

IAB Council Meeting 15 October 15th

Minutes

Present : Catherine Reeb, Bernard Goffinet, Matt von Konrat (minutes) ; Jessica Budke, Chris Cargill, Boon Chuan, Juan Larrain, Itambo Malombe, Masaki Shimamura, Lars Söderström, Michael Stech (editor of BDE), Juan Carlos Villarreal, .

Aim of the meeting (5 min)

Catherine opened the meeting promptly and asked if there were any other items to add to the agenda - of which there was none at this stage. Provided an

- Update on several IAB points,
- Discussions on proposals
- Decisions on
 - IAB Election committee and judge
 - New award proposal
 - Call for « International Bryodiversity Network" (IBN)
- Call within the Council to engage on a reflection on existing awards (see below)

Updates (40 min)

- **2025 IAB Taiwan meeting** : Bernard Goffinet and Boon-Chuan

Bernard provided a status of the meeting, which will be held in October 2025. Jim Shevock will be visiting Taiwan shortly and will be a liaison between IAB and the Taiwan organizing committee. The organizers have applied for funding to support the conference. Bernard has suggested they start developing some fliers and announcements to distribute to IAB, Bryonet to save the date etc. Bernard shared they discussed alternative dates, but they ultimately settled for October 2025. Bernard encouraged the organizers to think about a possible theme, and to continue to coordinate organizing meetings and to get organization started etc.

Lars Soderstrom had a question about possible field excursions. This has been discussed with the organizers already. Catherine confirmed this had been requested and they are aware. Bernard indicated this information should be in the "save the date" flier.

- **Election process** update :
 - Voting process sent to all members in order to vote on status of Art. 10 and 16.
 - Proposal of an Election committee and a Judge, → **Decision needed**

Catherine provided an overview and update. Catherine proposed if there were any objections about the proposed committee which consists of Bernard Goffinet, Jessica Budke and Boon Chuan with Juan Larrian as the judge. 11 voted in favour of the committee and the election judge. The Committee and the judge are accepted and nominated.

- Quick reminder of the process

There were no objections about the process for the election that Catherine outlined. Catherine will share a PDF of the process and sharing transparency about the process, including the steps.

Bernard reminded everyone how critical it is to find good candidates, especially contacting them beforehand, particularly the position of secretary/treasurer.

- **Non-profit status** update : Matt von Konratt sent an email with all the details
Matt von Konrat provided a brief update, noting there had been an increase in the estimated quote since last reporting in Madrid. There had been no objections since this was shared with the full council. The council voted unanimously to proceed after no objections

- Website update, operational from 8 October
Catherine shared that we have a new web master with Fia and has been working on the web, with help from Matt von Konrat with some security updates.

- **BDE activity** → Decision needed in the following year
Michael Stech provided an update about the progress and status of the journal. A special issue dedicated to Prof. Yu and proposed a special issue for the 50th issue towards the end of 2025 and then after that he will step down. A second issue will be published this year. There are some papers in the pipeline but further contributions might be needed. There was an invitation to open the discussion briefly. Michael Stech discussed the problem of getting an impact factor and the challenges. Bernard offered his thanks to Michael Stech. Bernard shared the letter of invitation to Prof. Yu to MS again and stressed if this is going to be published in mid 2025, should start on this. Bernard stressed to focus on the special issue for Prof. Yu, then focus on the special 50th anniversary. We should start thinking about these announcements and starting a campaign to announce this.

- **Bryological Times** update

Matt provided an update on behalf of Mereia. Mereia is working on the first issue this weekend and is dedicated to two issues coming out this year. The council realized that editing BT is a massive undertaking and we can start thinking of creative ways to help the editor going forward.

There were two editors previously before David Meagher passed away. In the past we also had regional editors. Matt stressed Council members also represent different geographies and could be proactive in soliciting news and help. I. Malombe suggested in the chat that we go ahead having regional editors again to support the BT editor.

Action: we are going to search for regional editors, first by individual contacts.

Proposals (45 min)

- Proposal for a new IAB Award named for a prominent woman in bryology, see attached file. → Decision needed

Chris Cargill put up a proposal for an award to be named in honour of a woman and council members such as MS agreed that there are some themes or categories that we currently lack that were shared - for example outreach and engagement, etc. Also who would the person be named after? Chris indicated settling on a theme first and what was the award for, then that might dictate who to name the award after. Bernard mentioned that it might be a good to link the award to the name of the woman, but there might be challenges or might be an argument that it is not necessary. Many themes, perhaps like best mentor. Catherine suggested we need to have some filtering of themes or awards.

Catherine suggested we vote in support of the award conceptually. Bernard suggests nothing to vote on. Also Bernard is a bit confused - does membership vote on the type of award and or the person. Bernard does not think we need to put a call to members but might get them to vote on a subset of names. Matt suggested forming a subcommittee to work through some options to provide recommendations going forward. Michael Stech suggests discussing the new award with the council, but also suggested we review and in the context of other existing awards. Bernard agreed. Lars also suggested a small group.

Catherine will follow up with a message to the council to form a subcommittee and the subcommittee should also consult people like Dale Vitt or Rob Gradstein who have deep historical knowledge about IAB awards.

Action : Combining this award with a review of the current awards. A sub-committee to be formed.

- Proposal for the establishment and integration of the "International Bryodiversity Network" (IBN) into the mission of the International Association of Bryologists (IAB). See attached file, this was already discussed last year. → Decision needed to make a call on behalf of IAB (First call to selected members in different countries, continents? Call to all members?) to set up the committee which will then work with John Brinda and colleagues.

There was a time constraint so Catherine briefly outlined the proposal. Catherine shared that there could be regional experts or contributions. Bernard and Catherine shared individual communications they had had with John. Jessica Budke thought it was a strong proposal and supported it and thought this was something relevant to IAB. There was one strong objection from Lars Soderstrom. Bernard shared that the support the proposal is seeking is more intellectual. Michael Stech shared his opinion

that as the proposal stands IAB does have some commitment with a committee dedicated to it and that it would be expected. Lars Soderstrom strongly supported independence from all organizations such as MO, Paris etc. Bernard made the point that while MOBOT supports TROPICOS that it may not do this forever and that IAB can act as a 'godfather' type support for this project.

Bernard suggested developing a web form to share with the council comments about the proposal to provide John with feedback.

Action: Bernard built a form for giving arguments that is going to be sent to all the Council members. Then a vote via mail will be organized.

- Proposal to include volunteers from Council members in a review which will lead to proposals for a better definition of the scope and conditions of certain awards (see attached file) → who wants to be included in this think tank ? See notes above under Award for a prominent woman in bryology.

- **OTHER ?**

Next meeting – proposed next meeting before Christmas. CR to determine date and time.