

MEETING MINUTES
SIVB BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Hilton Norfolk The Main
Friday, June 6 and Saturday, June 6 in Fusion

Friday, June 6

In Attendance: Piero Barone (President); Addy Alt-Holland (Past President; Publications Chair; Nominating Committee Chair); Michael Fay (President-Elect); Wayne Parrott (Public Policy Chair); Barbara Doonan (Treasurer); Hong Luo (Member-at-Large; PB); Fredy Altpeter (Vice President); J. Pon Samuel (Member-at-Large; PBS); Ahmad Omar (2026 Program Chair); John Harbell (2027 Program Chair); Yiping Qi (PB Section Chair); Margaret Young (PB Section Secretary); Chris Bagley (PB Section Vice Chair; Social Engagement Committee Chair); Brad Upham (Education Committee Chair), Prasanna Valavanur Shekar (Student Co-Chair); Hannah Levengood (Student Co-Chair); Michele Schultz (Managing Director)

Virtual attendance: Mae Ciancio (Secretary); Kolla Kristjansdottir (Member-at-Large; IVACS); Allan Wenck (2025 Program Chair); Raj Deepika Chauhan (Membership Committee Chair)

Meeting called to order: 6:35pm EST

1.0 INTRODUCTION

P. Barone

1.1 Adoption of Minutes

M. Ciancio

Motion: To approve the minutes. Motion was seconded and agenda was approved.

There were concerns voiced that certain items included in their current form disclose information that could be considered inappropriate to include in published documents, so it was requested that Mae revise the minutes to address these items and have the Business Office review them prior to final approval by the Board.

Action Item: Mae is requested to revise the February 2025 minutes for the Board’s approval. Motion was seconded and approved.

1.2 Adoption of Agenda

P. Barone

Motion: To approve the agenda. Motion was seconded and agenda was 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. **June 2025 update:** Mae, Kolla and Barbara met this spring. We have names of people to speak with. **This item is completed.**

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. **June 2025 update:** Once the new website is ready this will be addressed. **This 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. **June 2025 update:** We will be speaking with the EIC during the Publications Committee meetings to get a good understanding of how to modify the categories. **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. **June 2025 update:** We attempted to reach her but did not receive a response. **This item is closed.**

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 complete.**

Outstanding Action Items from the November 2024 Meeting

6. Action Item: Piero, Addy, Deepika, and Michele will begin going through the raw data from the 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 and that will be most effective. This action item is ongoing. **June 2025 update:** The committee reviewed the results and identified areas we need to highlight in the redesign of the website. Piero described this in more detail, but it is hoped that at the next meeting we could have a draft of the website. **This item is complete.**

New Action Item: Michele, Piero, Addy, Michael, and Deepika will work with the web designer to create a new mockup design with the intent to show it to the Board at the November meeting.

7. Action item: To facilitate the success of the IVA journal, Addy and Michele will contact Tetsu to discuss any ideas he has regarding someone to take his place as EIC upon his impending retirement and to discuss recruitment of more associate editors for the IVA 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. **June 2025 update:** Addy and Michele will speak in person with Tetsu at the June Publications Committee Meeting. **This item is complete.**

9. Action item: 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. **June 2025 update:** This is tied to the website redesign. **This item is complete.**

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. **June 2025 update:** Piero and Michele will be meeting with Pankaj Bhowmik to discuss this in person during the meeting as they are now considering moving their site to ours. **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. June 2025: When the board meets in November, Piero and Michele will perform site inspections together to see if there is an appropriate venue. In addition, they will be looking at whether they wish to hold a fundraising event at a higher price point that evening for the 80th year anniversary. This would be very dependent on how to present this to membership to encourage participation. **This 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. **June 2025 update:** Keunsub Lee has agreed to handle grants overall, Vaibhav Tiwari has agreed to participate in this activity for IVACS, and Cankui Zhang will be doing this for PB. **This item is complete.**

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. **June 2025 update:** **This item is complete.**

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. **June 2025 update:** Omar will work with PB and IVACS Sections to organize this transition. Each section will incorporate as much of this model as is feasible based on their membership. **This item is complete.**

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. **June 2025 update:** This is tabled for the time being. **This item is complete.**

Action Items from the 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. **This item is complete.**

17. Action Item: Business office will modify font on Webpage to make it easier for people to register for the meeting. **This item is complete.**

18. Action Item: Continue to offer the special meeting registration promotion for PlantGENE members as a means to recruit new members to the Society. **This item is complete.**

