

**SIVB Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes
June 7, 2024 and June 8, 2024
Hyatt Regency St. Louis at The Arch
St. Louis, MO**

Participants: Piero Barone (President), Addy Alt-Holland (Past-President; Publications Chair), Barbara Doonan (Treasurer), Kolla Kristjansdottir (Member-at-Large-IVACS; 2024 Program Chair), Allan Wenck (2026 Program Chair), Hong Luo (Member-at-Large-PB), Cindy Goodman (LOC Co-Chair), Michael Fay (President-Elect), Wayne Parrot (Public Policy Chair), Fredy Altpeter (Vice President), Vivian Dayeh (Member-at-Large-IVACS), Pon Samuel (Member-at-Large-PB), Jasmyn Hoeger (IVACS Secretary), Yiping Qi (PB Chair), Chris Bagley (PB Vice Chair), Margaret Young (PB Secretary/Treasurer), and Michele Schultz (Managing Director)

Virtual Attendees: Mae Ciancio (Secretary), Michael Dame (2024 Development Committee Chair), Anissa Belfetmi-Stone (IVACS Vice Chair – Membership)

Meeting was called to order at: 6:29pm CT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

A. Alt-Holland/P. Barone

Addy took a few moments to thank everyone and to wish the best of luck to the incoming President and Board. She encouraged everyone to continue to work hard for the Society. As the new chair of the Nominating Committee, she encouraged active participation by everyone in the Society.

1.1 Adoption of Agenda

M. Ciancio

Agenda for the June 2024 Board of Directors meeting was presented for the Board's approval.

Motion: To approve the Agenda for June 2024 Board meeting. Motion was seconded and approved.

Piero invited Addy to speak. She thanked everyone on the board for all of their tireless efforts and support of the SIVB.

1.2 Adoption of Minutes

P. Barone

The minutes from the March 2024 meeting were presented to the Board.

Motion: To approve the minutes for the March 2024 Board meeting. This motion was seconded and approved.

1.3 Review of Board Responsibilities/Committee Chair Roles

P. Barone

1.3.1 SIVB Operations/Procedures Handbook

P. Barone

Piero provided a brief update on the status of the governance guidelines. The Handbook had not been updated since 1995. Piero and Michele worked on updating this document to reflect the current procedures and shared with the Section officers. This is a living document that is always evolving, but the current version is attached. It is the President-Elect's responsibility to review the document and ensure that it is correct. Michael Fay will continue to update the document. The current goal is to update the document every year and to provide Committee Chairs with a

description of their responsibilities, as described in the Handbook. As someone is stepping into a new role, this document will provide them with a “best practices” document, so they know what their duties are. Future suggestions and changes should be brought to Michele and Michael Fay with a cc to Piero. The document required extensive work and collaboration to create a document that is a timely reference for the current SIVB Society and Board operation. The IVACS and PB Section Bylaws have not been reviewed since 2004 and any changes should be brought up to the respective section for a vote. Piero also shared the short Governance Responsibilities document which is a quick review of the tasks of all positions. Michele noted the governance document was created by Marietta for the Chairs as a quick reference.

1.3.2 Ad Hoc Terminology Committee

P. Barone

Piero determined while reading the Handbook that SIVB was supposed to be updating the Terminology every 5 years which wasn't occurring. Right now we don't have a formal Ad Hoc Terminology Committee. Michael Fay and Addy Alt-Holland have been working as the unofficial representatives of the Terminology Committee. The Board agreed it was appropriate to recognize a formal Ad Hoc Terminology Committee for SIVB. Michele was able to locate a historical document on plant topics. Wayne noted it had both IVACS and PB topics. The Board agreed that it's time to update the 1990 article. Michael Fay, Addy Alt-Holland, and Kolla Kristjansdottir were formally acknowledged as the founding members of the Terminology Committee. SIVB has the copyright of the 1990 article, so we can reuse the content and updated version. Kolla informed the Board that no new terms have been added to the previous questionnaire requesting suggestions for the terminology paper.

Action Item: To proceed with a Terminology Committee including Michael, Wayne, and Addy as Chairs with members: Piero Barone, Kolla Kristjansdottir, Vivian Dayeh, Hong Luo, and Yiping Qi to build new terminology documents.

1.3.3 Determination of Membership Committee Chair

P. Barone

Piero noted that as President-Elect he was supposed to begin to determine several appointed officers. Vivian had been serving as Membership Committee Chair for many years, but with the change of her position to the board, she wished to step down from the position. Piero reached out to some members looking for a new Chair. Raj Deepika Chauhan was interested in becoming the new Membership Committee Chair. Michele reviewed some of Deepika's credits regarding the SIVB and her investment in the organization. Freddy noted the need for more members on the Membership Committee. Piero referenced the Handbook and noted that the Membership Committee includes members identified by the Chair but must include the IVACS Section Chair and IVACS Vice Chair – Membership and the PB Chair and Vice Chair.

Motion: To approve Raj Deepika Chauhan as the new Membership Committee Chair. Motion was so moved and seconded.

In discussing the vote, there was a question of who was eligible to vote and who were the current members as the meeting began. This brought up a discussion regarding when the new Board members officially take office. It is confusing to have the officer transition before the meeting. Piero reached out to the Business Office for more information and Michele provided the historical information regarding when this change occurred as it was not in the original organizational

documents. The original bylaws stated the transition occurred after the Annual Meeting. Since the transition, it has been difficult on all new officers and chairs to understand their duties and have support during the transition. It was felt that it would be easier on all involved if we can look at transitioning the language back so that officers take their new positions after the Annual Meeting rather than before. As this is a change to the Bylaw, it will need to be reviewed and approved by both the Constitutions and Bylaws Committee and the Board before it can be implemented.

Action item: For Michele to review the Society's historical versions of the Constitution and Bylaws to determine appropriate language regarding changing the time when new Elected Officers and Chairs will officially take office and bring it to the Board for their approval to take the item to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

Kolla noted she had some edits to the Handbook and asked if she could send them to the Business Office for Implementation.

Action Item: Kolla to send edits she identified in the Handbook to Michael Fay and Michele Schultz to update the document.

1.4 Outstanding Action Items

M. Ciancio

Outstanding action items were reviewed, and new action items were proposed as outlined below.

Outstanding Action Items from the October 2021 Meeting

1. **Action Item:** LRP to review the committee structures to create more formalized expectations for Committees and a way to transition officers so incoming chairs understand better what is expected of them and their committees. **February 2022 Update:** This will be completed before the start of the in-person meeting in June. **June 2022 Update:** The document reviewed today will be revised and propagated once finalized. **October 2022 Update:** Committee is reviewing the documentation. **June 2023 Update:** This will be addressed after the meeting as the governance documentation is still being reviewed. This action item is ongoing. **October 2023 Update:** Addy, Piero, and Michele will meet to discuss this further. **March 2024 Update:** Addy, Piero and Michele met in December 2023 in Reno to discuss this action item. In addition, Michele and Piero held several meetings to review the previous SIVB handbook from 1995 and worked to update the text based on the changes and current activities of the sections and Committees. When the revision is complete, it will be sent to the various Committee Chairs for their review, verification that the information is accurate and clear, and to provide their input. The Business Office hopes to have this updated document, as close to complete as possible, at the June meeting, so that it is available to the new Officers when they assume their positions. **June 2024 Update:** **Piero and Michele worked through the document updating text in tracked changes where appropriate. The tracked edited sections of the document were sent to each committee chair and officer for their review with a request to update and provide any changes that could properly reflect the current activity of their position. Most changes were merged into a clean version of the document. This document is included in the Board packet for your download and will be made available to all incoming officers and chairs. This document will continue to be reviewed and updated by the incoming President Elect. This action item has been completed.**

Outstanding Action Items from the February 2022 Meeting

- 2. Action Item:** Todd will approach John Finer to request his contribution of a historical overview article for the In Vitro Report. **October 2022 Update:** Piero will contact Todd and check on the status of this historical overview article. **March 2023 Update:** Todd did originally reach out to John Finer. Todd will reach out to John again to remind him. **June 2023 Update:** Todd will continue his efforts. This action item is ongoing. **October 2023 Update:** Todd contacted John. John said OK but no further communication. Todd will reach out to John again and cc Michele to assist with follow up. **March 2024 Update:** The Business Office is still waiting to receive this communication. **June 2024 Update: Michele reached out to Todd who noted he would recontact John. Todd contacted John. This item is completed.**

Wayne noted that one of the student volunteers asked John to film a historical perspective on PlantGENE's website. Michele asked Wayne to provide a short PlantGENE article that explains what the movie was about and provide the link to it for the next In Vitro Report issue.

New Action Item: Wayne will provide a short article for the In Vitro Report about John's movie that includes a link to the video on the PlantGENE website.

