



Minutes of IAB Council Meeting 19/20 June 2025

Present: Catherine Reeb (CR, President); Bernard Goffinet (BG, Past President); Chris Cargill (DCC, 2nd Vice President, minutes); Juan Carlos Villarreal (JCV, 1st Vice President);
Council members: Michael Stech (Editor of BDE); L.

Söderström; I. Malombe; Boon Chuan Ho.

Apologies: Matt von Konrat (Secretary Treasurer); Jessica Budke; Silvia Pressel; Juan Larrain; Andrew Franks (editor of BT)

1. Updates from the Executive Committee (CR)

The Exec Cmt meets every 2 or 3 weeks and discuss a range of topics such as the awards, Bryological Times new editorship, Taiwan conference updates, election updates, and discussions on the future of BDE.

2. Taiwan Conference Update (BG & B C Ho)

Website is now live and has gone to all members, with a pdf of all the information going to members from China who are unable to access due to Google access restrictions. Also potential restrictions for members from China to travel to Taiwan have been resolved, with no restrictions from the government, but come from institutions. If allowed to attend, there is paperwork involved which the Taiwanese organisers are helping with.

Other updates: A key note speaker has been invited and they have accepted – Juan Carlos Villarreal.

BG suggested to organisers to compile all abstracts and these will become a special issue of the BT. Abstracts have to be in by 30th June 2025.

There are 2 ways to submit, one for members from China and one for everyone else.

BC Ho noted that there is no record of when you submit your Abstract or when you register. I can confirm that for registration. They also do not ask for any payments when registering.

JCV asked if there are any themes for talks being submitted. BG replied that once abstracts submitted they will look at then organise them into themes.

At the Montreal conference members organised symposia and then invited speakers and 1 other.

Science Committee consists of Masaki Shimamura, Jim Shevock and Boon Chuan Ho

Difficult to predict who will come so hard to have symposia up front.

CR contacted Yao about the social event.

At the next Council Meeting in Taiwan, should have a broad call out for a location for the next IAB conference. The regions that are due to hold a conference are Australasia/Oceania, Africa and South America.

JCV suggested Colombia.

LS suggested Fiji or Hawaii for Oceania

Exec Cmt to go over document to make sure that we know what we want from a proposal for a location for the next conference.

3. Elections (BG)

Committee consists of BG, DCC, and BC Ho. Juge is Juan Larrain.

All nominees have been contacted and those up for election have accepted, all biographies are in and have been read and any corrections made.

BG has created a ballot page on the IAB website.

Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer and 4 council members are being voted for in this upcoming election.

MvK will send out email to all members on the 12th July with a unique number, with 2 weeks to vote, no-one can vote more than once. New council members will be announced at the Taiwan meeting.

4. Bryological Times (JCV)

CR expressed her appreciation at the publishing of the 160 issue of the BT in early June.

Andrew Franks is now the 'edit-in-chief' of the BT with help from JCV and DCC.

For articles and stories, personal emails were sent out to people asking for submissions rather than posting on bryonet and this seemed to work. Will do this again. The Space Moss story was one unsolicited story. But we will ask through bryonet as well for the next issue in December.

Decisions/Votes

i. Conservation and Endangered Species Grants (DCC & CR)

DCC summarised what the award was about and reiterated that Irene Bisang had compiled a summary of the award outcomes from their committee, explaining the voting, who received the top points and why etc, etc.

The committee recommended accepting the top two candidates to be award grants.

The first vote for the top proposal did not get more than half the number of votes. DCC and IM did not support the first nominee. It will now go to the whole of the council for voting.

DCC was not convinced that this was a project that was investigating bryophytes, instead it looked to be investigating microbial diversity on the moss *Dawsonia*.

And IM was questioning if there was enough in the finances to fund both projects.

The 2nd vote for the 2nd project was supported by all.

ii. Future of BDE (M. Stech)

MS did not like either proposal.

The proposals put up by the Exec. Cmt were:

1. Cancel publication of BDE on 31st Dec 2025.
2. When there are no special issues, then BDE contributions drop back to low numbers Maintain publication of BDE under a revised format by a) broadening the scope and range of contributions considered for publication and b) with prompt and continuous online publication of accepted contributions.

Things have been going well more recently with the journal. The special issue for Prof. Wu is on track (??).

Special issues are a good incentive to get people to contribute. Needs a good editor of course. When not a special issue, numbers of contributions drop back to low submissions.

With special issues, there does not seem to be enough commitment from the Editorial Board to step up and contribute.

Need to plan ahead with special topics, special issues, celebrating colleagues, etc or we will end going back to low submission numbers.

Impact Factor is important to people. Have to think it is worthwhile publishing in this journal.

It has to be sustainable over time.

LS: two options – either we quit and drop the journal or we keep as an irregular issue on occasions when we have special issues and invite special editors.

BG: the support of a journal by the IAB is in the Constitution. The Council has to make a recommendation. Have to address this problem and the contract with Magnolia press.

It seems to be an issue of marketing.

Need to advertise it more particularly outside of bryological circles.

MS: What would be the impact on members if we cancelled the journal?

It is still not an easy system to use, which may put potential users off.

What about opening up to publish Proceedings of IAB conferences similar to that which the Hattori Lab Journal did in the past.

Suggestion of a Communications Officer within IAB to advertise more widely??

MS also reminded the meeting that his tenure is up at the end of the year, what will happen after that – a yearly appointment?

Boon Chuan noted that he is on the Editorial Board and has never been called up. Maybe communication issues?

Action: MS to come up with a document of his vision for BDE and then the Council to vote on that as a final decision for BDE.

Spruce Awardee was announced by DCC. To be announced formally at the Taiwan conference.

Next Council Meeting at the Taiwan Conference in October 2025.

Date and time TBA.