19. Action Item: To continue to host PlantGENE for another 3 years. **This item is complete.**

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 on the social media pages and, ultimately, at the meeting. **June 2025 update:** The goal had been to have this done before the meeting, which was not achieved. If the Social Engagement and Education Committees will meet after the June meeting, they can discuss how to offer this competition for next year. Chris and Brad will work together to address this opportunity with students doing the posts on their own channels to help bring visibility to the organization through our student membership to offer a prize. It was noted that the 2026 venue has video screens where videos could be shown during the event. **This item is ongoing.**

21. Action Item: The Business Office will provide a real cost estimate of what the percentage should be for the administration fee. **This item is complete.**

22. Action Item: Barbara Doonan will be more involved in the PB and IVACS section meetings so she can provide guidance regarding section funds. **June 2025 update:** Barbara will make a brief stop at each section meeting to discuss this with the sections. **This item is complete.**

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. **This item is complete.**

24. Action Item: IVACS will meet to identify the Vice Chair for the 2026 meeting and the Program Chair for the 2027 meeting. **June 2025 update:** John Harbell is the Vice Chair for the 2026 meeting. **This item is complete.**

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. **June 2025 update:** Education Committee will identify 1 or 2 student representatives to participate in the Development Committee. **This item is complete.**

26. Action Item: Brad will reach out to Dr. Ronit Freeman from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill regarding the post-doc competition. **June 2025 update:** She is an invited speaker at this year's meeting and Brad and Addy will speak with her about this at the June meeting. **This item is complete.**

27. Action Item: The In Vitro Report will host a column featuring SIVB members, "From the Desk Of." This is to be the Committee Chairs to supply what they are doing so it can be shared with the membership. IVR Editors should be reaching out to each of the Committee Chairs to submit articles about what the committees do and what their current activities are. It is recommended that two committees an issue be included. **This item is ongoing.**

New Action Item: Fredy, as the Vice President, should identify and invite a new Plant member to be an EIC with Michael and Addy for the In Vitro Report.

1.4 Deceased Members/Emeritus Ratification

M. Ciancio

The Board reviewed the requirements for Emeritus Status from the Bylaws and the Constitution. Terry Riss requested Emeritus Membership. John Harbell provided an overview of his Career and his support of the In Vitro field and SIVB.

Motion: To approve Terry Riss for Emeritus status. Motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

The new database provides notification if email addresses bounce back. By using this information, we were able to research the bounced contacts and identify a number of members who were deceased. The Business Office informed the Board of the passing of previous SIVB members: George M. Martin, Marvin A. Karasek, Joseph Feder, Carlton Nadolney, Shyamal K. Roy, and Toshio Murashige.

New Action Item: Piero and Michele will approach Ken Torres to work together to write an 'In Memoriam' for Toshio Murashige.

2.0 2025 MEETING UPDATE

A. Wenck

2.1 2025 Meeting Update

A. Wenck

Allan thanked Michele and the Business Office for an outstanding job in bringing the meeting together. He acknowledged the outstanding efforts of Ahmad Omar as the Vice Chair as well as the PBS and IVACS Chairs, Carlos and Zoe. He shared the Program content and also stressed the success of our ability to organize grant funds even due to the current ongoing issues. Barbara Doonan was recognized as the first recipient of the Presidential Honor of Distinction Award for her exceptional dedication and contributions to advancing the Society's mission and vision. Ahmad Omar, Jon Mahoney, Fredy Altpeter and the Business Office prepared the grant application to the USDA/NIFA. Ahmad Omar, Veena Veena, Jon Mahoney and the Business Office prepared an application to the DOE. The

programs, workshops and events for the meeting were reviewed as well as all the award recipients. The Local Organizing Committee was recognized for arranging Tuesday evening's event and the All-Day Scientific tour on Wednesday. The costs of the OnDemand program were reviewed and discussed by the Board.

2.3 Meeting Update/Meeting Statistics

M. Schultz

Michele provided a thorough review of the meeting statistics. Total meeting registration as of 5/25/25 was 357. Fund-raising efforts for the meeting were highlighted, including the successful grant submissions and contributions.

A question was asked regarding how fees for catering were being addressed. To address this, the Business Office noted that attendance to the events is being counted by silverware rollups and all attendees are being notified of how to change or replace their silverware via the mobile app, event announcements, and throughout the materials at the meeting so that we can try to control expenses. The student Chairs also noted that people who were not part of the student-only sessions attended those events and took food. Michele confirmed that we would have staff at the door to make sure that only students or authorized participants would be attending. Also discussed was availability of the tours and special events. Room block fulfilment was also addressed.

