springer. Wayne asked how Springer is looking to assure our revenue stream will not be adversely affected. Michele noted that revenue is expected to stay at the same level or go higher even with the change in focus to paper budgets vs. page budgets though we can expect increases in revenue if we increase the number of papers published.

Springer has informed us that they made the decision to move all of their hybrid journals (which includes ours) to transformative status in fall of 2020. Allan Wenck commented on having clarity on the expectations with Springer for the move to open access. Springer has noted that we will be able to review this transition again in around 3 years to see if this is still the direction we wish to proceed and that the transition to OA could take upwards of 10-15 years during which time we would be fully compliant with being transformative. Nothing will change in our contracts or agreements with them and they expect this to have a positive effect on our revenue as any funds received from OA articles published in the journals are added to our current revenue stream. Springer will help SIVB to look for opportunities for authors to find funds to publish OA as we work toward a

more transformative status on the way to being OA.

The draft license to publish approved by the Publications Committee was sent to Springer and they are reviewing it. A change to a License-to-Publish agreement would not in any way affect the exclusive publishing rights SIVB holds as owners of the journal; therefore, there will be no changes to the commercial rights or revenue generation for the journals. The main difference is that copyright will be held by the authors under the exclusive license to SIVB. This allows authors to retain copyright and receive clear credit for, and ownership of, their work. It is possible that we may look at Springer maintaining this paperwork for SIVB if the language can be listed as we want.

Wayne Parrott noted that the plant journal should be in PubMed. There was discussion about what was required to resubmit and Wayne noted that we should fit the current criteria. Michele noted that our understanding is that we need to be able to submit two physical issues that show significant content that is medically based. It was requested that Wayne forward the link he has to allow for further research. Wayne Parrott forwarded the link regarding the criteria with PubMed through the chat.

Michael Fay gave an update on In Vitro Report. While behind schedule, he noted that there was an article coming up in the next issue about Leonard Hayflick's microscope being acquired by the Smithsonian and it was discussed that this could be included as its own page in the publication. Michele reminded board members to submit their news and articles for inclusion in the publication. Board members are also recommended to both enjoy and share the publication as it is open on our site and can encourage others to join.

Michele gave an update on the website noting the recent updates for the virtual meeting and requests from the board which have been completed. The Business Office is currently working on the descriptions of the committees to help fill out those pages.

Allan Wenck provided an update on the Social Engagement Committee. A first meeting was organized and the two co-chairs have been determined. The committee is looking to engage members and encourage them to be active on social media platforms and determine the best ways to make the greatest impact. Michele noted that the most impactful articles included many of the articles on the prior year's awardees. There is some increase in the FB and LinkedIn groups and we will be looking to use the SIVB Company page for postings to bring more visibility to the organization. Piero has been exceptional in using the organizations hashtags to make us more visible. Piero suggested the use of videos and more active postings on YouTube as they are very effective for the younger audience.

Action item: To be able to make marketing materials about the SIVB and why others should join, Board members are requested to provide a 30 second-2 minute video of themselves talking about what SIVB means to them or how the organization has benefitted them, what they feel SIVB can offer the scientific community individually and to the world at large.

Additional Social channels were discussed such as Instagram and TikTok. Michele noted that TikTok is more for entertainment and comedy hits, but only occasionally informative.

Michele reviewed the improvements they have been added to improve the SEO (Search Engine Optimization) for the site and she noted that more people are finding the site through Organic Search which means people are finding us through search engines. Meeting activity is mostly direct searches which indicates that our postings and broadcast emails are bringing them to our site.

Michele noted that the most visited article in the last issue of the IVR was from Addy's Student talking about how she was affected by Coronavirus and the importance of mentorship. Michele encouraged board members to submit articles to the IVR that could be affective on a personal level as they are most engaging.

Michele Schultz left the meeting.

7.0 COMMITTEES

7.1 Nominating: 2022-2024 Election

John presented an update and some recommendations from discussion with Dwight Tomes. John shared the list of open Board positions with the goal to have candidates who have agreed to run before the board meeting. The One suggestion was to engage members from outside US. John presented ideas on how to identify and encourage members to serving the Society.

7.2 Membership

Marietta provided an update on the membership statistics. The membership decrease is of great concern as all gains we made in 2019 have been lost, due in great part to the continuing effect that COVID-19 has had on our 2020 and 2021 meetings. We need to work toward bringing back those regular and post-doctoral members lost as well as welcoming new members. It would be good for the organization to look to encouraging higher post doc and student membership numbers consistently.

The Business Office is working with the Program Committee and Executive Committee on the possibility of offering live scientific webinars to our members as a benefit of membership. These would be short 1-hour programs with 1-2 speakers maximum presented through Zoom's webinar feature for current members only. They would be advertised in advance to all current and expired members as a member benefit to encourage those who had not renewed previously to do so to attend.