Outstanding Action Items from the October 2022 Meeting

- 3. Action Item:** Barbara will work with Mae and the Business Office to identify and invite previous SIVB members to a special SIVB reunion for the 2026 meeting. **March 2023 Update:** This process will begin after the 2024 World Congress. **June 2023 Update:** Barbara and Mae will begin compiling names and contact information after the 2024 World Congress in June 2024. This action item is ongoing. **October 2023 Update:** This is pending until after the 2024 World Congress. This action item is ongoing. **March 2024 Update:** Barbara and Mae will begin formalizing a plan at the 2024 World Congress meeting. They will work with the Business Office to gather information. This item is ongoing. **June 2024 Update: This process will begin in the fall 2024, most likely in conjunction with the fall Board meeting in November 2024.**

Outstanding Action Items from the March 2023 Meeting

- 4. Action Item:** Piero proposed to call a special Board meeting to discuss membership, retention, new membership application, and revisiting the public profile of SIVB. This would involve a separate meeting with the Membership Committee, Long-Range Planning Committee, and the Board before the Fall Board of Directors meeting. **June 2023 Update:** Piero will continue to work with Michele and Addy on this item. They will decide when and who will meet virtually to discuss this further. This action item is ongoing. **October 2023 Update:** A meeting is planned for shortly after the October Board meeting to begin these discussions. This action item is ongoing. **March 2024 Update:** Addy, Piero, and Michele met in December in Reno to review and discuss this item. They sent out a call to the Board of Directors requesting keywords or short phrases that captured what SIVB means to them, as well as the key benefits of membership in the organization. The list was compiled and will be provided as a survey to the membership for their feedback. This will help the Board determine a consensus of how the Society is perceived internally and address what may be needed to in re-envision or adjust the direction and messaging of the organization. **June 2024 Update: A copy of the current responses to the survey was provided in the Board packet. Michele and Piero presented the survey results. The survey is still open and will remain available until the middle of the summer to gather as much data as possible from both meeting attendees and members. This item is ongoing.**

Outstanding Action Items from the June 2023 Board Meeting

5. **Action Item:** Social Engagement and Publications Committees will work on creating advertising recommended hashtags for the site to include on postings. **October 2023 Update:** After discussion with the Social Engagement Committee Chair, it was agreed that this task would wait to coincide with the rebuild of the main site so that the hashtags and SEO messaging from the SIVB will be cohesive. This action item is ongoing. **March 2024 Update:** The rebuild of the website is suspended until decisions are finalized regarding the new vision of SIVB. This action item is on hold until the website is rebuilt. This action item is ongoing. **June 2024 Update: This item is pending and will be addressed after closing of the survey and a review of the responses. This item is ongoing.**
6. **Action Item:** A disclaimer will be developed from the NIH language and provided with all protocol links stating that this is a community driven site and that people use it at their own risk. Veena, Addy, Brad and Michele will work on this task. **October 2023 Update:** Addy and the Business Office prepared a disclaimer statement which was reviewed by Brad and Veena. The text is as follows:
Disclaimer/Protocol Note: The statements, opinions and data contained in all protocols found on this page are solely those of the individual author(s) and contributor(s) and not of SIVB and/or any of its affiliates. SIVB and their affiliates disclaim responsibility for any injury to people or property resulting from any ideas, methods, instructions and/or products referred to in the content. You assume any and all liability for your use of the protocols, in part or in whole, shared on this page. Veena contacted the Business Office after speaking with a lawyer who recommended some changes to the text. Veena revised the text and will be presenting it to Addy, Brad, and the Business Office prior to revisiting the final language with her contact. The finalized text will then be added to the SIVB and PlantGENE websites. This action item is ongoing. **March 2024 Update:** Michele contacted Veena to request an update. Materials supplied focused on storage of publications on a website, such as PubMed, rather than the external links available on the SIVB website. Addy discussed this during the Board meeting. The Board suggested several changes to the Disclaimer that are highlighted below:
Disclaimer/Protocol Note: The statements, opinions and data contained in all protocols found on this page are solely those of the individual author(s) and contributor(s) and not of SIVB and/or any of its affiliates. SIVB and their affiliates disclaim responsibility for any injury to people or property resulting from any ideas, methods, instructions and/or products referred to in the content. We don't guarantee outcome or that the protocol will work in your hands. The users assume any and all liability for the use of the protocols, in part or in whole, shared on this page. **June 2024 Update: This text has been added to the website. This action item has been completed.**

Action Items from the October 2023 Meeting

7. **Action Item:** Michael Fay will publish a memorial for Dr. Nelly Auersperg in the In Vitro Report. **March 2024 Update:** A reminder was sent to Michael for the January – March issue of the IVR. Michael will publish the memorial in the next issue of the IVR. This action item is ongoing. **June 2024 Update: The article was included in the January – March 2024 issue of the IVR. This action item has been completed.**
8. **Action Item:** Addy and Michele will work on language to clarify the Student Buddies and place that on the website. **March 2024 Update:** Addy and Michele worked on the text to address this concern. Once finalized, this new language will be added to the website to further clarify the purpose of the Student Buddy and Student Buddy program. This action item is ongoing. **June 2024 Update: Modified language**

clarifying what the Student Buddy funds support has been updated on the website and elsewhere it appears. From the Student News information page on the eventScribe website:

Student Buddy Mentoring Program

The Student Initiative program helps to offset the costs of registration and abstract submission fees for students to participate in the meeting, plus free student membership. While some companies make contributions to this program, many of our attendees have also supported this initiative through the individual "Student Buddy" contributions. Some of these supporters will also be available to mentor students at the meeting. Student registrants were contacted in advance of the meeting to offer them the ability to connect with a mentor prior to the meeting. If you were not able to do so in advance of the meeting and would like a mentor, look for the light pink ribbons that say "Student Buddy" on the attendees' badges. That ribbon means they have supported the student initiative and may be able to help mentor you during the 2024 World Congress. There are a limited number of mentors available, but we do hope you will be able to benefit from this opportunity.

Pending further response or concern from student members/attendees, this action item has been completed.

- 9. Action Item:** Cindy and Michele will contact the Botanical Gardens in St. Louis to explore the possibility of discounted ticket prices for members who are interested in touring the gardens. **March 2024 Update:** The Botanical Garden is exploring the option that interested attendees of the World Congress can present their meeting badge at the Gardens to receive a discounted admission rate. The Business office is waiting to hear back from management at the Gardens to see if this will be feasible. This action item is ongoing. **June 2024 Update: Michele contacted the Botanical Gardens team. They agreed to provide a coupon code for 20% off tickets to visit the gardens for the SIVB attendees at the meeting and up to 3 other guests each. A copy of the code is in this packet. This action item has been completed.**
- 10. Action Item:** Brad will work with Michael Dame and the Development Committee to create an Ad hoc Committee to identify a mechanism to generate funds to support travel for the student representatives of the Education Committee. The funds should support up to \$500 per student for travel to and from the meeting. **March 2024 Update:** -Michael Fay has graciously donated his travel funds to assist with the student representatives' travel costs for the 2024 meeting. Piero will work with Barbara and Mae to create a sustainable student representative travel award in collaboration with efforts to recruit previous members to the 2026 anniversary meeting. Piero will also identify external grant funds that may be directed to support student representatives' travel. These efforts are ongoing. **June 2024 Update: Piero and the Business Office revised the language in the DOE grant application to specifically support travel expenses for the student co-chairs as well as their speakers. Piero noted that Veena was instrumental in preparing this and it is a call to action for everyone to help identify opportunities. This action item has been completed.**
- 11. Action Item:** Business Office will offer new group registrants for the 2024 World Congress that have not been members of SIVB a 25% discount on membership for 2025 membership. This information will be provided in their registration packet and will be communicated after the meeting. The email program will be offered to both in person and on-demand registrants. **March 2024 Update:** This will be included in the registration packets of non-members at the June meeting. This action item is ongoing. **June 2024 Update: Membership forms have been included in the packets of all group registrants who are nonmembers or haven't renewed their membership in more than 4 years. Veena Veena and Michele were instrumental in moving this forward. Fredy will take on this role now. This action item**

has been completed.