Michele also reviewed the statistics from the meeting. We have the following abstracts submitted: 47 Invited Speaker Abstracts (Animal-16 and Plant-31); 82 Student Abstracts (Animal-18, Education-3, and Plant-61); and 103 General Abstract Submissions (Animal-8, Education-1, and Plant-94). While this is down from St. Louis in 2024, it is better than the last time we were in Norfolk. Compared to the pre-meeting statistics for the 2024 World Congress on In Vitro Biology, our combined In-Person/On-Demand registration going into the 2025 In Vitro Biology Meeting is down by 19 Member, 94 Group, 3 Non-Member, 4 Research Technician, 11 Speaker (free), 51 Student (free), 2 Guest (free), and 1 Accompanying Guest (paid) registrations. We are up 7 Post Doc, 1 One-Day, and 11 Volunteer registrations. We have the same number of Emeritus registrations. We are expecting to have 31 exhibitor staff attending; however, those registrants are not included in the registration numbers until after the meeting.

Michele reviewed the on-demand registration and shared some of the benefits of offering the program. While in Norfolk it isn't too expensive, the cost will triple for the same services in St. Louis in 2027. Because of this, we may need to rethink the on-demand program offerings moving forward. One option is that we will only record sessions that receive grant funding for these purposes. There was some discussion about speaker concerns regarding recording.

New Action Item: The Business Office will provide a cost/benefit analysis of providing the On-Demand Program at the fall Board meeting. They will consider what can be supported through meeting registration and grants.

2.2 Student Meeting Update

A. Vaillant/H. Levengood/P. Shekhar/C. Yevtushenko

The students gave a brief update on their activities and their sessions for the 2025 meeting. They praised Brad for his mentorship and outstanding efforts as chair of the Education Committee. They discussed their upcoming elections and asked for volunteers to help count the votes. The students presented their idea of a T-shirt design competition for the 2026 meeting to raise funds for the Education Committee. The Board liked the idea. Students will add two fund-raising delegates to the Development Committee who will meet once a month with the Committee.

New Action Item: Education Committee will move forward with a T-shirt design competition for the 2026 meeting.

2.4 **Fundraising/Vice President's Report**

F. Altpeter

2.5 Fredy acknowledged the phenomenal year for fundraising for the meeting. Successful grant funding was achieved. Barbara Doonan, John Harbell, and Dwight Tomes were recognized for their individual contributions. Vaibhav Tiwari (VT) was recognized as the grant coordinator for IVACS. New PBS grant coordinators will continue the efforts of Ahmad Omar, Veena Veena, and Jon Mahoney. Alfred Huo was acknowledged for exponentially expanding the list of contacts. Deepika was thanked for all her help, as well as Michael Dame and John Harbell.

3.0 **2026-2029 MEETING UPDATES**

M. Schultz

3.1 **2026 In Vitro Biology Meeting (Reno, NV)**

M. Schultz

Michele reviewed the specifics of the 2026 meeting scheduled for June 6-June 10, 2026, at the Peppermill Resort and Spa in Reno, Nevada. Michele reviewed the 3 different room rates, the blocks of rooms, concessions, and the terms of 2026 and 2028 meetings plus the option to secure a 3rd agreement for SIVB to return in 2030. This could become a great location as it is so close to the audience we had brought in for the San Francisco and San Diego meetings. The Board discussed whether to hold a traditional Tuesday night event or to host a smaller social event as a fund-raising dinner, much like what the Society used to host in earlier times. This will be discussed further at the fall Board meeting. A new NSF grant application is being prepared for the 2026-2027 meeting. The new team of grant organizers include Keunsub Lee, Jon Mahoney, and VT (IVACS) as well as Piero Barone and Joyce Van Eck. Veena Veena will assist with the DOE grant application.

New Action Item: If the Board knows or can identify appropriate people and/or universities/companies in the California/Nevada area to contact about the meeting, they should forward them to Ahmad, Piero, and the Business Office.