A potential schedule for these member benefit webinars would be as follows:

- End April/Early May
- End July/Early August
- End September/Early October
- Possible Mid-December or Mid-January

To achieve these programs' success, the Business Office is researching with Zoom how to transition our current account to the Webinar option and what mechanisms they offer to assure that only those who have paid (are members) can access the content. It is possible that after the events, we could consider adding this content to our website for future viewing or to encourage continuing or new membership, but that content would be publicly available. Once the feasibility is confirmed for how to hold and share the events, the Executive and Program Committees will confirm the first topic, convener and speakers and begin to advertise the event.

7.3 Long-Range Planning

Addy Alt-Holland provided an update on long-range planning.

7.4 Public Policy

Wayne Parrott provided an update on the actions of the Public Policy Committee. There was discussion regarding how SIVB should be actively engaged on topics and on the IVACS side as well as the PB topics as it would benefit us to be driving these types of discussions. They come from in vitro initiatives and we should be actively engaged in the discussion as we affect the outcomes. Everything is enabled by In

Vitro Biology and we should be more visible and prevalent.

7.5 Education

John Harbell provided the Education update on behalf of Brad Upham. Education Committee (EC) Chair, Brad Upham, met with student representatives Evan Hill and Alperen Ozturk on a weekly basis. Meetings were used to assist students in planning their student activities for the 2021 Annual Meeting. Initially this included a workshop and luncheon. With the conversion to the virtual format, students have opted for a two-hour workshop on “navigating the next generation sequencing transcriptomics landscape and what every biologist needs to know about artificial intelligence”. Students will report details to the SIVB Board Meeting on 3-6-21. Meetings were also used to discuss other activities. One of which is the planning of a midyear (relative to the annual meeting) Webinar Workshop for students. Other discussions involved developing a survey to solicit input from students as to how the EC can best serve them. Planned activities include: extending this survey to the SIVB EC members (past and present) for input of what goals should be set for the EC. Projected data of survey will be sent for the week of 3-15-21. Following the survey results, EC chair will schedule a meeting for the EC (probably last week of March or first week of April, 2021) with the discussion of the survey results and formulating a 4 year strategic plan for the EC as the primary business agenda. Part of the strategic plan is to revisit the by-law concerning the EC and potentially revise per discussions at the EC meeting. EC Chair, Brad Upham, proposes to make it official that the student representatives are automatically members of the EC and recommends that this should be part of the by-law change.

Action Item: Marietta will forward the request to add the Student Co-Chairs as official members of the Education Committee for discussion to the C&B Committee.

8.0 Other Business

The discussion regarding diversity and inclusion on the SIVB website. Piero noted that one of our Guiding Values is Diversity which says “promote shared and mutual respect among all members across all disciplines.” He felt that we needed to be more explicit and clearly articulate in a better way what is the position of the society. John noted that there is a statement within our current Code of Conduct on which we could build. The board needs to be in agreement of what it says, where it is placed and that the board all knows where this information can be found. Is what we have sufficient.

The Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct for meetings were reviewed. It was noted that the language currently found in the documents needs to be more explicit. These are necessary policies we need to keep in mind in how we present ourselves as a Society.

Action Item: An Ad Hoc Committee of Wayne, Todd, Addy, Michael Dame, Michael Fay, and Piero will be formed to put together proposal of the language to add to our current statement on Diversity and Inclusion to be presented at the June meeting for discussion. A finalized and approved document will be added to the website.

Action Item: The Business Office will review home screen Lifetime Achievement Award widget to see if it can be set to pull more recent Lifetime Achievement Recipients. Will look to revise this to pull the most recent winners at the top of the widget and link to older recipients.

Wayne noted that with some other societies you are allowed to edit your abstract until the meeting starts as this may remove hesitancy in submitting abstracts early. John asked how you would then handle published abstracts. Wayne noted the trend is to not have an abstract issue and instead to have a repository after the

meeting on a website. John noted that this could cause some to prematurely submit unsubstantiated abstracts should research not work out. Addy noted that another organization offers permission to edit your abstract for a set period after submission, but each edit cost \$70. There was also concern noted regarding what information can or cannot be added and who will be re-reviewing and checking the abstracts after changes are made. Titles and topics cannot be changed, but corrections can be made. John asked Wayne for a copy of the guidance that was placed on the website of the other events he referenced to see how it was addressed with authors. Cindy noted that one of the issues with this is that our abstracts are published as part of our journal as one of its issues. It was recommended that this be tabled until the next board meeting as there are a number of implication that would need to be understood first. Cindy suggested that this should also be discussed at the Publications Committee Meeting.

Action Item: Marietta is to provide the board guidance regarding how this may affect the other aspects of the society.

Action Item: Addy to review the language of the IADR about the change of abstracts and fees associated so we have the information for the discussion in June.

Motion was made to Adjourn. The motion was seconded and passed.

The meeting was adjourned.

Motions from the meeting:

Motion: A motion was made to adopt the minutes from the October 2020 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded and passed.

Motion: A motion was made to adopt the agenda for the March 2021 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded and passed.

