

SIVB Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Saturday, February 22, 2025, 10am Eastern Time
Zoom Meeting

In attendance: Piero Barone (President), Addy Alt-Holland (Past-President; Publications Chair), Barbara Doonan (Treasurer), Michael Fay (President-Elect), Fredy Altpeter (Vice President), Kolla Kristjansdottir (Member-at-Large IVACS), Hong Luo (Member-at-Large PB), Wayne Parrott (Public Policy Chair), Allan Wenck (2025 Meeting Chair), Ahmad Omar (2025 Program Committee Vice Chair and 2026 Program Committee Chair), Vivian Dayeh (Member-at-Large IVACS), Raj Deepika Chauhan (Membership Committee Chair), Michele Schultz (Managing Director), and Mae Ciancio (Secretary)

Excused: Pon Samuel (Member-at-Large PB)

Meeting was called to order at: 10:01am EST

1.0 INTRODUCTION

P. Barone

1.1 Adoption of Agenda

M. Ciancio

The agenda for February 22, 2025, the Board of Directors meeting was presented for the Board's approval.

Motion: To approve the Agenda for February 22, 2025, Board meeting. Motion was seconded and approved.

1.2 Adoption of Minutes

M. Ciancio

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

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

1.3 Outstanding Action Items

M. Ciancio

Outstanding Action items from the October 2022 Board 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. This action item is ongoing. 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 action item is ongoing. June 2024 Update: This process will begin in fall 2024, most likely in conjunction with the fall Board meeting in November 2024. This action item is ongoing. November 2024 Update: Michele provided a list to Barbara of all Emeritus, Honorary, and Life members from 2000 to the present who are still alive, according to SIVB's records. Barbara and Mae will be contacting these members and other long-term members to discuss the upcoming "reunion" at the 2026 Reno meeting. Barbara and Mae will also explore a

mechanism to include a fundraising opportunity to support the festivities. Also, under consideration is the option of replacing the Monday Joint Sections' Social with the reunion event. This action item is ongoing. **February 2025 update: The Business Office created the 2026 Meeting logo to allow Barbara and Mae to begin to advertise the reunion event. The logo includes both symbols of Reno as well as acknowledging the 80th year of SIVB. Barbara and Mae will begin reaching out to the Emeritus, Honorary, and Life members informing them of the event and requesting support for the reunion. This action item is ongoing.**

Outstanding Action Items from the June 2023 Board Meeting

2. 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 continue 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 action item is pending and will be addressed after closing of the survey and a review of the responses. This action item is ongoing. November 2024 Update: Once Piero, Addy, Deepika, and Michele compile the data from the survey, this will be provided to the Social Engagement Committee so they can begin determining the hashtags and advertising to market SIVB to the community at large. This action item is ongoing. **February 2025 Update: This action item is ongoing. Please see item 6 below. This action item is ongoing.**

3. 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 action item is ongoing. November 2024 Update. The Membership Committee has been discussing this same issue and has been requested to provide a pared-down list of 12 categories each for IVACS and PB sections. Once this is provided, the lists will be presented to the Publications Committee and Editors-in-Chief to finalize new lists to be presented to the Board for their approval before implementation. This action item is ongoing. **February 2025 Update: Michele shared the pared-down category lists with the Publications Committee and it will be discussed. This item is ongoing.**

Outstanding Action Items from the March 2024 Board Meeting

4..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 action item is ongoing. November 2024 Update: This action item is ongoing. **February 2025 Update: Michele and Piero will follow up. This item is ongoing.**

Outstanding Action Items from the June 2024 Board Meeting

5. **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. November 2024 Update: The Committee met in September and began to discuss resources. Piero and Yiping Qi are working on Genome Editing Terminology to provide to the committee. The chairs were to begin a review of the prior documents to provide recommendations for terms that may need to be removed, updated, or fields that are missing completely. Once these tasks are completed, the next steps will be:

- I. Michele approaching Springer with the list of expected resources to ensure any necessary steps are taken to ensure there are no concerns regarding copyright.
- II. Splitting/sharing the list of terms amongst the committee members so they can continue to revise or add necessary terms using the provided resources.
- III. Upon a first full draft of all terms, recruiting additional members to review the information to ensure that all appropriate terms are addressed. It was recommended that the SIVB Board of Directors be requested to review the terms appropriate to their research to help identify if any terms are missing or need to be adjusted. Will have one for plant and animal.