3.1.2 **80th Anniversary Celebration Update**

B. Doonan/M. Ciancio

Barbara provided an update on her outreach activities to reach previous Emeritus and honorary members of the Society to participate in the 80-year celebration. Barbara sent a formal communication to them as well as posted an announcement on the SIVB Website. In the communication, Barbara also presented an opportunity for these members to contribute financially to the ongoing efforts of the Society. Barbara will meet with Mae and continue efforts to successfully reach these members. The theme is "Celebrating 80 years of SIVB: Celebrating a Legacy of Innovation." The marketing tag is "80 years and beyond: Give Today, Grow Tomorrow." Instead of the Joint Social, we will hold an 80th Anniversary reunion on Monday night and are reaching out to the membership to support the event. Keynote Speakers have been determined and will be Dr. Indra Vasil and Dr. Delia Bethell. We will have them meet to coordinate their presentations. We are approaching grant funding opportunities for 2026.

3.2 **2027 In Vitro Biology Meeting Update**

M. Schultz

The 2027 SIVB meeting will be held June 12-June 16, 2027, at the Hyatt Regency St. Louis at The Arch. Michele reviewed all the details of the meeting arrangements, including room rates, room block, AV costs, and concessions. As noted earlier, whether we offer an on-demand recorded program will be based on grant funding as the cost projected for recording was around \$90,000.

3.2.1 **Confirming the Chair for 2027 Meeting/2026 Vice Chair**

P. Barone

It was confirmed that John Harbell will be the 2026 Vice Chair/2027 Meeting Chair. John has previous experience performing this role and is ready to do so again.

3.3 **2028 In Vitro Biology Meeting Update**

M. Schultz

We will return to the Peppermill Resort and Spa in Reno, Nevada. Michele presented the business details for the 2028 meeting, which will be held from June 3-June 7, 2028. Room rates, room blocks, concessions, and costs will be expected to be the same in 2028 as in 2026.

3.4 2029 In Vitro Biology Meeting Update

M. Schultz

Michele presented the information for the 2029 SIVB meeting scheduled for June 9-June 12, 2029, at the Hilton Norfolk The Main. Michele reviewed the details of the contract as well as the room rates, room blocks, and concessions.

Michele also presented a list of previous and upcoming meeting locations for the Board to review and discuss regarding potential meetings for 2030 and beyond. Also addressed was the plan to have recurring cities and venues moving forward.

Motion: To adjourn the Friday night portion of the meeting. Seconded and approved.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:49pm EST

Saturday, June 7

In Attendance: Piero Barone (President); Addy Alt-Holland (Past President; Publications Chair; and Nominating Committee Chair); Michael Fay (President-Elect); Wayne Parrott (Public Policy Chair); Barbara Doonan (Treasurer); Hong Luo (Member-at-Large; PB); Fredy Altpeter (Vice President); J. Pon Samuel (Member-at-Large; PBS); Ahmad Omar (Program Vice Chair); John Harbell (2027 Program Chair); Yiping Qi (PB Section Chair); Margaret Young (PB Section Secretary); Chris Bagley (PB Section Vice Chair/Social Engagement Committee); Brad Upham (Education Committee); Michele Schultz (Managing Director)

Virtual attendance: Mae Ciancio (Secretary); Kolla Kristjansdottir (Member-at-Large; IVACS); Allan Wenck (2025 Program Chair); Vivian Dayeh (Member-at-Large; IVACS); Raj Deepika Chauhan (Membership Committee)

Meeting called to order: 8:02 EST

4.0 TREASURER'S REPORT

B. Doonan

4.1 Finance Update

B. Doonan

Barbara provided a thorough review of the Society's finances. She reported that the Society is holding its own and making progress. Both journals provide a stream of revenue with their guaranteed royalties each year. IVA has achieved significant additional royalties while IVP did not achieve additional royalties as IVP did not make its issue count. However, SIVB should continue to seek new members and maintain current member involvement. While our balance sheet is not yet where we want it, we are slowly moving in the correct direction.

Barbara and the Business Office meet with Morgan Stanley three times a year and reviewed our investments. We have been informed that we are doing well and they do not recommend moving any funds at this time. In addition, the cleanup of the SIVB accounts since the loss of our prior accountant and of Marietta has finally been completed. Michele was able to provide the Section Chairs a full accounting of their activity funds. There was a question regarding whether the other funds were negative or are funded. There are two Student Award funds that are still in the negative. It was asked if we were considering no longer offering these awards. Other alternative options were discussed as well as the option to transition the award through one of the sections.

Action Item: The Plant Section Officers are to discuss the current status of the Song Award and determine if the Plant Section will assume the award and its shortfall. In this discussion, they will need to determine whether they

would like to continue to offer the award by its current name or rename it as well as if they wish to formally discuss this with their Section before finalizing a decision.