12. **Action Item:** First time attendees at the 2024 World Congress will receive a First Time Attendee Ribbon in their registration packet. SIVB Board Members will make an extra effort to welcome these new attendees and encourage them to continue to attend and actively participate in the Society. **March 2024 Update:** The Business Office has placed the order for these ribbons to be included in packets for all first-time attendees at the meeting. This action item is ongoing. **June 2024 Update:** **These ribbons have been added to all first-time attendees who self-identified and the registration desk will have additional ribbons available for those who missed indicating that this was their first time. Piero will make a special point to introduce himself to the first-time attendees and will go out of his way to help them to feel welcomed at the meeting. This action item has been completed.**
13. **Action Item:** Michele will work with the Long-Range Planning Committee and Publications Committee to update the 'area of interest categories' throughout the website and the journals to reflect the current interests of our members and meeting attendees. **March 2024 Update:** This is a long-term conversation that will be continued with both Committees at the 2024 World Congress. The conversation will include research that is being conducted with the Board and Membership Committee for the re-envisioning of the organization. This action item is ongoing. **June 2024 Update:** **This information is on hold until the results from the survey are analyzed. This item is ongoing.**

New Action Items from March 2024 meeting

14. **Action Item:** Brad and the Education Committee need to establish a procedure to carefully vet any protocols before posting them on the SIVB website. This protocol should be shared with the Board before proceeding. **June 2024 Update:** **Jasmyn and Christina will organize IVACS protocols for the SIVB website. The concern was about vetting protocols before posting (locating, vetting, and contacting for approval to use). This item will be an ongoing action item for the Education Committee. This action item is completed.**
15. **Action Item:** Michele should proceed with contracting the 2027 meeting at the Hyatt Regency St. Louis at The Arch. **June 2024 Update:** **A contract has been signed with the Peppermill Resort and Spa in Reno, Nevada for the 2026 In Vitro Biology Meeting and the 2028 World Congress meeting. This action item has been completed.**
16. **Action Item:** The Awards Committee will critically review the criteria required for each award and ensure that nominees possess these criteria before discussion at the Awards Committee meeting. **June 2024 Update:** **Todd will discuss this at the Awards Committee meeting in June. This item is completed.**
17. **Action Item:** The Business Office will assess International attendance at SIVB annual meetings compared to World Congress meetings. **June 2024 Update:** **This information from 2018 through 2024 is attached. Note that 2020 and 2021 years were virtual. Most participation is US with higher international participation during World Congresses. This action item has been completed.**

The Board discussed the relevance and importance of having official world congresses vs just having a regular annual meeting each year. Michele noted the international interest to participate was higher this year. The Board discussed the concept of simply having yearly SIVB meetings or should specific years still be identified as World Congresses. The World Congress name change can be confusing and may keep some from participating.

It was suggested to change the keep the same name but add “World Congress” to the end of the meeting name every 4 years. A question was brought up as to the history of the World Congress. Michele, Addy and Piero noted that the Japanese Societies were approached but because of a conflicting event and the costs to travel to the US, they were unable to participate this year, but that they are open to do so in the future. The Board agreed to streamline the name to prevent confusion regarding the name of the meeting.

Motion: To name the meeting as follows: *(Year) In Vitro Biology Meeting*” for all years and not have a “*World Congress on In Vitro Biology*”. The motion was so seconded and approved.

Questions were raised about which other societies could be outreached to including the JTCA, JAACT, and IAPB. It might be confusing to use “International.” We can have a “ (Year) In Vitro Biology Meeting: World Congress.” The question was asked if we are going to hold the meeting on the West Coast every 4 years to facilitate an international event. It was confirmed it would not be the case moving forward.

Motion: Every 4 years, SIVB will make a concerted effort to invite or recruit other International In Vitro Societies to participate in the In Vitro Biology Meeting. The motion was so seconded and approved.

- 18. Action Item:** Fish and invertebrate abstracts will be forwarded to Cindy so she can invite them to the Invertebrate meeting. **June 2024 Update: A list of Invertebrate/Fish abstract authors has been provided to Cindy to allow her to reach out to the authors during the meeting for this purpose and, if applicable, invite them to submit work to the special issue on these topics being organized at this time. This action item has been completed.**
- 19. Action Item:** As incoming chair of the 2025 SIVB meeting, Allan will contact the Plant and Animal program chairs for the 2025 meeting and begin discussions regarding the Keynote Speaker. **June 2024 Update: Allan did contact the meeting chairs. Allan had a meeting scheduled for the following Monday to finalize the participation of the speakers for the 2025 meeting. This item has been completed.**
- 20. Action Item:** Wayne will explore the possibility of an alliance group concerned with human health for the Board’s consideration. **June 2024 Update: Wayne and Michele reached out to the alliance and asked for a connection on human health. We were linked to the animal side of the group and attempted to organize a Zoom meeting to discuss this, but no further response was received to set up a meeting to confirm viability. While we will attempt to reach out to them, it is not expected that we will receive a response. This action item has been completed.**
- 21. Action Item:** Piero will continue conversations regarding an outreach request to the Australian Branch of the IAPB. **June 2024 Update:** Piero explained that a colleague contacted SIVB to attend but wasn’t able to attend the meeting. She would like to connect with a professional Society like SIVB. He will be meeting with her next week. **This item is ongoing.**

Michele briefly introduced the new team members of Innovative Essentials to the Board. Piero thanked Innovative Essentials on behalf of the board for their support of the SIVB and its efforts over the last year.

1.5 Emeritus Ratification:

M. Ciancio

The Board discussed the request for Emeritus status for Dr. Indra Harry. A brief description of Dr. Harry’s scientific career was provided to the Board and Piero spoke in favor of Dr. Harry’s accomplishments

being worthy of Emeritus status.

Motion: To grant Emeritus status to Dr. Harry. Motion was seconded and approved.

2.0 2024 World Congress on In Vitro Biology

2.1 Program Update

K. Kristjansdottir

Kolla provided a comprehensive update for the 2024 World Congress. She thanked everyone for their efforts to make the 2024 World Congress a huge success. The Local Organizing Committee was recognized for their outstanding job. The Development Committee and Michael Dame were acknowledged for their very successful fund-raising efforts: the grant writing efforts were very successful. All the speakers and conveners were confirmed. New features at this meeting included Lightning Talks, designed to provide a brief description of the study by the presenter for more thorough discussion at the corresponding poster. She encouraged all participants to attend the Lightning Talks for their feedback on this new offering. Poster judging resumed this year thanks to the favorable response by members to serve as poster judges. Kolla appreciated everyone's efforts to help make the meeting a success.

She noted a concern that many people don't know what a contributed paper is and some believe the program is complete when reviewing the sessions online even though abstracts have yet to be placed. They only think posters are left. The Board discussed how other organizations have offered these types of sessions. There was additional discussion about adding more open slots for abstracts in the general program, but that will need to wait to see if we get more abstracts. The change to the meeting format should be discussed on the Program Committee Level.

Motion: For Kolla to recommend to the Program Planning Committee the suggestion for a change in the title of 'Contributed Papers Session' to 'Late-breaking Oral Presentations.' Motion was so moved and seconded.

2.2 Student Update

J. Rupp

Jasmyn Hoeger reviewed the 2024 Program including Single Cell RNA Sequencing workshop. One speaker was unable to attend in person but will be participating via Zoom. There is also a luncheon where a Scientific Editor will be doing a workshop on scientific writing with opportunities to apply the techniques in their work immediately. There are prizes including signed books donated by the editor and tickets to the Tuesday night event donated by various Board Members. They have also added a student social event for Students and Post Docs to allow them to intermingle on their own.

2.3 Meeting Update/Meeting Statistics

M. Schultz

Michele reviewed the On Demand Program setup which is the same as the prior year. All Saturday programs were recorded as were the plenary and joint sessions and a few of the plant and animal sessions. All pre-registrants were sent an email in advance of the meeting with their login details.

Registration numbers are the highest they have been in 20 years. Acknowledgements were made to the Chairs and members of the Program, Local Organizing, and Social Engagement Committees. This group effort makes the event the success it has been. Group registration is over 133 before all registrants have been entered. Abstract submissions are up. Cindy noted that because separate departments at a single university could utilize group registrations with different payment methods, group registration increased. The LOC was not only active in Missouri, but it really became an Outreach

Committee. Deepika shared files and information she created with Cindy. Deepika laid the foundation, and the committee were enthusiastically involved.

It was suggested that language be added to clarify that group registration can be cross-departmental in one organization. The registrations don't have to be paid by the same credit card/check. This needs to be made clear on the website. Fredy asked if we are gaining members or losing money. Michele clarified that this is why we are offering the special membership discount for group registrants to join the next year at 25% off the total membership price. We also have 16 exhibitors and Viscon is supporting a project theater luncheon on Tuesday to show off their work.

This will be the first occurrence of the Bob V. Conger Plant Biotechnology Student Oral Presentation Competition and the Trevor Thorpe Symposium. We have a tasting of Arctic Apples on Sunday at the reception. There will be a Joint Roundtable discussion on Saturday (The Culture Club) to help learn from each other on media formulation. Deepika and Kolla have been instrumental in reactivating the student poster competition.

2.4 Fundraising

M. Dame/P. Barone

Michael Dame provided an overview of the fundraising through the group efforts of the committee. He showed both successful and unsuccessful grant submissions. Deepika was the most significant supporter contacting 29 companies and Piero was heavily involved and supportive of the organization. The growth from the prior year was significant. Grant funding was our greatest impact. He noted that some close connections were less successful for the IVACS side. Piero thanked Michael for his exceptional efforts. We exceeded our room block, signed an addendum, then exceeded that expanded block. The Bayer/Danforth tour has been sold out. Cindy noted there is still a little bit of space available at the Human Genome tour.

Addy noted that this success was due to all the committees working together. Development, Local Organizing, Program, and Social Engagement committees worked together to continue our growth.

3.0 2025-2029 Meeting Updates

M. Schultz

3.1 2025 Meeting (Norfolk, VA)

M. Schultz

Normally we are looking at planning 2-3 years in advance. Due to COVID and some great deals we have been offered at some venues, we are looking at visiting several of the same cities over the next 5 years. In 2025, we will be returning to Hilton Norfolk The Main in Norfolk, Virginia. This is part of the deal made with the hotel during 2021 to try to recoup some of the cancellation fee SIVB was charged due to cancelling the 2021 meeting because of COVID restrictions. We will receive \$15,000 of the cancellation fee applied as a deposit for this meeting. We will be revisiting our hotel block.