It is anticipated that this task will take a year to complete. To increase citations/impact, it is encouraged to release these articles in the early part of a calendar year. This would require final content to be ready by November 2025 at the latest. It is hoped that these articles can be published Open Access. This will require raising funds for this project of approximately \$7,000 which could be done by outreach to members or applying for a grant. This action item is ongoing. **February 2025 Update: Wayne indicated that the first section for the plant section is done (A-H) and they are now working on the second section. Addy, Mike Fay, Vivian, and Kolla are working on the animal section. This item is ongoing.**

Outstanding Action Items from the November 2024 Meeting

6. **Action Item:** Piero, Addy, Deepika, and Michele will begin going through the raw data from Today's Voices Survey to better understand how SIVB is viewed and the direction in which they recommend the Board proceed based on the results of the survey analysis. **February 2025 Update: Piero, Addy, Deepika, and Michele have met multiple times to review the data, look at trends, and determine goals for moving forward to build membership, the new website and to help the Social Engagement Committee determine hashtags that are appropriate to any new messaging that will be most effective. This action item is ongoing.**
7. **Action Item:** Business Office to create a redesign of the main (sivb.org) website header to increase visibility of SIVB's tag line: "Plant and Animal Biotechnology and Genomics." **February 2025 Update: This item is complete.**
8. **Action Item:** Kolla and Piero will work together on a word cloud to go along with a pending social media campaign using 1) the terms that are SIVB-focused and 2) the countries in which our members are located. This could be tied to a Social Media Campaign about what SIVB is about. **February 2025 Update: The country word cloud has been created and is included in this packet. The terminology word cloud is still in progress. This action item is ongoing.**

9. **Action item:** Addy and Michele will contact Tetsu to discuss any ideas he has regarding someone to take his place as EIC of the IVA journal upon his impending retirement and to discuss recruitment of more associate editors for the IVA journal to facilitate success of the journal including providing a list of suggested names to whom he can reach out. **February 2025 Update: After receiving initial feedback regarding the proposed changes to the matrix categories, further discussion is required. This action item remains ongoing.**
10. **Action Items:** Piero and Michele will reach out to IAPB Secretariat's Office (Pankaj and Samir) in February to remind them about their responsibilities to fulfill the paper budget of 18-19 papers per issue and discuss transitioning their site to the SIVB site as a host. **February 2025 Update: This email was sent to them in early February. This action item is complete.**
11. **Action Items:** Addy and Michele will go to the Publications Committee to discuss the terms on the SIVB logo, possible reconsideration of the importance of those terms, and a possible redesign of the logo to be released with new matrix categories for both journals once they are approved. **February 2025 Update: This topic will be discussed when we are able to schedule a meeting of the committee to discuss the matrix categories. This action item is ongoing.**
12. **Action Item:** Piero and Michele will reach out to IAPB Secretariat in February to revisit potentially transitioning their site to the SIVB site as a host. **February 2025 Update: There are plans to reach out to Pankaj. After the Board Meeting, SIVB will approach IAPB with this reminder. This action item is ongoing.**
13. **Action Item:** Michele will approach Aleta at Springer one more time regarding the updated or edited document which is part of the PubMed status process. If no information is received after 2 weeks' time, Michele will identify a higher up in Springer to assist in this issue. **February 2025 Update: Aleta responded noting that the review against the Springer modules has been somewhat time- and labor-intensive, which is why it is taking so long. In January, she received materials which she was reviewing with that team and noted she would get back to us with what they hoped would be a version that works for SIVB. Michele reiterated that we needed something from them by the February Board meeting. This action item is complete.**
14. **Action Item:** Business Office and Piero will come up with an introductory video script to let others know about the SIVB in different languages. **February 2025 Update: This action item is being tabled and considered complete.**
15. **Action Item:** Piero, Pon, Hong, and the Business Office will help identify and reach out to other SIVB members to provide a recorded welcome introducing SIVB in different native languages. This will use the script created by Piero and the Business Office and will be placed on SIVB's YouTube page and linked to our site. **February 2025 Update: This item is tabled until further notice and considered complete.**

16. **Action Item:** The Business Office will research the negative responses to the virtual poster survey question #4 and see if they can figure out if those with concerns were in person or virtual attendees. **February 2025 Update: There were 10 respondents who did not like Virtual Posters. All of them were In Person attendees. Of those, 5 people provided their names. Many of these 10 people also did not like the Mobile App or hotel. One (1) of them did not like the scientific program and two (2) didn't like the Lightning Talks. This action item is complete.**

17. **Action Item:** Michele will review the responses to the "Formatting" comments in the last line of question 9 of the survey to try to identify who it was. **February 2025 Update: The comment was provided to the Board. This item is complete.**

18. **Action Item:** Michele will send Ahmad, Alfred, Addy, and Kolla the 2024 survey as a .pptx file to review topics for next year. **February 2025 Update: This action item is complete.**