Per the February Board Meeting, the Business Office reviewed the current administrative and speaker registration fees paid by each section to determine whether an adjustment may need to be made in these amounts. Currently, each section provides an administrative fee to the SIVB for their support of the sections and Annual Meeting infrastructure. This amount has been set at 10% of all funds contributed to the section and a registration fee of \$295 per speaker that is not self-supported.

These amounts have not changed in more than 15 years. However, the costs of managing the meeting and providing both services and materials at the event have increased significantly, not only through the addition of recordings and increased AV costs, but also because of the continually increasing costs for food and beverage due to venue minimums and cost-of-living increases. Additionally, expectations from attendees regarding food at the meeting have changed over the years. We are also limited regarding the amount of registration revenue we can achieve due to our highly successful free student registration, significantly discounted Post Doctoral and Research Technician registration, and group registration programs. A recommendation is being made to increase the amount of support the Sections provide through their administrative fees and speaker registration fees to offset the additional event infrastructure costs for their programs. The changes are as follows, beginning with the 2025 Meeting:

- Administrative Fee to increase from 10% to 20% of all funds contributed to their section.
- Registration Fees for Invited Speakers to increase from \$295.00 to \$315.00

Motion was made to approve the sections' administrative fees and speaker registration charges. Motion was seconded and approved by the Board.

4.1.3 April Financial Statements 2025

B. Doonan

Details about the Song Award creation were discussed. Dr Song passed away in 2018 at the age of 97.

4.2 IVACS Financial Statements (*for information only*)

M. Schultz

4.3 PB Financial Statements (*for information only*)

M. Schultz

The system has been cleaned sufficiently and we will be able to provide these statements annually to the Chairs of the sections.

Fundraising is essential to our long-term functionality. We have been relying heavily on grant support which is likely not going to be as available moving forward. We also have to stay aware that the geopolitical situation has caused many industry companies that support our events to be effected. We are aware of our situation and everyone is informed of what needs to be done. We are working to make the negatives smaller and are showing improvement year-over-year.

Action Item: Wayne and Pon will investigate initial fact finding about establishing a secondary SIVB Meeting in another location outside the USA.

It was discussed that students pay a discounted rate for abstracts but they don't pay for registration or other participation in the meeting or membership. Given the ratio of students to non-students and the fact that the Student Initiative has not been funded in many years, it was suggested that students pay a small registration fee. Michele noted that the biggest number of No-Shows are students and the cost for food/beverage, poster boards, etc. is incurred without support. The cost of \$25 - \$50 is not a significant amount to greatly impact these costs.

Motion: To change student registration from \$0 to \$50, to include a 1-year Society membership, beginning with the 2026 meeting. Motion was seconded and approved.

5.0 PUBLICATIONS UPDATE

A. Alt-Holland

5.1 Publications Update

M. Schultz

Addy briefly updated the Board on the Committee activities. She noted that IVA was on schedule and on paper budget. She commended Dr. Okamoto for organizing special issues to support the publications. She noted he is looking to retire near the end of 2026 and we need to identify a replacement. IVP is running a bit behind schedule and paper budget. Because of this, we did not achieve any additional royalties. There is significant activity with the Terminology Article which is still being worked on. This is a huge task, but we hope to complete this by the end of the year. Addy encourages all Board Members, Committee Chairs, and Section Officers to submit their committee or news updates to the IVR.

Michele explained are looking to make our IVA paper budget and paper flow is good. She reviewed the special issue topics being addressed and we are doing a bit more Open Access. IAPB was below budget last year, but they are on budget for 2025 so far. She reviewed the upcoming Special issue information. She reviewed the current status regarding PubMed IVP updates. The last draft changes for the IVP instructions are being addressed by Springer before David approves it for Publications Committee vote. Final edits are being made to the Terminology article content. Potential Open Access (OA) still needs to be discussed. We need to get the content OA and citable. The rate is approximately \$4,000 per journal. It was suggested that each section be requested to support this expense.

The Matrix categories have been updated to better reflect current research and work of the Society's members. There will be an in-person discussion during the Publications Committee Meeting. This is to make sure the members are able to publish their content in the journal.

New Action Item: Addy will discuss with the two section officers the cost of publishing the Terminology paper.

Michele reviewed the mobile app functionality and discussed the 2026 meeting design which touts the 80th anniversary as well as the location. We are creating the template for the new home site design and are hoping for pages to review by the next Board Meeting

Chris Bagley provided an update on our social media and engagement. We have removed our presence from X (formerly Twitter) and are looking to see if there are options for others to post on SIVB's behalf. We are posting at least 3 times a week. The committee members (who are predominantly students) are doing a significant amount of work. Chris asked if there are other students who are interested, and if the Board members can assist in forwarding their information to Chris so we can begin to include them. Chris also stressed that if there is information you need to get out to our Social Media channels to reach out to him with what you need to share.