3.2 2026 Meeting (Reno, NV)

M. Schultz

We reached out to Peppermill Resort and Spa in Reno and have negotiated an agreement with them that provides very attractive room rates. The resort fee has been removed since we signed a 2-year contract (2026 and 2028).

3.2.1 Determining Chair for 2026 Meeting (*for board action*)

P. Barone

In reviewing the Handbook, Piero learned that we should always have a Program Chair and a Program Vice Chair. The Vice Chair learns the position, chooses the Keynote Speaker with the

committee, and is ready to jump into the next year's program well in advance of the current meeting which can be beneficial in applying for grants. The Vice Chair becomes a member of the Board of Directors. This role should generally alternate between IVACS and PB. The President is expected to provide a candidate for the Board's vote at the June Board meeting.

He noted there were two ways to proceed. We can either proceed with a member of IVACS who is relatively new to the SIVB which requires more time and commitment shadowing the current Program Chair or we can look to bring in a candidate from PB and go back to IVACS in 2027. The PB option has already experienced the program planning process. While we have historically alternated between sections, and it is recommended to alternate if we can, the Handbook does not state that that is a requirement. We have had two PB Chairs in a row in the past. Piero noted that if we bring in a new IVACS person, then Allan will need to work more closely with them. Piero has potential candidates for both options.

Option 1: The IVACS candidate has energy and newness, but this is a hard task to drop on someone who has not done any part of this before. We want the Program and individual Chairs to be successful. This potential candidate was discussed by those who knew them. They are very talented and interesting, but very new. Normally, people were Section Program Chair then Program Chair. There wasn't enough turnaround in the IVACS section to allow for this. There was a great concern that it would be a big ask, could be setting up the person to fail, and may be better to proceed with a Plant member.

Having a Keynote 2 years in advance as we want will be helped by this change. This is recommended by the Handbook.

Option 2: To ask Ahmad Omar, the Current Plant Program Chair, to accept this position. He has learned by doing the position over this year and has been very involved in the program, grants, etc. Kolla noted he was terrific to work with and he was perceptive and organized. He helped the ongoing logistics of the program planning last year.

Cindy noted that IVACS has an issue that needs to be addressed on the section level. Vivian asked if it was in our documents that we need to shift. IVACS has an elected Vice Chair of Meetings. Plant has an appointed structure where a member becomes a Jr. Co-Chair, then Sr. Co-Chair, finally ending up being the Section Program Chair. IVACS is an elected position rather than a slowly increasing position. The Current IVACS Vice Chair – Program would not be ready to assume this position until 2027. Cindy stressed that the understanding that the IVACS Vice Chair – Program will need to be aware they would be working toward becoming the Program Chair. Addy noted that officers in IVACS run for offices moving up the stages from Vice Chair through Chair to Program Chair.

A concern was noted that if you have automatically determined that someone runs through the positions this way and you only have one candidate running for office, this removes the ability for the section members to actually choose who they want to represent them.

Piero suggested that the Board think about this issue overnight and we would address this at the start of the meeting on Saturday.

3.3 2027 Meeting (St. Louis—pending)

M. Schultz

The board then decided it might be beneficial to look at returning to cities and since St. Louis has been such a good location for us, we have signed another contract to return to the Hyatt Regency St. Louis at The Arch in 2027.

3.4 2028 Meeting (Reno, NV)

M. Schultz

This is our next World Congress event. We will return to the Peppermill Resort and Spa. In the negotiations for this 2-year agreement, a third year was offered at the same hotel rates. As this is an unknown city for our members, there was concern about committing for 3 years. A tentative agreement has been made that we have the option to view the property in 2026 and if we like it, we can sign a contract for 2030 while at the venue in 2026. If we sign the agreement, we will still receive the same hotel room rates and space will be based on availability.

3.5 2029 Meeting (Norfolk, VA)

M. Schultz

This is the final contracted return to Hilton Norfolk The Main. This is part of the deal made with the hotel during 2021 to try to recoup some of the cancellation fee SIVB was charged due to cancelling the 2021 meeting because of COVID restrictions. We will receive \$13,000 of the cancellation fee applied as a deposit for this meeting. We will be revisiting our hotel block.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting until Saturday morning. Motion was seconded and approved.

Adjournment at 9:06pm

Saturday, June 8

Meeting Resumed at 7:59 am:

Participants: Piero Barone (President), Addy Alt-Holland (Past-President; Publications Chair), Barbara Doonan (Treasurer), Kolla Kristjansdottir (Member-at-Large-IVACS; 2024 Program Chair), Allan Wenck (2026 Program Chair), Hong Luo (Member-at-Large-PB), Cindy Goodman (Member-at-Large-IVACS; LOC Co-Chair), Michael Fay (President-Elect), Wayne Parrot (Public Policy Chair), Todd Jones (Awards Chair), Fredy Altpeter (Vice President), Pon Samuel (Member-at-Large-PB), Jasmyn Hoeger (IVACS Secretary), Sarah Poytner (IVACS Chair), Yiping Qi (PB Chair), Chris Bagley (PB Vice Chair), Margaret Young (PB Secretary/Treasurer), Brad Upham (Education Committee Chair), and Michele Schultz (Managing Director)

Virtual Attendees: Mae Ciancio (Secretary)

Meeting was called to order at 7:15 am CDT.

3.2.1 Determining Chair for 2026 Meeting (Continued)

P. Barone

Piero began by revisiting the discussion regarding the 2026 Program Chair. There were two options discussed the night before. Option 1 was to bring in a very new IVACS member. Option 2 was to change the tradition and choose a PB Member to be section chair for 2026 and then return to IVACS in 2027. Fredy mentioned that in 2019 we had two PB Program Chairs in a row, so this would not be a new precedent. The PB suggestion was Ahmad Omar. Other names were mentioned, but they had not been a Program Chair yet. A question was raised whether this should be brought to the IVACS members at the Business Meeting for someone to self-identify.

It was stressed that it isn't just about a willingness to participate, but rather having the understanding and experience of working on SIVB meetings to be able to organize the program. Kolla mentioned that we should advertise that we are looking for help to support the meeting and program moving forward. Mae noted that if Addy hadn't reached out to her to manage the program, she wouldn't have thought about it.

Michele noted that the determination of the Program Chair is a Board-level decision rather than a Section-level decision. Piero referred to the Handbook to clarify that this was correct. Addy noted it was important when a candidate is determined for this position moving forward, they must have experience in SIVB such as being a Program Officer, Section Officer, or having helped plan symposia and sessions on the very basic level. Program Chair can be an overwhelming position, even IVACS can be overwhelming.

Fredy reiterated that we need to make a quick decision and asked if IVACS has anyone now who has this experience that could be considered for this role if we make experience a criteria. It was agreed that there weren't any appropriate IVACS members.

Kolla asked if there would be a way to place a list of all past program Committees so we would know who the program chair in prior years had been. Michele noted that was something we could look at with the revision of the website. Barbara noted that this would be helpful for Mae and herself as they look at outreach for the potential reunion for SIVB's 80th year in 2026. Fredy noted that these names are in the Annual Reports which are online. Wayne noted that he was Program Chair before Section Chair, but he had been running other organizations and meetings.

Motion: To offer the position of 2026 Program Chair to Ahmad Omar. Motion was seconded and passed. Allan Wenck abstained from voting as a conflict of interest.

Action Item: Piero will contact Ahmad and provide Michele and Allan with Ahmad's response. Michele will share this information with the Board.

There was discussion regarding a candidate should Dr. Omar not wish to accept the position, Piero will approach Veena Veena to gauge her interest. It was asked if we should be looking for a PB Chair for 2027 and the group confirmed that we would be returning to an IVACS Program Chair for the next year. By 2028, Carlos Garcia and Heqiang Huo will have been Plant Program Chairs and could be considered.

3.6 Grant Task Force

P. Barone/F. Altpeter

Piero explained how the grant planning has been exceptional and we have been able, with a consistent team, to be able to prepare and submit a number of grants for the organization. As Piero is stepping into the Presidency, he may not have as much time to do this consistently. While Fredy is taking charge of the overall fundraising for the organization by leading the Development Committee, he felt it was important to have an Ad Hoc Committee that was focused on grant opportunities. Fredy agreed it was good to have a point person for each activity. Fredy had reached out to Ahmad Omar who has agreed to coordinate the grant efforts in 2025. The key is to have one person who is mainly responsible for the grants program and have them assemble a team to assist for this purpose. This will allow us to pursue multiple grants.

Fredy voiced a concern regarding how often an organization can return to the same source as the funding agencies know they received funds in prior years. Funding agencies often recommend a break of a year. We have to be realistic that we won't get \$60,000 each year. It is important to identify new sources. This year in 2024-2025 we may have already maxed out our ability to receive these funds. Piero also noted that NSF had stated that it will become harder moving forward to support conference grants. Michele noted that they have trouble supporting recording costs, but since we are offering a hands-on experience where the interaction is essential because of the workshops and PlantGENE meetings, and because of the nature of the joint discussions and our desire to place as much of this content as possible on our YouTube channel, they found this extremely valuable. This provides everyone with access.