19. **Action Item:** For the IVACS session to be recorded, the Business Office will look at ways to split the room, so it won't appear too large (Audience on one side and redirecting attention to one side). If we don't receive grant funds to support the session, we may move the recording to a plant session. There is one IVACS session tentatively being recorded: "Host-Pathogen Interactions: The Ins and Outs of Bacterial Pathogenesis in the Human Host," though this has not been indicated on the website. We have requested the confirmed speakers of the session complete the approval requirements for recording. However, this session is not being funded by any grants. There are two plant sessions scheduled during that time slot that could be recorded if the Board would like to adjust the recording program. None of the sessions listed would be part of a grant. They are: "Trevor A. Thorpe Symposium: In Vitro Plant Quality in Commercial Tissue Culture Labs. What's Important, What Can You Get Away With?" and "Molecular Mechanisms for Genotype-independent Plant Regeneration and Gene Editing" Since it is the last session of the day, options are to:

- Record the IVACS session with suggested room setup.
- Record one of the other two plant sessions with the standard setup.
- Choose not to record any session during that time and release the recording crew at 12:30 saving labor and recording costs on the second half of that day.

February 2025 Update: The Program Chair/Vice Chair met to discuss these options and are recommending to the Board that no session be recorded at that time. The board agreed to that decision and no session will be recorded. This item is complete.

Motion: to release the AV Staff at 12:30 pm to save on costs. Motion was seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

20. **Action Item:** The Business Office will add a link for abstract submissions for the student and Post Doc oral competitions and other presentation opportunities to streamline the abstract submission process. The Business Office will also remove the email addresses of the competition moderators to ensure that all abstract submissions are received directly by the

Business Office. **February 2025 Update: This action item is complete.**

21. **Action Item:** The Business Office, in collaboration with the Membership Committee, will share the student retention information with the student representatives for the Education Committee. **February 2025 Update: In the prior database, when a member transitioned from one membership type to another, their new membership type overwrote their prior membership type. In the new database, as of October of 2024, it is extremely difficult to locate this information as the historical records are buried in secondary reporting structures that are not searchable. The Business Office provided Deepika and Christina a list that includes: a list of Student Award Winners from the website who are now or were regular members; a list of members from a database export of duplicate records where one of their records was student membership and the other was regular membership; and expiration dates for relevant memberships. This action item is complete.**
22. **Action Item:** The Business Office will add a link to the meeting page for student travel grant applications. **February 2025 Update: This action item is complete.**
23. **Action Item:** The Business Office will send an email directly to the students who attended the previous SIVB meeting, inviting them to the upcoming meeting and reminding them of the opportunity to apply for travel grant money. **February 2025 Update: Various broadcast emails were sent to attendees of last year's meeting and all students letting them know about the Oral Competitions and the Travel Grant Funds. SIVB received 23 applications for this year. This action item is complete.**
24. **Action Item:** The Board of Directors will revisit whether to hold a Tuesday night social event during the 2026 meeting and beyond. **February 2025 Update: This will be discussed at the Fall Board of Directors meeting. This action item is ongoing.**
25. **Action Item:** Michele will finalize support for the Post Doctoral Oral Presentation Competitions with Springer. **February 2025 Update: This action item is complete.**
26. **Action Item:** Section Chairs will designate a member from their section to coordinate the grant activities for their respective sections. **February 2025 Update: Michele spoke with Yiping Qi to determine who will take over the overall grants program preparations once Ahmad Omar transitions to Program Chair. The Plant Section has Jon Mahoney this year and, prior to the June meeting, will need to determine their next contact. Sarah Poynter has been contacted along with the Officers and Section Officers from the IVACS section to determine who their fundraiser contact will be moving forward. This action item is ongoing.**
27. **Action Item:** The Business Office will send out the list of new companies to the Board, section officers, and committee members for follow-up regarding fundraising for the meeting. **February 2025 Update: The Development Committee compiled an updated list of companies to contact for potential interest in the Society and the meeting. Board members with a contact within any of the listed organizations were urged to provide their information to Fredy and Alfred at their earliest opportunity. This action item is ongoing.**