5.2 Eventscribe Website/App Overview

M. Schultz

Michele discussed the importance of the Eventscribe Website and Mobile App for accessing information regarding the meeting program, abstracts, updates, and all on demand presentations. She reviewed the functionality of these tools and their application.

Michele also reviewed the completed changes to the SIVB Website and the new website design for sivb.org and provided an overview regarding the statistics for our website activity.

5.3 Springer Update

M. Schultz

Michele provided an update on the discussions with Springer. New contract negotiations are expected to begin during this meeting. The Business office was anticipating discussing many of the terms of the agreement during the SIVB/IAPB/Springer meeting scheduled for Sunday, June 8, 2025.

6.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1 Nominating/Election Update 2026-2028

A. Alt-Holland

The 2026-2028 election will be held in the fall of 2025. Addy reviewed the timeline for the election process.

Ideally, each position will have 2 candidates for consideration and the slate will be released no later than November 5, 2025. Addy reviewed all the positions, confirmed and potential candidates, terms of office, and current members holding offices as Board members and section officers. Addy also reviewed the requirements for elections based on the SIVB Bylaws.

New Action Item: Addy will finalize the slate by August 15 and will forward it to Piero and the Business office.

6.2 Membership Update (See Annual Report)

D. Chauhan

Deepika provided an Executive Summary of the Membership Committee. She revealed that regular membership has increased by 19% and Postdoc membership has increased by 35% from 2024-2025. She provided an outline of all the initiatives the Membership Committee is doing to increase awareness of the Society and its membership. Deepika thanked Michele Schultz, Anissa Belfetmi-Stone, Addy Alt-Holland, and Piero Barone for their dedication to the Membership Committee and its efforts to improve membership. She reviewed the goals to look at how to bring back 1-year members, the success of the MATCH program, SIVB webinars, and our social meeting activity, all of which have helped significantly. Deepika provided extensive graphical and tabulated data to demonstrate the effectiveness of their outreach efforts. We have exceeded the goal for the retention/increase of Plant membership. Michele clarified that with the new database there is some difficulty in identifying returning members vs. new members. We have not achieved our membership growth for IVACS in the last year. We have exceeded our growth of Postdocs and are looking for growth of student and member interactions.

6.2.1 Membership Update/Statistics

M. Schultz

Michele reviewed the membership statistics, including renewals, type of membership, membership based on location of the meeting, and the use of broadcast emails to encourage people to renew their registration. Michele also reviewed the many membership initiatives that are being implemented by the Membership Committee and the Business Office. She reviewed the details from the CAST webinar with over 45 SIVB members participating in the webinar. She also reviewed the discount membership offers being made to authors, speakers, and group registrants.

A critical question concerns the number of members required to keep the Society sustainable. This question has been addressed before and that information will be reviewed. It was noted that it would be approximately 400 more regular members.

6.3 Long Range Planning Committee Update (See Annual Report)

M. Fay

The upcoming LRP meeting will take place on Sunday. The efforts of the Long Range Planning Committee are presented in the Annual Report and include 4 strategic priorities and the survey campaign “Today’s Voices, Envisioning Tomorrow.” The results of the survey are being used to implement changes to meet the needs of the Society’s members.

6.4 Awards

6.4.1 Student Awards

P. Weathers/P. Barone

Two students were unable to attend. One was due to issues with procuring a visa and the other was due to concerns with travel safety. Both will be sent their certificates; but per the award requirements, we are unable to distribute the financial portion of the travel awards without the attendees attending in person in Norfolk. The 2025 Student Awardees and their affiliations are as follows:

Award Name	Recipient	Affiliation
Wilton R. Earle Award	Xiaotong Chen	Clemson University
SIVB Travel Awards	Innocent Byiringiro	University of Maryland - College Park
	Xiaotong Chen	Clemson University
	Ramlal Ayyagari	Universiti Sains Malaysia
	Feng Yu	University of Florida
	Hagos Mohammedseid Juhar	Institute Plant and Microbial Biology