NIFA had not specified any concerns with recording; however, we also allocate some of the funds for publications but their interest was based on the type of science we are offering for those sessions. But it is possible we may be told no at some point.

Fredy noted that the new team should be streamlined. Ahmad has access to the older proposals and the people who have worked on older proposals. Wayne noted that the point person does need to establish a personal relationship with the program officers. Many grants are the result of building a relationship with the officers because they then know and trust you. Michele noted that officers from the NSF and DOE grants would be in attendance at this year's meeting and we can try to make sure Ahmad has the opportunity to meet them.

Piero shared that we already have grant funds approved by NSF and BRAG for 2025. Allan mentioned the BRAG grant deadline for 2025 was in February of 2024. Michele noted that if IVACS is looking to apply for grants, they will need to strategically set sessions that will address appropriate grant focuses as they plan their program. Fredy asked what the BRAG and NSF grants were allocated for. Piero shared the sessions that were part of each grant application (Saturday workshops for NSF and the 2 Risk assessment sessions for BRAG).

A suggestion was made to make one of the contributed paper sessions that are being renamed to be an Early Career session which could then be used to encourage grant support. He also noted there was great potential for areas in which we haven't been successful yet, such as for IVACS. When we applied last year, the program was already set as we tried to find a grant opportunity that fit what we already had. Michele mentioned that many years ago John Harbell helped organize funds from the Army as a grant and he could be someone to reach out to learn more about that opportunity. Wayne mentioned that Bill Smith, who had been on the Board, was part of the Army. Fredy has requested a dedicated point person for grant funding and Nathan Vo was suggested as an option; however, he is from Canada which could pose problems with US applications.

Pon asked if there was an opportunity for us to link with HBCUs to arrange a common grant with them. A concern is that so many people already want to do this with them, so they are spread too thin. Michele mentioned that Marceline will be at the meeting if anyone wished to approach her during the annual meeting.

Piero did mention that we have worked with the Gates Ag Foundation who coordinated with SIVB to support the 2024 Student Award program so SIVB did not have to allocate any specific funds for these

awards. It is hoped we can keep this and add to it year after year. We have a list of all companies that grows year after year with contacts for outreach. This is updated yearly by the Development Committee. When someone comes in and makes a connection, they often become long-term members. Board members should ideally reach out to speakers and new members to welcome them and share how our organization works and how we'd love to have them join us.

Addy mentioned that returning to the same cities will allow us to build stronger relationships without having to reinvent the wheel each meeting.

Michele then followed up on the action item from the night before regarding previous language about the timeline for the transition of officers in the organization. The current language indicates that the officer transition will take place prior to the Annual Meeting, while the previous language indicated that the officer transition occurred after the conclusion of the Annual Meeting. She requested that she be allowed to review the bylaws language with Piero to come up with the appropriate text/changes, send it to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for their review, and bring the approved language to the Board for their vote.

Action Item: Michele will review the bylaws language with Piero to come up with the appropriate text/changes, send it to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for their review, and bring the approved language to the Board for their vote.

4.0 Treasurer's Report

B. Doonan

4.1 Financial Update

B. Doonan

4.1.1 2023 Year-end Finances

Barbara noted that the year-end finances in the Annual Report include the information being discussed at this meeting. The SIVB has come through some very difficult times successfully, but we still have a way to go. The 2024 World Congress does appear to be profitable. Barbara applauded the committee members who came up with creative means to fundraise.

Membership is still an issue. She reiterated that we are a unique society because our members come from a huge variety of disciplines touching on all living organisms. We are a welcoming home to all scientists that work on living tissue. We need to stress how important and all-encompassing in vitro research is. The more we can get that out into the world, the better they can understand what our society is all about.

She noted the increase of guaranteed royalties for IVP. We now have an accountant who is responsive and familiar with handling 501(c)3 corporations. Barbara explained that it is very important that the Treasurer work closely with the Business Office and now the accountant. These closer relationships have been helpful. The 2024 in-person registration is higher than we have had in 20 years. This is due to the efforts put in from all the planning members of the organization

4.1.2 April 2024 Statements

Investments show the market as friendly now. The new initiatives which the Board agreed to last fall were one of the best moves we could have made and show growth for the organization. We also have a closer relationship with our advisor. Michele and Barbara met with Benjamin,

our chief advisor on our accounts in the last week. We have reduced credit risk and have moved from a commission basis to a managed fee. We agreed that our current investment strategy is working for us and we don't see a need to change at this time. It is expected that we are projected to increase our investments by around \$17,000 for this year, though this could change depending on the market.

The cleanup of the SIVB accounts will be ongoing through at least the end of the year. We are looking to make sure restricted funds from previous years have been moved to the appropriate accounts. Michele explained that since the prior accountant had not transferred funds from restricted accounts to the general funds when they were supposed to, we are now reviewing the last 3-4 years of financials to make sure that all funds have been correctly transferred to the correct accounts. Once this is completed, it will allow us to better identify where each fund (Student Awards, Section activity funds, etc.) stands. In looking at the April Financials, Barbara also explained that all funds received for the 2024 Congress are considered restricted funds until the actual start of the meeting as they are deferred to support the event. While the unrestricted funds from April appear low, this is only because the meeting funds had not been moved into the unrestricted accounts.

4.2 IVACS Financial Statements

B. Doonan

4.3 PB Financial Statements

B. Doonan

Michele showed the approved financials from IVACS and PB Sections and explained that the funds due from the IVACS and PB sections over the last few years, which were approved for transfer, were never moved by the prior accountant. These funds cover the administrative fees and speaker registration fees. Additionally, payments for the Joint Sections socials from the last few years were also to be paid by the sections, but it appeared some of these funds were not transferred. This is part of the deep research that Michele will be completing to clean up the accounts.

Michele shared an overview on the growth from October 2023 to the present for our current investments. We moved \$30,000 to an interest-bearing account. We also migrated the funds we had in multiple accounts into a singular account which had a higher interest rate. Since that transition, we have shown an increase of \$30,000 (7.49% return). Fredy asked if we are interested in longer-term investments in a high-interest environment holding funds for 5-10 years. Barbara explained that our advisor has been very good at finding a balance with safety for the organization with the best possible interest rates. Michele explained that the investment account that is shorter-term has only \$30,000 and can be accessed. The bulk of our investments are longer-term and are unable to be pulled out easily. It's security of our core. We aren't a multi-million dollar company so we don't have a lot that can be held long-term where we can't access the funds if needed. Most funds in the longer-term accounts are from long-term student award or section activity funds.

Mae asked if the financials indicate a loss for the organization. Michele noted that it does. However the loss for the year is significantly lower than we had expected based on the projected budget for 2023. In 2024, we are expecting to be closer to stabilization than the projected budget indicated as the projected budget and the April financials do not include all the funds that were received from registration, grant support, and other income for the meeting. Mae asked if the October to October assessment would be a better comparison for this year. Michele explained that it would be because all the income and all the expenses from the meeting would have been addressed at that time.

Mae also noted that when she was IVACS Chair it wasn't clear what the section needed to do about their budgeting and financials. Michele noted that, as the program is being prepared, it is understood that IVACS has agreed to provide \$1,000 per session and support registration for nonmember speakers. Because the accounting had been messed up by the prior accountant, the Business Office has been unable to provide the normal documentation that would show exactly what is in each activity fund so the chairs would know what they had available to spend and make more informed decisions.

Kolla noted that the outgoing IVACS and PB Chairs should sit with the incoming chairs and go over what is in the account and what they need to do to support the numbers for their section's fund. This would give them an understanding regarding the repercussions of saying yes to additional funds for session expenses before they make those agreements.

Each section needs to support: Nonmember Invited speaker registration fees, 10% of all the contributions raised for their specific fund as an administration fee, their portion of the Joint Section Social, and the individual speaker reimbursements (up to \$1,000 per session for IVACS and \$2,000 per session for PB). Michele will look to work with her team to see if there is a way that the information for each section and what they are spending on expenses can be more easily generated and shared with the chairs. We want each section to raise these amounts. They should always be fundraising for more than they need for the specific meeting. They need to know they are not trying to spend all the funds they are raising.

Michele expects the 2024 Congress to break even and possibly make a small profit.

Wayne asked how much money we should have in reserve to be a profitable society. Michele noted that Marietta's original goal was to have a base of one million dollars. Mae suggested that the accountant might know what a reasonable amount of money to have in reserve would be. Allan noted that the question may be how much we need to bring in to be self-sustainable without hitting negative numbers. Michele noted we could work toward determining that amount. Barbara said we may instead ask as a 501(c)3 what the rule of thumb is to be sustainable, but we don't expect that a specific dollar amount could be provided.

The other question is how large an endowment fund needs to be to function off the interest rather than using up their funds each year.

Action Item: Michele and Barbara will go to the accountant to find out: 1) What the rule of thumb is for a 501(c)3 to be self-sustainable and how large each of the endowment funds need to be to be able to function off their interest each year rather than using up the funds.