- 28.
29. **Action Item:** The Board will consider Piero’s proposal for modifying the 2026 Program format to incorporate a rolling abstract model with more abstracts being included in the main program either by replacing symposia with Oral Presentation sessions or adding abstract presentations to symposia. This topic will be discussed again in February, with the goal to incorporate this model starting with the 2026 meeting. **February 2025 Update: The proposal information has been included in the Board’s packet for review and discussion during the 2026 Meeting discussion. This action item is ongoing.**
30. **Action Item:** Business Office will review meeting registration since COVID and calculate the percentage of PB and IVACS participants at the social events to calculate the appropriate cost split for the social events based on distribution of PB and IVACS attendees. Funds provided by PB and IVACS for the 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 meeting socials will be re-examined and monies may be reallocated to IVACS proportional to the approved allocation split. **February 2025 Update: The Business Office calculated that IVACS attendance ranged from 20 – 25% of total attendance each year. The Business Office met with the SIVB President and the officers of IVACS and PB to discuss a reallocation of the fund’s breakdown. It was agreed that IVACS’s responsibility would be reduced to 30% of the total costs and PB would support 70% of the expenses for the Joint Social. This action item is complete.**
31. **Action Item:** The Business Office will resubmit the 2025 working budget to the Board with a worst-case scenario amount reflecting all the potential costs and revenue. **February 2025 Update: This was completed in December, but the Board did not feel comfortable approving the budget as provided at that time. Rather, the Board voted to approve the 2025 Proposed Budget on a tentative basis for review again at the February 2025 Board Meeting. The Business Office met with the Finance Committee from December until February to review the current budget line-by-line and to identify ways to streamline the information as well as confirm that potential costs were realistic. Their findings are included in the Finance Update. This action item is complete.**
32. **Action Item:** The Business Office will review the financial statements for the past 10 years and provide the Board with a summary of the ‘Bottom Line’ for each of those years. **February 2025 Update: This is included in the Board packet under Financials and will be discussed at that time. This action item is complete.**
33. **Action Item:** Michele, Pon, and Addy will talk with Springer to explore the possibility of publishing books with them. **February 2025 Update: This action item is ongoing.**
34. **Action Item:** Deepika will work with the Membership Committee to start the post-Doc mentoring program. **February 2025 Update: This item is complete.**
35. **Action Item:** Michele will provide a list of members by institution for Deepika to create a focus group coordinating outreach to Assistant Professors where we have members. **February 2025**

Update: This action item is complete.

36. **Action Item:** Michele provided the names and email addresses of the Board members to Albert and Trevor who will set up access for the SIVB Board of Directors to access this proposed program and proposal. **February 2025 Update: This action item is complete.**

37. **Action Item:** Deepika will reach out to Sarbesh to provide the response of the Board of Directors specifying the Branch requirements: 1. He needs to get 10 participants to be both SIVB and South Asian Branch members; 2. They will have to incorporate in whatever country they choose from South Asia; 3. The must include India as one of the countries of the Branch and India-based branch members who are part of the 10 SIVB members would be required to pay the full SIVB member rate of \$165; 4. All members of the Branch are encourage to be part of SIVB. **February 2025 Update: This item is completed.**

1.4 Emeritus and Deceased Notification

M. Ciancio

The Board discussed granting Emeritus Status to Dr. Lucy EJ Lee, Dr. Ray Shillito, and Dr. Gregory C. Phillips.

Individual Motions were made to approve Emeritus Status for Dr. Lucy EJ Lee, Dr. Ray Shillito, and Dr. Gregory C. Phillips. Each motion was seconded, and each motion was approved unanimously by the Board.

The Board was informed of the recent passing of Dr. Arthur Greene. The Business Office was made aware of his recent passing by a posting on social media.

2.0 Treasurer's Report

B. Doonan

Barbara provided a thorough update on membership and the Society's financial stability. She reviewed the data regarding membership and the need to recruit more active membership in the Society. She next reviewed the budgets for the past 10 years and the total assets for the Society. She recommended moving \$200,000 to a new account with Morgan Stanley. The Board discussed this recommendation and approved it as long as there was no penalty for an early withdrawal of the monies, should that action be required. The SIVB Finance Committee performed a line-by-line review of the 2025 Proposed Budget and presented their findings to the Board. After discussion, the Board approved the 2025 budget, with a clearer understanding of the anticipated costs. The Board asked for a clearer understanding of the 10% administration fees charged to each section for the 2024 meeting. The Business Office will provide that information at the Board meeting in June.

3.0 2025 World Congress on In Vitro Biology

A. Wenck/M. Schultz

3.1 Program Update

Allan provided an update for the 2025 meeting. He reviewed the day-to-day schedule and identified speakers and conveners. The Society is pleased with the Keynote Speaker, Dr. S. Elisa Lockwood. The Business Office has been busy finalizing and confirming the speakers to ensure the success of the meeting.

3.2 Student Update

There will be a Student Social (Pizza party) on Saturday and a private Student/Post-Doc Networking event. The Education and Student Committees will hold 2 scientific sessions for

student attendees: A Sunday Networking Luncheon and a Sunday Symposium. They will host a business meeting/luncheon to elect their 2026 chairs on Tuesday, June 10.

3.3 Meeting Statistics

Michele reviewed the member registration, group registration, non-member registration, post-docs, students, research technician, and one-day registrants for the meeting. Michele also presented statistics regarding speaker registrations, student registrations, and staff. As of February, there are 2 on-demand paid registrants, 144 total meeting registrants, 7 exhibitor displays, and 5 student buddies. The Local Organizing Committee is actively supporting the success of the upcoming meeting. Tuesday evening's social will be Cruising with the Spirit: Dining and dancing on the Elizabeth River and Wednesday's event is a Scientific Tour-Science and Cells in Hampton Roads.

