

Minutes of the 2011 IAM meeting: Melbourne

Date: Friday 29th July

Present: Executive Members - Dietmar Quandt, Claudine Ah-Peng, Blanka Shaw (proxy for James Shevock), Matt von Konrat, Li Zhang, Masanobu Higuchi.

Non Executive Members – Niels Klazenga, Lars Söderström, Jon Shaw, Paddy Dalton, Ana Séneca.

Agenda:

- Treasurer (James Shevock) wants to step down.
- IAB accounts.
- New journal for IAB.
- IAB re-elections – need to be held.
- Award committee.
- Future communication within IAB.

Minutes of Meeting:

- Treasurer (James Shevock) wants to step down from the position

Discussion

Next steps:

- Ask IAB members for a volunteer.
- Possibly approach Michael Stech.
- Last case scenario, Matt von Konrat and IAB volunteer, Genea Pitts.

- IAB accounts.

Discussion

- There are a number of issues surrounding the accounts of IAB. IAB needs to address and resolve these issues, as there are obvious implications for the society. It appears that there needs to be a new accounting framework and a case to centralize the finances of the society, as the current model is outdated. A major issue is that IAB, under its current structure, cannot reconcile its local accounts, thus IAB has no idea of its overall budget or total funds available. This is also a legal problem, as the IAB is registered as a charity non-profit organization in the US, therefore the funds need to be clearly laid out.
- Issues include:
 - 1) Problems surrounding the relationship with IAB and the journal *Arctoa*. Due to legal regulations IAB cannot collect the subscription fee of *Arctoa* if it is not a society journal. Therefore it is necessary to find a way to connect the journal with the IAB or the journal has to be independent of the society.
 - 2) Regions/countries such as China, Russia, Japan, South America, and Africa have local accounting and collector structures for IAB membership fees. In contrast, IAB membership fees of countries or regions such as Europe, Australasia and the USA get transferred into a central account.
 - 3) Having a total decentralized accounting framework makes it difficult when IAB files tax returns.

Immediate solution: Many international societies and journal subscribers have arrived at solutions such as using Paypal. Paypal is now set up for IAB and should be more widely promoted. The IAB Executive proposes a centralized accounting system, with the possible exception of China and India who could retain the current collection structure.

- New journal for IAB.

Discussion

Brief History: Tropical Bryology approached the IAB council in 2009 offering to change its name and scope and become the official journal for the society. The advantages are numerous notwithstanding the infrastructure established by its chief editor, Dietmar Quandt.

- This was approved by all attending members of the executive. Noteworthy was support from all attending non-members as well.
- Li Zhang was nominated editor for China/Asia. Zhang accepted.
- Lars Söderström was nominated editor for ecology. Söderström accepted.

- IAB re-elections – need to be held.

Discussion

- The committee noted that re-elections have not yet been held for 2011. It appears that four terms have or are due to expire in 2011. This includes Li Zhang, vice-president Masanobu Higuchi, Min Chuah-Petiot, Emma Pharo and Rosa Ros

***Action to be taken:* IAB needs an election committee to be established to begin the ballot process as soon as possible.**

- Award committee.

Discussion

- The attending members expressed disappointment that there were no IAB awards presented during the course of the conference. We understand this to be the first time in the history of IAB that no such awards have been given out.

***Action to be taken:* An Awards Committee needs to be established to resolve this.**

- Future communication within IAB.

Discussion

- The committee noted that better lines of communication should be promoted within the IAB Executive.