Addy noted that the Chairs should be an integral part of the Development Committee so they have an idea of what fundraising is taking place and what they need to raise funds for. Kolla noted that the Section chairs should be at the Program Planning Committee meetings as well as the Development Committee meetings. It was noted that this should be addressed in their respective section bylaws. IVACS does not have a designated fundraiser at this time and Fredy noted that this should be added for the section.

Because the Handbook is a working document, this is something that can be addressed and added. All board members are encouraged to review sections that affect them to make sure that all information is updated to be an accurate reflection of the responsibilities and expectations of each role. All suggested updates should be sent to Michael Fay and Michele with a cc to Piero for their review for inclusion.

When individuals are interested in running for office, this information should be shared by the Nominating Committee Chair or Committee Member looking for candidates.

5.0 Publications

M. Fay/A. Alt-Holland

5.1 Publications Update

M. Schultz

Michele noted that the Animal journal missed their paper budget for 2023. However, due to the exceptional efforts of Dr. Tetsuji Okamoto in organizing several special issues, we are looking to publish at budget for the year. This additional paper flow allows us to publish closer to schedule than in the last year. Two came out in May, two in July, one will come out in October and another 2 are planned for 2025. Michele suggested that we look to assist him by identifying reviewing editors in Latin America, Europe and other continents where we do not currently have a presence. All of the current EIC are Japanese guest editors.

Kolla noted that very few of our members are Associate Editors (AE) and she isn't aware if they have been asked to be AEs. The current Associate Editors (AE) are significantly older and there aren't a lot of younger members stepping into those positions. There are a number of IVACS members who could be approached. It had been briefly addressed over the last few years, but Dr. Okamoto had been unable to attend the meeting in person over the last few years. He is here this year so we are hoping to address this further with him and to provide him with an opportunity to connect him with our members to invite them to participate.

Kolla noted that she was concerned that it is currently a paper a month for an AE. The current board has only about 4 people on the list doing the actual work. It is important to bring in a younger group of AEs to learn the journal and how it functions so if Tetsuji decides to retire at any point, the journal can continue with a consistent quality.

For the Plant journal, the biggest challenge has been the IAPB. It was hoped that, as the new IAPB Secretariat's Office transferred to Canada, they would be able to rectify the previously slow IAPB manuscript flow from the Korean Secretariat. Normally, a prior EIC would train the incoming EIC and finalize any MS that were in the pipeline. However, at the transition of the Secretariat in August 2023, it appears that the prior EIC stopped working on the journal entirely. This meant that manuscripts were left unresolved and only a few manuscripts were left that had been typeset after the September/October 2023 issue was published. Additionally, the new EIC wasn't able to access the Editorial Manager system until December 2023 to begin to learn how to manage the IAPB portion of the journal. This meant that there wasn't sufficient time for him to build a base of new manuscripts for on-time publication of the March-April issue of the journal. We worked with David Songstad to help approve transferring enough manuscripts from SIVB issues to the IAPB issue to publish. As of the end of May we were able to move the issue into production. Unfortunately, this meant that the SIVB May/June issue, which had sufficient papers to publish, was unable to do so until the IAPB issue had gone to press. IAPB is reimbursing David for the editing fees that he paid to his copy editor.

We also learned that the IAPB is only going to stay in Canada for 2 years, which means that we will be addressing this process again in 2 years, though it is hoped the current Secretariat will train the new one during the transition.

Allan stated that there needs to be more consistency for the organization. The IAPB Transition time will also be the likely time for us to be applying to PubMed. With the change of country IAPB often changes their website. We have stressed to them the essential importance to having a consistent URL that remains the same from Secretariat to Secretariat. We also signed an addendum on our contract with the new Secretariat. Instead of a 60/40 split of the royalties, it will now be a 67/33 split to better reflect the amount of content that SIVB is publishing in our 4 issues compared to IAPB's 2 issues. Other publishing opportunities were considered including jointly publishing each issue with IAPB content (2-4 articles) and adjusting the addendum split to 75/25.

Mae asked if David Songstad is staying on as EIC. Michele confirmed he has signed his contract agreement. She also noted that Tetsuji is still functioning as EIC of IVA, but we are still waiting for a signed contract from him which we hope to address while we are in person. Mae asked if we provided any additional concessions with the contract. It was explained that we have agreed to offer both EICs the use of one of the SIVB Annual Meeting staff rooms when there are sufficient rooms available once the organization's requirements (staff, Keynote, and volunteers) have been addressed.

Michele provided an update on the IVP instructions for authors. Springer has requested a marked up version of the document be shared with them as they were unable to track the changes on the version provided. Michele will be meeting with Aleta to discuss our options further to move this forward after this meeting. She also noted that the IAPB was suggesting greater detail in the instructions for authors. However, we need to address being PubMed compliant before looking at adding additional directions.

Michele noted that Springer offers an opportunity to place papers of similar topics together on their website for ease of searching. Both David Songstad and Tetsuji Okamoto have included some collections from older articles as well as creating new collections from the Special Issues they are preparing. Board members are encouraged to review our journal content to suggest new special issues on topics and provide the list of articles with their URLs to the EIC, Michele, and the Publications Chair so they can be reviewed and implemented.

We are still awaiting a demo of SNAPP; Springer's new peer review system, and will discuss this with Springer during the Annual Meeting.

Michael noted that the IVR is continuing to publish. He was unable to do the final draft of the last issue, but the publication is doing well. He would like to see more content from the membership. Michele reminded Board Members and Committee/Section Chairs that we would like to receive articles from members about items of interest they would like to share with the membership through the newsletter. The Board Members and Committee/Section Chairs are also encouraged to share their own news.

Addy suggested that Barbara might formally compose an article discussing the importance of In Vitro and how our organization is the core of so much as she had just spoken during the Finance Update to include in the IVR.

Action Item: Barbara Doonan to create an article discussing the importance of membership in the SIVB and SIVB's importance in society reflecting what she explained during this meeting.

Michele noted that the build of the SIVB website will begin once we have addressed the results of the survey.

Michele introduced Chris Bagley who reviewed the activities of the Social Engagement Committee. There are 8 members, 5 of which are very active. Most content comes from text provided by the Business Office as well as suggestions from the Local Organizing and Program Committees. We are making 10-20 posts per month. The months before the meeting are more active. Our biggest platform is LinkedIn. We have consolidated the SIVB Group into the SIVB Company Page and we now have over 1,000 followers (up 900 members) since we closed the group page in December. We post on Facebook and Instagram and do see activity. We do not currently post on X (formerly Twitter). In the past, we could use an app called TweetDeck which was a free option for all members of the committee to use a back end way to schedule posts to the page. We also started using the Canva app which the team uses to design and schedule posts. Since Twitter became X, the Tweetdeck and Canva app no longer function in the same way. If we want more than one person to have access and permission to post, we have to pay for an Individual or Professional account. The cost for the professional account is \$2,000 a year. The Individual official account was a few hundred dollars per year, but since we are a company, it is likely that X would force us to purchase a Professional account for the organization. It is essential that the official account access to these platforms stays with the Business Office as that is the only way to assure the security of our accounts. Sharing that information puts the organization at risk. The question was how much ROI do we get from Twitter(X) from posts to see if there was value. Chris said it was hard to research the metrics, but, after further reflection, recommended LinkedIn as the prime focus of our attention. We aren't showing a benefit from X and may wish to not create any new posts there.

Michele asked the Board how many people are using actively using X. Most board members noted they had accounts, but they really didn't use the platform. The board decided they did not wish to pursue posting any further on our X account. Michele is requested to post on X to redirect them to our Instagram/Facebook/LinkedIn post.

Chris asked the board to direct anyone interested in Social Media to him as he would like to identify one-two more people who can start to assist the team. Hong mentioned one of his students might be a good candidate and Kolla suggested that Chris attend the student events to let people know. Michele reiterated that all board members, chairs, and officers are welcome to attend the Student Pizza Party. Kolla also suggested that she can bring her iPad so the students can see our page and hopefully follow the other social media platforms.

Action Item: Social Engagement Committee to create a post that can be posted on X to inform people that our meetings and membership are active and to find us where we are posting actively on Instagram, Facebook, or LinkedIn.

Action Item: Michele will forward logos to the Social Engagement Committee to prepare the Social Media Toolkit in advance for release of the 2025 Meeting website.

Michele reviewed the analytics noting that SIVB's website is actually 3 individual websites and shared locations that show the most activity. It was suggested that the *In Vitro Report* should be added as a tab on the menu. Wayne asked if there is any other information we can glean from this content. Michele reiterated the importance of the terminology page content and that the student awards, Phillip White Award, and listing of Board Members are pages that showed up with some frequency.

5.2 EventScribe Website/App Overview

M. Schultz

Michele provided an overview of the mobile app and EventScribe website. She showed the new icon legend and walked through the highlights of the site including the "program-at-a-glance", recorded sessions, links to the evaluation, and the networking options in the app to contact authors or others at the meeting or through the Virtual Program.

5.3 Springer Update

M. Schultz

Michele noted that the Springer Reports will be discussed at a number of other meetings during the Annual meeting and the content is very dense. The files will remain in the board packet folder for review after this meeting. To conserve time, she recommended that everyone reviews the content on their own and discuss any concerns at the Publications Committee, Springer/IAPB/SIVB, and Editorial Board Meetings. Michele noted the importance of reviewing impact factor, countries who have authors publishing in our journal, the turnaround times to complete tasks.