3.4 Fundraising Update/Vice President's Report

F. Altpeter

Fredy provided a thorough review of the fundraising efforts to date and the grant submissions. He recognized the successful fund-raising efforts for the 2024 meeting. To date, fundraising for the 2025 meeting has been successful, but active involvement by more members is required to achieve the financial goals of the Committee. Fredy requested that IVACS identify a member(s) to take an active role in grant writing on behalf of the IVACS portion of the program. He also requested that 1-2 students get involved in grant writing to help support efforts to identify and receive outside monies to support the Society's activities. The Board expressed their appreciation for all the efforts of the Fundraising Committee.

5.0 2026-2029 Annual Meetings

M. Schultz

5.1 2026 In Vitro Biology Meeting: Peppermill Resort Reno, NV

A. Omar

Michele provided an update on the arrangements made with the Peppermill Casino and Resort in Reno, NV. The Business and Board are excited about the venue and the opportunities provided by the location. The Board discussed that IVACS is responsible for identifying a Vice Chair for this meeting, who will then evolve into the Program Chair for the 2027 meeting. Piero presented his ideas for implementing a change in the program format to reduce costs and promote more opportunities for abstract submissions and presentations. The Board discussed the feasibility of implementing these changes, with concerns raised by IVACS board members regarding the membership required to have a successful program with the suggested changes. The Board also discussed plans for the 80-year Reunion scheduled during the 2026 meeting. A reunion social is scheduled for Monday evening of the meeting. Barbara Doonan and Mae Ciancio have begun their efforts to identify and communicate with previous Society members. Omar has successfully identified the Keynote speakers for the 2026 meeting, who will speak to the historical efforts of Society in animal and plant sciences.

5.2 2027 In Vitro Biology Meeting and Discussion of Chair

M. Schultz

The 2027 meeting will be held in St. Louis, Missouri at the Hyatt Regency at The Arch. IVACS is responsible for identifying the Program Chair for this meeting. Michele reviewed all the arrangements for the meeting and associated costs.

5.3 2028 In Vitro Biology Meeting

M. Schultz

The 2028 World Congress on In Vitro Biology will be held from Saturday, June 3 – Wednesday, June 7, 2028, at the Peppermill Resort Spa Casino in Reno, Nevada. Michele reviewed all the arrangements for the meeting and associated costs.

5.4 2029 In Vitro Biology Meeting

M. Schultz

To reduce the penalties due to SIVB cancelling the contract for the in-person 2021 In Vitro Biology Meeting, the SIVB negotiated a third contract with the Hilton Norfolk the Main for the 2029 meeting. By doing so, the Business Office applied another \$13,000 of the \$50,000 charged cancellation fee as a credit to the 2029 meeting. This will aid in reducing the total costs of the meeting and monetary loss to the Society as a result of Covid. Michele reviewed the costs and arrangements made for the meeting.

6.0 Awards

T. Jones/P. Barone

Todd presented the nominees for the **Lifetime Achievement Award, Distinguished Scientist Award, and Early Career Award**. The supporting documentation for each of the nominees was provided to the Board for their review.

- Lifetime Achievement Award to Guy Smagghe
- Distinguished Scientist Award to Joyce Van Eck
- Early Career Award to Nathan Vo

Individual Motions were made to provide the awards to these individuals. All awards were seconded and approved.

7.0 Publications

A. Alt-Holland/M. Schultz

A thorough review of the Society's Publications was provided.

IVA Paper Flow and Budget: The current contract requires a paper budget of 105 articles. Thanks to the efforts of Dr. Tetsuji Okamoto organizing several special issues, 118 papers were published in 2024, which exceeded our required budget. For 2025, 107 articles are required to fulfil the budget. Tetsuji Okamoto has been actively working toward preparing numerous special issues for publication within the next year including both part 2 of previous topics and new topics. She reviewed the special issues and editors for the publications planned for 2025.

Dr. Okamoto will be retiring at the end of his in 2026 contract. His replacement needs to be identified by the end of summer, 2026. The Board is very thankful for all he's done as IVA editor.

In Vitro-Plant: The current contract required a paper budget of 110 articles in 2024. This equates to 18-19 articles per issue. To date, SIVB has published 46 papers and IAPB will publish 17 MS. If SIVB publishes the expected 19 papers for the final issue of the year, it will total 82 papers which misses our paper budget. It is essential to fulfil these paper budget requirements to achieve any additional royalties from Springer.

Other updates: The Membership Committee devised new matrix categories in hopes of having them better reflect current research and the work our members are supporting. Springer has been working on creating a singular document that will include all the requirements for an article to be included in PubMed, the specs to publish in Springer's journals, and our author instructions to balance the needs of the Society and Springer while making us compliant with PubMed. The Terminology Committee has met multiple times to review allocations of tasks, review changes suggested by various committee members, and plan the next steps for the publications. Once the full list is completed, the plan is to publish two separate articles: One in In Vitro - Animal and one in In Vitro – Plant with some terms duplicated between them. The current contract term with Springer

for the journals ends on December 31, 2026. The negotiation process will begin in the first half of 2025. SIVB has been requested to provide a list of what they would most like to have in the new agreement to assist Springer in building a first draft. SIVB Website has been making changes to provide a more up-to-date, easy to navigate resource. The Board discussed the possibility of updating the SIVB logo.