Motion: Present Cynthia Goodman with the Lifetime Achievement Award. The motion was seconded and passed.

Motion: Present Addy Alt-Holland with the Fellow Award. The motion was seconded and passed.

Motion: Present Vivian Dayeh with the Fellow Award. The motion was seconded and passed.

Motion: Present Jessica Rupp with the Early Career Award. The motion was seconded and passed.

Motion: Present Daysha Ferrer Torres with the Early Career Award. The motion was seconded and passed.

Motion: Accept the Emeritus Status of Thomas J. Flynn. The motion was seconded and passed.

Motion: Accept the Emeritus Status of Jack Widholm. The motion was seconded and passed.

OUTSTANDING ACTION ITEMS:

Outstanding Action items from the June 2016 Board Meeting

1. Action Item: Recommendation for the Long-Range Planning Committee to evaluate and develop programs targeting groups (e.g., postdocs) to join SIVB and forward those programs to Membership Committee. **2020 February Update:** No new updates. **2020 June Update:** Allan, Addy and Vivian will work together to make some recommendations. **2020 October Update:** Allan, Addy and Vivian presented some recommendations, but continued discussion is needed. The action item is **ongoing**.

Outstanding Action Items (March 2019 BOD Meeting)

2. Action item: The Development Committee will work to getting the past and current student co-chairs involved in grant writing for session support. **2020 February Update:** The students will be included on email communications as the grant writing proceeds. The action item is **ongoing**. **2020 June Update:** Student involvement in grant writing was limited due to the tight time frame in which the last grant was developed. Piero will take this up with Max and Sadanand to increase student involvement in grant writing process. **2020 October Update:** Sadanand is working on a 1-pg for the NSF grant submissions. Student Co-chairs will be involved in the next stage. This item is **ongoing**. **March 2021 Update:** The 1 page is complete. Student co-chair will be involved in the next steps. **This action is ongoing.**

Outstanding Action Items from (2020 October BOD Meeting)

3. Action Item: SIVB to create an Ad Hoc Social Engagement Committee as a team with each person having a specific responsibility. **March 2021 Update:** Related to action item 11. Allan has engaged a fresh post-doc and discussed the criteria for social engagement responsibilities. Meeting involved, Allan, Addy, Michael Fay and Marietta. It needs to be defined. Chair and Co-chairs appointed. **This action is ongoing.**

4. Action Item: Piero will take up the advertisement of the 2021 In Vitro Meeting in the Development Committee as an effort to increase our presence on the different social media platforms. Piero will coordinate with the Business Office. **March 2021 Update:** Piero will continue to advertise, already done a big job. **This action is ongoing.**

5. Action Item: The Business Office will work toward updating the committee pages to include a description of the committee and images of the chairs. **March 2021 Update:** The Business Office has begun to add the photos of Committee Chairs to the pages and has been working on finalizing descriptions of the Committees to place on the various pages. There are a few Committee Chairs from whom we need pictures, and we are reaching out to those committee chairs at this time. **This action item is ongoing.**

6. Action Item: Cindy and Lucy will discuss options for additional webinar content from the 15th International Conference and look to provide a program for members. **March 2021 Update:** New ideas on the channel, whether webinar or podcast. Cindy suggested to discuss with the Social Engagement Committee. **This action item is ongoing.**

7. Action Item: Finalize a position paper in response to the USDA. A policy statement has been put together. But the statement should be published. There will be a session that Piero is convening. Alison has accepted to talk at this session.

8. Action Item: The Business Office will move the mission, vision and values to a separate tab for increased visibility.

9. Action Item: Board will discuss inclusion and diversity at the next meeting in June.

10. Action Item: Allan Wenck to have additional discussion with the board to determine a final vote regarding this nomination.

11. Action Item: Michael Fay will contact Mae and follow up with the Board on her acceptance.

12. Action item: To be able to make marketing materials about the SIVB and why others should join, Board members are requested to provide a 30 second-2 minute video of themselves talking about what SIVB means to them or how the organization has benefitted them, what they feel SIVB can offer the scientific community individually and to the world at large.

13. Action Item: Marietta will forward the request to add the Student Co-Chairs as official members of the Education Committee for discussion to the C&B Committee.

14. Action Item: An Ad Hoc Committee of Wayne, Todd, Addy, Michael Dame, Michael Fay, and Piero will be formed to put together proposal of the language to add to our current statement on Diversity and Inclusion to be presented at the June meeting for discussion. A finalized and approved document will be added to the website.

15. Action Item: The Business Office will review home screen Lifetime Achievement Award widget to see if it can be set to pull more recent Lifetime Achievement Recipients. Will look to revise this to pull the most recent winners at the top of the widget and link to older recipients.

16. Action Item: Marietta is to provide the board guidance regarding how this may affect the other aspects of the society.

17. Action Item: Addy to review the language of the IADR about the change of abstracts and fees associated so we have the information for the discussion in June.