6.0 Committee Reports

6.1 Nominating Committee 2026-2028

A. Alt-Holland

Addy explained that she will begin to reach out to people at this meeting. She reviewed the timeline so that the final slate will be ready in a year. She noted which of the board and non-board positions will be open. She asked all board members in attendance to run for office and if they know others who are interested to forward them to her. Piero explained that the President-Elect should also be involved in this process as those people will take office during his presidency. Allan also noted that the election information states there should be at least 2 candidates for each position. He also shared he was grateful for those who stepped up to be the secondary candidates.

6.2 Membership Update

V. Dayeh

Michele reviewed the statistics. Regular membership numbers are much the same as last year. There is an unusually high bump in the free student memberships. This is due to the inception of the new Regeneron High School Science Fair Award Program. At the end of 2022, the Society for Science and the Public, which administers the award program, requested that each organization providing an award also provide a prize with a monetary value. SIVB chose to provide all high school students with free student membership in the current year. The first year of this program was in 2023. With the sudden passing of Marietta, processing of the initial memberships planned for 2023 was significantly delayed. It was decided that those who were not processed in a timely fashion would be provided with 2024 membership. In addition, in 2024, those who received the award were processed on schedule and received 2024 membership. This is in addition to the nearly 100 students who attended the 2023 In Vitro Biology Meeting. We expect the number of Student members to drop in 2025. As of April, we have processed 139 new 2024 student members as part of this program and will be processing additional students who have received the award this year. Some of the student members from 2023 renewed in 2024. Two 2024 winners are attending in person and others may be registering for the On-Demand Program.

In prior years, Post Docs were provided a discounted registration rate whether they were a member or nonmember. This meant that, while we had around 20 Post Doc registrants, we would only have 5 or fewer Post Doc members. At the beginning of the 2024 World Congress cycle, it was agreed that we would add member, nonmember, and combination rates for Post Docs. This has resulted in an increase of 17 Post Doc members and gives them an opportunity to get more actively involved. Michele explained that the combination rate was the cost of membership and member registration (\$215) and the nonmember rate was \$5 more (\$220).

Yiping asked how many members start as students and become either a post doc or regular member. Michele noted a number of student members who are now officers including Ahmad Omar, Vivian Dayeh, etc. Michele noted that some post docs have more restricted funding and might not continue; however, they may be able to get registration fees supported which will keep them involved in the organization longer. It is hoped they will establish long enough relationships to remain loyal members.

Fredy asked if we are still having an issue filling the slots for the Post Doctoral Oral Presentation Competition. We have included a shorter session for plant (1.5 hours), for which they have organized enough presenters. IVACS had never had a solo Post Doc session before and this year had only one candidate for their competition. Fredy recommended increasing the prize money for the Post Docs to get more candidates for the competition. The Bob V. Conger Fund supports the Plant Student competition which increased their prize money. The IVACS section got a contribution for the 2024 year to support their two competitions to match the original funding for their sessions (\$100/\$75/\$50). Fredy stated those funds were way too low and should be \$500 for 1st prize. As the new Development Committee Chair, he would need to help raise those amounts.

6.2.1 Update/Statistics

M. Schultz

Michele reviewed the 2024 and 2025 charts including the year-on-year comparison based on the city where we held the meetings. While the Post Docs are increasing, the Regular membership is what we need to support our organization. The journal royalties won't support the organization for the entire year. We need to determine new forms of outreach.

Michael asked if we can promote membership on our social channels. Michele confirmed that we do this regularly. Michele reviewed the membership initiatives including the new survey, the Student Buddy program, Journal author lists, and the 2-year membership opportunity. Michele confirmed that SIVB Membership runs from January 1 – December 31. Members can renew early and their new membership will activate on the first of the calendar year.

Wayne suggested we need to come up with a strategy to reach out to PlantGENE members. Michele noted that, at prior World Congresses, other societies provided content for 2 sessions and were listed as co-sponsors with their logo on the meeting. If PlantGENE becomes a co-sponsor and can bring their members to the joint meeting, this would show them the benefits of SIVB and hopefully have them become full members. Wayne noted he could have Michele invited to the PlantGENE meeting to provide a pitch. This would be planned for 2026 or future years. This could also be addressed with NSF should this be an option to proceed. Deepika would also be approached to discuss options. Wayne recommended that Joyce be brought into the conversation. There is an active coordination between PlantGENE and SIVB through the NSF grant programs. We can become the physical presence for PlantGENE.

6.3 Long Range Planning Update

P. Barone/M. Fay

Piero noted that the committee had been responsible for the dissemination of the Survey that was sent out to members and potential members. This survey has been shared to the meeting attendees and will be kept open through the closing of the On-Demand Limited Access Program for the 2024 World Congress. It addresses SIVB's need to try to understand how SIVB is viewed and what may be missing that could be added to the current offerings of the SIVB. The data will be combined and shared. This information will be used to help build the website and address the long-term growth of the organization.

6.5 Awards

6.5.1 Student Awards

P. Weathers/P. Barone

Michele shared the results of the 2024 Student Awards. All awards have been financially supported by outside sources. MDPI supported the Phillip White Award and Gates Ag Foundation supported the rest of the Student Award Program for 2024. One student was unable to attend so we will be sending her the certificate even though she is ineligible to receive the award funds.

6.5.2 Lifetime Achievement, Distinguished Scientist, Fellow

D. Tomes/P. Barone

Todd J. Jones, PhD and Lucila E. J. Lee, PhD will be receiving Lifetime Achievement Awards during the World Congress. This award is presented to them for their years of exemplary research, achievements, and pioneering contributions to the field of cell culture. Richard Heller, PhD and Prakash P. Kumar, PhD are being honored with the 2024 SIVB Distinguished Scientist Award. Raj Deepika Chauhan, PhD; Hong Luo, PhD; and Brad Luther Upham, PhD are being honored with the 2024 SIVB Fellow Award.

The Society for In Vitro Biology is pleased to honor Michael K. Dame; Barbara B. Doonan, PhD; Michael J. Fay, PhD; Cynthia L. Goodman, PhD; Todd J. Jones, PhD; Michele Schultz; Dwight Tomes, PhD; Veena Veena, PhD; and Allan R. Wenck, PhD with the Distinguished Service Award. This award recognizes those specially selected by SIVB Past President, Addy Alt-Holland, who have demonstrated and given extra effort in support of the SIVB programs and endeavors during the last year of her term in office.

6.6 Public Policy

W. Parrott

Wayne shared that the Board had approved us to join a consortium of groups focused on Plant Biotechnology and Agriculture. There is strength in numbers and helps magnify our voice. We joined a group that signed an appeal to a prohibition of GMOs on federal lands. On the Animal side, the FDA has now listed that an edited animal is to be considered a pharmaceutical. We are unsure if there is regulatory relief. Wayne asked if there was someone on the IVACS side to help keep abreast of the Animal issues as they are very complicated and different than Plant issues. Europe started accepting gene edits. There was a new regulation being considered that could threaten this, but that regulation was not passed and it will take some time for this to be viewed again by the European Parliament. In the US, all three agencies have come up with editing policies. The FDA is expected policy (to make sure items are safe and legal). The EPA has ratcheted up their regulations. They are regulating edits now and alternations in plant shape and forms now. They are getting pushback and will be reviewing their regulations. There is language in the form bill passed by the House that orders EPA to treat biotech resistance traits as if they were conventional traits. The Senate has not approved this yet. The USDA has ratcheted down their regulations. They are being sued for the first set of their reforms and are

unable to push through expansions until the lawsuit is completed. New NIH recombinant guidelines were issued earlier this year, but there are no exemptions for use of plants, transgenic or edited, even if they have been used previously in the lab or greenhouse, without first getting approval from a biosafety committee. This means that already approved plants now need to be confined.

Wayne was requested to include links to help explain what the votes are being requested when he sends out requests for votes on issues that required a quick turnaround, as not all members of the Board are familiar with the issues and often abstain rather than that vote on the topics. Wayne has agreed to provide this additional information.

6.7 Constitution and Bylaws

M. Kane/P. Barone

Please review the Annual Report.

6.8 Education Committee

B. Upham

Brad noted that there was a lot of work being done by the students to get the sessions in place. He wants to move forward with endowment funds to support our the ability of our student chairs to attend the meeting. Piero noted that we were able to cover some of their costs this year through a grant. Brad was appreciative but wants to look at how we can make this support for the student chairs ongoing.

7.0 Section Updates

7.1 In Vitro Animal Cell Sciences Section

K. Martinez-Guryn/S. Poytner

Please review the Annual Report.

7.2 Plant Biotechnology Section

J. Rupp/Y.Qi

Please review the Annual Report.

8.0 Other Business

P. Barone

8.1 Annual Report Approval

P. Barone

Motion: To accept the Annual Report. The motion was seconded and approved.

8.2 SIVB Business Meeting Agenda

P. Barone

Motion: To approve the Business Meeting Agenda. The motion was seconded and approved.