The Social Engagement Committee has been highly actively promoting the Society and the Society's meetings. The Committee has posted a 2025 Social media toolkit for the 2025 SIVB Annual meeting. The assets were created by Daylan and Sabesh with support from the Business office.

Michele reviewed all the Google Analytics regarding the use of the various social media platforms.

8.0 Committee Updates

8.1 Nominating Committee

A. Alt-Holland

Addy provided a thorough review of the timeline for the 2026-2028 Election Process and the positions that are available. Addy recommended that the slate of candidates be completed and presented to the Board at the June 2025 meeting. Addy reviewed the list of positions available and the requirements for the positions and asked for Board members to actively think about members who are interested and willing to fill these positions.

8.2 Membership

R.D. Chauhan/M. Schultz

Deepika informed the Board that SIVB Membership Committee is working towards the following goal:

- Increase of 1.4% (4 members) in regular membership based on numbers from December 2024 compared to December 2023. Increase of 10.2% in regular membership achieved so far in 2025 compared to 2024 membership.

The committee is actively increasing the membership through the following actions:

- a. Discounted rate implementation for PlantGENE that ended on Jan 31st, 2025.
- b. SIVB mentoring program.
- c. Restarting webinar series in collaboration with CAST.
- d. Outreach to institutions and members to spread the word about benefits of joining SIVB.
- e. Discounted membership rate for members from LDC countries.

The Membership Committee has made excellent strides in reaching and achieving their goals. Their efforts have been extensive and productive. The Committee successfully works to achieve their goals and enhance the membership of the Society. The Committee sent out personalized emails to the DOE to improve genetic engineering tools in bioenergy crops teaming partners in an attempt to attract new members. The Membership Committee has an active outreach to early-stage professionals through email contact. The mentoring program will be active during the 2025 meeting and a Webinar series has been planned with CAST. Deepika and the Membership Committee are extending themselves to drive increased membership.

Michele provided an informative and extensive review of current membership and its comparison to previous years. Renewal and returning memberships were itemized, as well as multiple other comparisons regarding membership type and status. Multiple initiatives are underway to promote and retain membership.

8.3 Long Range Planning

M. Fay/M. Schultz

Mike Fay provided an update on the Long-Range Planning Committee. He is scheduled to meet with Piero, Addy, and the Long-Range Planning Committee to continue efforts to guide the mission and activities of the Society.

8.4 Public Policy

W. Parrott

Wayne provided a brief update on the Public Policy Committee and their efforts to stay informed and active in the changing scientific environment.

8.5 Education

B. Upham/M. Schultz

Brad provided a brief update on the activities of the Education Committee. They continue to meet regularly and have successfully organized several events for the 2025 Annual Meeting to foster collaboration and communication among the graduate students, post-docs, and mentors. The Education Committee will meet with Deepika to help identify viable fundraising opportunities.

9.0 Other Business

No other business was discussed. The meeting was adjourned.

Motions:

- 1. Motion:** To approve the Agenda for February 2025 Board meeting. Motion was seconded and approved.
- 2. Motion:** To approve the minutes of the November 2024 Board meeting. This motion was seconded and approved.
- 3. Motion:** To release the AV Staff at 12:30 pm to save on costs. Motion was seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.
- 4. Motion:** Motions were made to individually approve Emeritus status for Dr. Lucy EJ Lee, Dr. Ray Shillito, and Dr. Gregory C. Phillips. Each motion was seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve Emeritus status for each request.
- 5. Motion:** To move \$200,000 of our current investment funds to a longer version fund with a higher interest rate as described provided that there are no penalties for early withdrawal. Barbara and Michele will ask the specific question regarding early withdrawal. If there are no penalties for early withdrawal, then Michele may proceed with moving those funds. Motion was seconded and approved.
- 6. Motion:** To establish the student mentoring program at the meeting. One or 2 students will be grouped with a senior member. The students will meet with the mentor at the meeting and go to 2 posters together. Post-docs can serve as the senior member if approved by Brad. Motion was seconded and approved.
- 7. Motion:** If an award runs out of support funds for the award, then the section needs to decide if they are going to financially support the award so as to continue to provide it. This should be discussed and agreed upon during the section meetings in 2025 for the upcoming 2026 meeting. Motion was seconded and approved.
- 8. Motion:** To approve the budget for 2025. Motion was seconded and approved.
- 9. Motion:** To approve the award nominees as presented by the Awards Committee. Motion was seconded and approved.
- 10. Motion:** Chairs and section chairs will determine how many sessions will follow the 2026 meeting program format provided by Piero. Each section will evaluate the success of that format during the 2026 meeting and decide how to best continue to implement the program changes for subsequent meetings, as per the wishes of each section. Motion was seconded and approved.
- 11. Motion:** To have a cash bar at the meeting rather than complimentary drink coupons to reduce meeting costs. Motion was seconded and approved.
- 12. Motion:** To approve the Match branding with modifications to include SIVB. Motion was made and seconded.
- 13. Motion:** To support the Webinar series: "AI powered breakthroughs." The series will host 2 speakers, each providing a 20 min presentation. Motion was seconded and approved.