John S. Song Award	Keila Emily Rodriguez	University of Florida
Honor B. Fell Award	Zhaohui Chen	Clemson University
Hope E. Hopps Award	Jasmyn Hoeger	University of Iowa
2025 Cellular Toxicology Award	Innocent Byiringiro	University of Maryland - College Park
Joseph F. Morgan Award	Nick Schimpf	University of Lethbridge
Philip R. White Award	Nick Schimpf	University of Lethbridge
Gordon Sato and Wally McKeehan Award	Joshua Clem	University of Maryland - College Park
Marietta Wheaton Saunders Award	Jasmyn Hoeger	University of Iowa
	Caio Nicholson de Figueiroa	University of the Fraser Valley
	Giovanna Teixeira Sandoval	Kansas State University
	Moreira	

6.4.2 **Lifetime Achievement, Presidential Honor of Distinction, Distinguished Scientist, & Early Career**

T. Jones/P. Barone

The awardees for the Lifetime Achievement, Presidential Honor of Distinction, Distinguished Scientist, and Early Career Awards were announced to the Board. Wayne Parrott, Barbara Doonan, Joyce Van Eck, and Nguyen T. K. Vo were the recipients, respectively. Nguyen was unable to travel to the US so his award will be acknowledged virtually.

6.5 **Public Policy (See Annual Report)**
No additional updates were provided.

W. Parrott

6.6 **Constitution and Bylaws (See Annual Report)**
No additional updates were provided.

M. Kane/P. Barone

6.7 **Education**

B. Upham

Brad acknowledged that he will not be running for office next term. The position was exceptionally rewarding but very time-consuming. They are organizing students to be active members in various committees including Development, Program, and Membership. Brad is looking to expand the student leadership throughout the Society on each Committee. He is trying to establish long-term goals for the committee. The Committee meets weekly. John suggested that we get student delegates or testimonials from students or those who started as students. Brad noted he would add that as a goal for the Committee to organize this information. Brad hoped to reconnect with older Student Co-Chairs.

7.0 **SECTION UPDATES**

7.1 **In Vitro Animal Cell Sciences Section Update**

S. Poynter

Addy provided an update for the IVACS section. They have been working on the connections with the officers so everyone knows what is going on. Once a month they all meet via Zoom. They worked to have as many local speakers as possible in the program. She acknowledged that VT worked to submit an application for NIH and will be looking to doing this again.

7.2 **Plant Biotechnology Section Update**

Y. Qi

Yiping Qi provided a brief update on the Plant Biotechnology Section. He acknowledged the reminders received from Fredy and the Business Office to help them focus their program and build their finances. Keunsub Lee and Cankui Zhang have been brought in to start working on the grant programs for the Plant Section and SIVB in general to fundraise. He is hoping to build new ideas to engage members and bring in new Plant Section members and looking for passionate members to run for office. Michele noted that this is the time to determine who you want to nominate for the 2026 Awards. The deadline is January 15, but packets can be submitted earlier if completed. John noted that we have let awards go by without nominating those senior scientists and there is an opportunity to utilize those options. Yiping noted he would discuss it during their Section meeting.

Piero did stress that people assume that if you attend the meeting, you are a member. This is not the case and it is important to make sure that attendees understand that they need to consciously join the SIVB.

Action Item: Michele is requested to share the “years of membership” list from the meeting to the Section Chairs and Addy.

8.0 **OTHER BUSINESS** P. Barone

8.1 **Annual Report Approval** P. Barone

Annual report was posted online. Asked for members to send pictures for the report.

Motion was made to approve the Annual Report. The motion was seconded and approved.

8.2 **SIVB Business Meeting Agenda Approval** P. Barone

Motion was made to approve the Agenda for the Tuesday Business Meeting. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board.

8.3 **Other business items for discussion** P. Barone

Wayne noted that PlantGENE has been funded by NSF for 2 more years. They are currently on hold, but we are waiting to hear if funding is released. The grant is mostly for financial support of their staffing.

8.4 **Reminder of Fall BOD Meeting (Nov 14-15) in Reno** P. Barone/M. Schultz

The board meeting will begin at 5:30 pm on Friday and will end on Saturday at 3:30 pm. Reservations are available for both Friday and Saturday nights.

Piero and Michele will arrive early to Reno to look at locations for special events and to see if we can meet with University of Nevada – Reno (UNR) to better connect with them. All board members are asked to secure their flights and make plans to join us so we can secure this with the hotel.

It was stressed that as many Board Members as possible attend as we are looking to see if we wish to sign a 2030 contract agreement with them.

Addy noted that there were members at UNR with whom we may wish to reconnect. Piero discussed the members of UNR faculty who had reached out and it was discussed that there are potential benefits with these scientists presenting and attending the meeting.