8.3 Selection of Fall BOD meeting in Norfolk, VA

P. Barone/M. Schultz

The meeting will be held in person in Norfolk. There were two weekends listed (October 25-26 or November 8-9) The board was requested to check their calendar and determine which of the proposed dates. All present noted which dates they were able to attend.

Action Item: Michele will proceed with scheduling the Fall Board of Directors Meeting on November 8-9.

8.4 Possible partnership with URI Issues in Biotechnology Course

P. Barone/A.Kausch

Piero shared a proposal provided by David Songstad and Albert Kausch. Albert has been teaching a course at the University of Rhode Island (URI) that covers Biotechnology Applications and Public Perception. This course was approved by US National QM Standards for Online Education. He is

offering it for credit through a private company. They are looking to have NEBI (New England Biophilia Institute) provide the content and management resources, URI provide the online accreditation, and SIVB to provide Marketing and Distribution. The fees raised could be split between the three entities. Albert and David asked for this to be brought to the board as a potential opportunity to bring a monetary benefit to the SIVB. Allan noted that we would provide marketing, which is a financial burden for SIVB. Barbara noted that it's important to know what the actual cost/benefits would be. Piero noted that he was asked to see if the Board was interested in the concept enough to receive a more detailed proposal and presentation. Michele noted that they are asking for us to have marketing and distribution which could have long-term costs to have a password protected system. This may be able to be addressed once we move to the new database, but that is not yet clear if it is feasible. It was asked what the market potential and what the long-term potential is for this program. Albert is looking at both college credit and professional certificate options. It could be interesting, but we need a lot more information.

ACITON ITEM: Piero will follow up and invite Albert Kausch and David Songstad to present their proposal at the Fall Board of Directors Meeting including more details including monetary, logistics, etc. and what they are expecting for logistics, distribution, and marketing.

Motion: To adjourn the June Board of Directors Meeting. Motion was seconded and approved.

9.0 Meeting adjourned at 11:29 Eastern Time.

Motions from the June 2024 Meeting:

1. **Motion:** To approve the Agenda for June 2024 Board meeting. Motion was seconded and approved.
2. **Motion:** To approve the minutes for the March 2024 Board meeting. This motion was seconded and approved.
3. **Motion:** To approve Raj Deepika Chauhan as the new Membership Chair. This motion was seconded and approved.
4. **Motion:** To name the meeting as follows: *(Year) In Vitro Biology Meeting*” for all years and not have a *“World Congress on In Vitro Biology”*. The motion was so seconded and approved.
5. **Motion:** Every 4 years, SIVB will make a concerted effort to invite or recruit other International In Vitro Societies to participate in the In Vitro Biology Meeting. The motion was so seconded and approved.
6. **Motion:** To grant Emeritus status to Dr. Harry. Motion was seconded and approved.
7. **Motion:** For Kolla to recommend to the Program Planning Committee the suggestion for a change in the title of ‘Contributed Papers Session’ to ‘Late-breaking Oral Presentations.’ Motion was so moved and seconded.
8. **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting until Saturday morning. Motion was seconded and approved.
9. **Motion:** To offer the position of 2026 Program Chair to Ahmad Omar. Motion was seconded and passed.
10. **Motion:** To name the meeting as follows: *Year In Vitro Biology Meeting* with and without the tagline of World or International. The motion was so moved and seconded.
11. **Motion:** To invite or re-invite other International Societies to participate in the meeting every 4 years. Motion was so moved and seconded.
12. **Motion:** To accept the Annual Report. The motion was seconded and approved.
13. **Motion:** To approve the Business Meeting Agenda. The motion was seconded and approved.
14. **Motion:** To adjourn the June Board of Directors Meeting. Motion was seconded and approved.

Outstanding Action items from the October 2022 Meeting

- 1. Action Item:** Barbara will work with Mae and the Business Office to identify and invite previous SIVB members to a special SIVB reunion for the 2026 meeting. **March 2023 Update:** This process will begin after the 2024 World Congress. **June 2023 Update:** Barbara and Mae will begin compiling names and contact information after the 2024 World Congress in June 2024. This action item is ongoing. **October 2023 Update:** This is pending until after the 2024 World Congress. This action item is ongoing. **March 2024 Update:** Barbara and Mae will begin formalizing a plan at the 2024 World Congress meeting. They will work with the Business Office to gather information. This item is ongoing. **June 2024 Update:** **This process will begin in the fall 2024, most likely in conjunction with the fall Board meeting in November 2024.**

Action Items from the March 2023 Meeting

- 2. Action Item:** Piero proposed to call a special Board meeting to discuss membership, retention, new membership application, and revisiting the public profile of SIVB. This would involve a separate meeting with the Membership Committee, Long-Range Planning Committee, and the Board before the Fall Board of Directors meeting. **June 2023 Update:** Piero will continue to work with Michele and Addy on this item. They will decide when and who will meet virtually to discuss this further. This action item is ongoing. **October 2023 Update:** A meeting is planned for shortly after the October Board meeting to begin these discussions. This action item is ongoing. **March 2024 Update:** Addy, Piero and Michele met in December in Reno to review and discuss this item. They sent out a call to the Board of Directors requesting keywords or short phrases that captured what SIVB means to them, as well as the key benefits of membership in the organization. The list was compiled and will be provided as a survey to the membership for their feedback. This will help the Board determine a consensus of how the Society is perceived internally and address what may be needed to re-envision or adjust the direction and messaging of the organization. **June 2024 Update:** **A copy of the current responses to the survey was provided in the Board packet. Michele and Piero presented the survey results. The survey is still open and will remain available until the middle of the summer to gather as much data as possible from both meeting attendees and members. This item is ongoing.**

Action Items from the June 2023 Board Meeting

- 3. Action Item:** Social Engagement and Publications Committees will work on creating advertising recommended hashtags for the site to include on postings. **October 2023 Update:** After discussion with the Social Engagement Committee Chair, it was agreed that this task would wait to coincide with the rebuild of the main site so that the hashtags and SEO messaging from the SIVB will be cohesive. This action item is ongoing. **March 2024 Update:** The rebuild of the website is suspended until decisions are finalized regarding the new vision of SIVB. This action item is on hold until the website is rebuilt. This action item is ongoing. **June 2024 Update:** **This item is pending and will be addressed after closing of the survey and a review of the responses. This item is ongoing.**
- 4. Action Item:** Michele will work with the Long-Range Planning Committee and Publications Committee to update the 'area of interest categories' throughout the website and the journals to reflect the current interests of our members and meeting attendees. **March 2024 Update:** This is a long-term conversation that will be continued with both Committees at the 2024 World Congress. The conversation will include research that is being conducted with the Board and Membership Committee for the re-envisioning of the organization. This action item is ongoing. **June 2024 Update:** **This information is on hold until the results from the survey are analyzed. This item is ongoing.**

Action Items from March, 2024 meeting

5. **Action Item:** Piero will continue conversations regarding an outreach request to the Australian Branch of the IAPB. **June 2024 Update:** Piero explained that a colleague contacted SIVB to attend but wasn't able to attend the meeting. She would like to connect with a professional Society like SIVB. He will be meeting with her next week. **This item is ongoing.**

New Action Items from the June 2024 Meeting

6. **Action Item:** To proceed with a Terminology Committee including Michael, Wayne, and Addy as Chairs with members: Piero Barone, Kolla Kristjansdottir, Vivian Dayeh, Hong Luo, and Yiping Qi to build new terminology documents.
7. **Action item:** For Michele to review the Society's historical versions of the Constitution and Bylaws to determine appropriate language regarding changing the time when new Elected Officers and Chairs will officially take office and bring it to the Board for their approval to take the item to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.
8. **Action Item:** Kolla to send edits she identified in the Handbook to Michael Fay and Michele Schultz to update the document.
9. **Action Item:** Piero will contact Ahmad and provide Michele and Allan with Ahmad's response. Michele will share this information with the Board.
10. **Action Item:** Michele will review the bylaws language with Piero to come up with the appropriate text/changes, send it to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for their review, and bring the approved language to the Board for their vote.
11. **Action Item:** Michele and Barbara will go to the accountant to find out: 1) What the rule of thumb is for a 501(c)3 to be self-sustainable and how large each of the endowment funds need to be to be able to function off their interest each year rather than using up the funds.
12. **Action Item:** Barbara Doonan to create an article discussing the importance of membership in the SIVB and SIVB's importance in society reflecting what she explained during this meeting.
13. **Action Item:** Social Engagement Committee to create a post that can be posted on X to inform people that our meetings and membership are active and to find us where we are posting actively on Instagram, Facebook, or LinkedIn.
14. **Action Item:** Michele will forward logos to the Social Engagement Committee to prepare the Social Media Toolkit in advance for release of the 2025 Meeting website.
15. **Action Item:** Michele will proceed with scheduling the Fall Board of Directors Meeting on November 8-9.
16. **Action Item:** Piero will follow up and invite Albert Kausch and David Songstad to present their proposal at the Fall Board of Directors Meeting including more details including monetary, logistics and what they are expecting for logistics, distribution and marketing.