Outstanding Action items from the October 2022 Board 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. This action item is ongoing. 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 action item is ongoing. June 2024 Update: This process will begin in fall 2024, most likely in conjunction with the fall Board meeting in November 2024. This action item is ongoing. November 2024 Update: Michele provided a list to Barbara of all Emeritus, Honorary, and Life members from 2000 to the present who are still alive, according to SIVB's records. Barbara and Mae will be contacting these members and other long-term members to discuss the upcoming "reunion" at the 2026 Reno meeting. Barbara and Mae will also explore a mechanism to include a fundraising opportunity to support the festivities. Also, under consideration is the option of replacing the Monday Joint Sections' Social with the reunion event. This action item is ongoing. **February 2025 update: The Business Office created the 2026 Meeting logo to allow Barbara and Mae to begin to advertise the reunion event. The logo includes both symbols of Reno as well as acknowledging the 80th year of SIVB. Barbara and Mae will begin reaching out to the Emeritus, Honorary, and Life members informing them of the event and requesting support for the reunion. This action item is ongoing.**

Outstanding Action Items from the June 2023 Board Meeting

2. **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 continue 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 action item is pending and will be addressed after closing of the survey and a review of the responses. This action item is ongoing. November 2024 Update: Once Piero, Addy, Deepika, and Michele compile the data from the survey, this will be provided to the Social Engagement Committee so they can begin determining the hashtags and advertising to market SIVB to the community at large. This action item is ongoing. **February 2025 Update: This action item is ongoing. Please see item 6 below. This action item is ongoing.**
3. **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 action item is ongoing. November 2024 Update. The Membership Committee has been discussing this same issue and has been requested to provide a pared-down list of 12 categories each for IVACS and PB sections. Once this is provided, the lists will be presented to the Publications Committee and Editors-in-Chief to finalize new lists to be presented to the Board for their approval before implementation. This action item is ongoing. **February 2025 Update: Michele shared the pared-down category lists with the Publications Committee for discussion. This item is ongoing.**

Outstanding Action Items from the March 2024 Board Meeting

4. **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 action item is ongoing. November 2024 Update: This action item is ongoing. **February 2025 Update: Piero will follow up. This item is ongoing.**

Outstanding Action Items from the June 2024 Board Meeting

5. **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. November 2024 Update: The Committee met in September and began to discuss resources. Piero and Yiping Qi are working on Genome Editing Terminology to provide to the committee. The chairs were to begin a review of the prior documents to provide recommendations for terms that may need to be removed, updated, or fields that are missing completely. Once these tasks are completed, the next steps will be: Michele approaching Springer with the list of expected resources to ensure any necessary steps are taken to ensure there are no concerns regarding copyright; Splitting/sharing the list of terms amongst the committee members so they can continue to revise or add necessary terms using the provided resources; and upon a first full draft of all terms, recruiting additional members to review the information to ensure that all appropriate terms are addressed. It was recommended that the SIVB Board of Directors be requested to review the terms appropriate to their research to help identify if any terms are missing or need to be adjusted. Will have one for plant and animal. It is hoped that these articles can be published Open Access. This will require raising funds for this project of approximately \$7,000 which could be done by outreach to members or applying for a grant. This action item is ongoing. **February 2025 Update: Wayne indicated that the first section for the plant section is done (A-H) and they are now working on the second section. Addy, Mike Fay, Vivian, and Kolla are working on the animal section. This item is ongoing.**

Outstanding Action Items from the November 2024 Meeting

6. **Action Item:** Piero, Addy, Deepika, and Michele will begin going through the raw data from Today's Voices Survey to better understand how SIVB is viewed and the direction in which they recommend the Board proceed based on the results of the survey analysis. **February 2025 Update: Piero, Addy, Deepika, and Michele have met multiple times to review the data, look at trends, and determine goals for moving forward to build membership, the new**

website and to help the Social Engagement Committee determine hashtags that are appropriate to any new messaging that will be most effective. This action item is ongoing.