Action Item: Before board meeting, Michele and Piero will connect with representatives at UNR, University of California - Berkeley and University of California - Davis

Motion: To adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded and approved.

8.5 **ADJOURNMENT:** 11:54am

Motions from the June 2025 Board Meeting:

Motion: To approve the minutes. Motion was seconded and minutes were approved.

Motion: To approve the agenda. Motion was seconded and agenda was approved.

Motion: To approve Terry Riss for Emeritus status. Motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Motion: To adjourn the Friday night portion of the meeting. Motion was seconded and approved.

Motion: To approve the sections' administrative fees and speaker registration charges. Motion was seconded and approved by the Board.

Motion: To change student registration from \$0 to \$50, to include a 1-year Society membership, beginning with the 2026 meeting. Motion was seconded and approved.

Motion: To approve the Annual Report. Motion was seconded and approved.

Motion: To approve the Agenda for the Tuesday Business Meeting. Motion was seconded and approved.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded and approved.

Outstanding Action Items from the June 2023 Board Meeting

1. 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. **June 2025 update:** Once the new website is ready this will be addressed. **This item is ongoing.**

2. 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. **June 2025 update:** We will be speaking with the EIC during the Publications Committee meetings to get a good understanding of how to modify the categories. **This item is ongoing.**

Outstanding Action Items from the November 2024 Meeting

3. 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. **June 2025 update:** Piero and Michele will be meeting with Pankaj Bhowmik to discuss this in person during the meeting as they are now considering moving their site to ours. **This action item is ongoing.**

4. 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. June 2025: When the board meets in November, Piero and Michele will perform site inspections together to see if there is an appropriate venue. In addition, they will be looking at whether they wish to hold a fundraising event at a higher price point that evening for the 80th year anniversary. This would be very dependent on how to present this to membership to encourage participation. **This item is ongoing.**

Action Items from the February 2025 Board Meeting

5. 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 on the social media pages and, ultimately, at the meeting. **June 2025 update:** The goal had been to have this done before the meeting, which was not achieved. If the Social Engagement and Education Committees will meet after the June meeting, they can discuss how to offer this competition for next year. Chris and Brad will work together to address this opportunity with students doing the posts on their own channels to help bring visibility to the organization through our student membership to offer a prize. It was noted that the 2026 venue has video screens where videos could be shown during the event. **This item is ongoing.**

6. Action Item: The In Vitro Report will host a column featuring SIVB members, “From the Desk Of.” This is to be the Committee Chairs to supply what they are doing so it can be shared with the membership. IVR Editors should be reaching out to each of the Committee Chairs to submit articles about what the committees do and what their current activities are. It is recommended that two committees an issue be included. **This item is ongoing.**

New Action items from the June 2025 Board Meeting.

7. Action Item: Mae is requested to revise the February 2025 minutes for the Board’s approval.

8. Action Item: Michele, Piero, Addy, Michael, and Deepika will work with the web designer to create a new mockup design with the intent to show it to the Board for the November meeting.

9. Action Item: Fredy, as the Vice President, should identify and invite a new Plant member to be an EIC with Michael and Addy for the In Vitro Report.

10. Action Item: Piero and Michele will approach Ken Torres to work together to write an ‘In Memoriam’ for Toshio Murashige.

11. Action Item: The Business Office will provide a cost/benefit analysis of providing the On-Demand Program at the fall Board meeting. They will consider what can be supported through meeting registration and grants.

12. Action Item: Education Committee will move forward with a T-shirt design competition for the 2026 meeting.

13. Action Item: If the Board knows or can identify appropriate people and/or universities/companies in the California/Nevada area, they should forward them to Ahmad, Piero, and the Business Office.

14. Action Item: The Plant Section Officers are to discuss the current status of the Song Award and determine if the Plant Section will assume the award and its shortfall. In this discussion, they will need to determine whether they would like to continue to offer the award by its current name or rename it as well as if they wish to formally discuss this with their Section before finalizing a decision.

15. Action Item: Wayne and Pon will investigate initial fact finding about establishing a secondary SIVB Meeting in another location outside the USA.

16. Action Item: Addy will discuss with the two section officers the cost of publishing the Terminology paper.

17. Action Item: Addy will finalize the slate by August 15 and will forward it to Piero and the Business office.

18. Action Item: Michele is requested to share the “years of membership” list from the meeting to the Section Chairs and Addy.

19. Action Item: Before board meeting, Michele and Piero will connect with representatives at University of Nevada - Reno, University of California - Berkeley and University of California – Davis.