7. **Action Item:** Kolla and Piero will work together on a word cloud to go along with a pending social media campaign using 1) the terms that are SIVB-focused and 2) the countries in which our members are located. This could be tied to a Social Media Campaign about what SIVB is about. **February 2025 Update: The country word cloud has been created and is included in this packet. The terminology word cloud is still in progress. This action item is ongoing.**
8. **Action item:** Addy and Michele will contact Tetsu to discuss any ideas he has regarding someone to take his place as EIC of the IVA journal upon his impending retirement and to discuss recruitment of more associate editors for the IVA journal to facilitate success of the journal including providing a list of suggested names to whom he can reach out. **February 2025 Update: After receiving initial feedback regarding the proposed changes to the matrix categories, further discussion is required. This action item remains ongoing.**
9. **Action Items:** Addy and Michele will go to the Publications Committee to discuss the terms on the SIVB logo, possible reconsideration of the importance of those terms, and a possible redesign of the logo to be released with new matrix categories for both journals once they are approved. **February 2025 Update: This topic will be discussed when we are able to schedule a meeting of the committee to discuss the matrix categories. This action item is ongoing.**
10. **Action Item:** Piero and Michele will reach out to IAPB Secretariat in February to revisit potentially transitioning their site to the SIVB site as a host. **February 2025 Update: There are plans to reach out to Pankaj. After the Board Meeting, SIVB will approach IAPB with this reminder. This action item is ongoing.**
11. **Action Item:** The Board of Directors will revisit whether to hold a Tuesday night social event during the 2026 meeting and beyond. **February 2025 Update: This will be discussed at the Fall Board of Directors meeting. This action item is ongoing.**
12. **Action Item:** Section Chairs will designate a member from their section to coordinate the grant activities for their respective sections. **February 2025 Update: Michele spoke with Yiping Qi to determine who will take over the overall grants program preparations once Ahmad Omar transitions to Program Chair. The Plant Section has Jon Mahoney this year and, prior to the June meeting, will need to determine their next contact. Sarah Poynter has been contacted along with the Officers and Section Officers from the IVACS section to determine who their fundraiser contact will be moving forward. This action item is ongoing.**
13. **Action Item:** The Business Office will send out the list of new companies to the Board, section officers, and committee members for follow-up regarding fundraising for the meeting. **February 2025 Update: The Development Committee compiled an updated list of companies to contact for potential interest in the Society and the meeting. Board members with a contact within any of the listed organizations were urged to provide their information to Fredy and Alfred at their earliest opportunity. This action item is ongoing.**

14. **Action Item:** The Board will consider Piero's proposal for modifying the 2026 Program format to incorporate a rolling abstract model with more abstracts being included in the main program either by replacing symposia with Oral Presentation sessions or adding abstract presentations to symposia. This topic will be discussed again in February, with the goal to incorporate this model starting with the 2026 meeting. **February 2025 Update: The proposal information has been included in the Board's packet for review and discussion during the 2026 Meeting discussion. This action item is ongoing.**
15. **Action Item:** Michele, Pon, and Addy will talk with Springer to explore the possibility of publishing books with them. **February 2025 Update: This action item is ongoing.**

New Action Items from February 2025 Board Meeting

16. **Action Item:** Business Office will reach out to history committee (Sandra) to identify an older member of IVACS to serve as a Keynote speaker. Ahmed will talk with Sandra to discuss optional people for IVACS and PBS to discuss the history of society through their section and organization.
17. **Action Item:** Business office will modify font on Webpage to make it easier for people to register for the meeting.
18. **Action Item:** Continue to offer the special meeting registration promotion for PlantGene members as a means to recruit new members to the Society.
19. **Action Item:** To continue to host PlantGENE for another 3 years.
20. **Action Item:** Social Engagement Committee will continue to host short interview recordings. The Education Committee will host a competition with the students for the best video. Goal is to promote awareness and active engagement in the social media pages and ultimately the meeting.
21. **Action Item:** The Business Office will provide a real cost estimate of what the percentage should be for the administration fee.
22. **Action Item:** Barbara Doonan will be more involved in the PB and IVACS section meetings so she can provide guidance regarding section funds.
23. **Action Item:** Business Office will provide financial information to the IVACS section officers so they can review and discuss with IVACS members at the 2025 IVACS business meeting.
24. **Action Item:** IVACS will meet to identify the Vice Chair for the 2026 meeting and the Program Chair for the 2027 meeting.

25. **Action Item:** Brad and the Education Committee will work with Deepika to identify viable funding opportunities to support student activities. Deepika will attend education committee to help with fund raising ideas.
26. **New Action Item:** Education Committee will identify 1 or 2 student representatives to participate on the Development Committee.
27. **New Action Item:** Brad will reach out to Dr. Ronit Freeman from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill regarding the post-doc competition.
28. **New Action Item:** The Business Office will consider updating the SIVB logo as the website is redesigned.
29. **New Action Item:** The In Vitro Report will host a column featuring SIVB members, "From the Desk Of."
30. **New Action Item:** A meeting will be scheduled with Mike Fay, Piero, Addy, and the Long-Range Planning Committee.