

ISDB BOARD MEETING

July 6th 1997 at 12.30 p.m. in Snowbird (Utah)

Minutes

The meeting was attended by: Peter Gruss (President ISDB), Rosa Beddington (U.K), John Coleman (USA), Sigurd Fromm (Norway), Walter Gehring, candidate President-elect (Switzerland), Herbert Jäckle (Germany), Nicole LeDouarin (France) Anne McLaren (UK), Elliot Meyerowitz (USA), Marc Moreau (France), Janet Rossant (CAN), Masatoshi Takeichi (Japan), John Bluemink (Business Manager), Paul van der Saag (candidate Business Manager).

Apologies for absence were received from: Max Birnstiel, Igor Dawid, Siegfried de Laat, Denis Duboule, William McGinnis and Yan Shaoyi.

1. Opening and welcome by the President, Peter Gruss

Pres. begins to point out that this meeting is still to be held under the old statutes. Next he gives a short summary of the major achievements under his presidency of the past four years:

- The ISDB will become an umbrella organization for national societies, but at the same time will maintain the possibility for personal memberships.
- In order to provide the necessary financial basis for this operation in the future it has been possible to strike a deal with the Elsevier Publ. Comp. concerning their journal *Mechanisms of Development* (MOD):
 - * personal members of the ISDB or affiliated national societies can subscribe in 1997 for a reduced price of \$115 (instead of \$ 145). A small part of this fee paid will benefit the ISDB.
 - * the ISDB (and affiliated societies) can utilize a certain number of pages free for society news etc.
 - * the main profit for the ISDB will come from royalties paid by Elsevier, depending on the net income and the number of papers published/year. Present estimates are running up to minimally \$15.000/year, thus providing a sound financial basis for the Society.
- An ISDB/MOD WEB page has been opened containing upcoming papers and abstracts.
- Since the permanent (business) seat of the ISDB is in the Netherlands the Statutes and Bylaws of the Society have been changed given the new organizational setup and in accordance with the local legal situation in the Netherlands.
- For the future more new initiatives can be developed: in particular PR of the Society needs to be improved further and this will be an prime task for the new International Secretary to be elected.

2. Financial Reports 1995/1996

(see also the xbijlagen 1 and 2)

The reports were presented by the business manager of the Society, John Bluemink. For 1995 the financial statement for 1995 closed with a positive saldo of Dfl. 7.988 (around \$4.000), while 1996 was closed with a surplus of Dfl. 2.878 (nearly \$1.500). In 1997 royalties from MOD have added up to around \$ 16.000.

In answering a question regarding the financial result of the Snowbird Meeting Janet Rossant explained that there is no net result to be expected as a consequence of the unexpected high number of participants resulting in no repay of seed money (\$2.000) provided by the Society.

3. ISDB Statutes and Bylaws

The ISDB Statutes and Bylaws have been adapted to the new situation. In fact there are only a few key changes expressed in the three different types of membership: by person, by (national) society and a supporting membership (e.g. EDBO), while the rest has remained practically unchanged. No approval is needed in the present Board Meeting, but it is up to the General Assembly to approve.

- Anne McLaren proposed to extend the membership not only to *national*, but also to *regional* societies, which was accepted by the Board. *Latin America?*
- It was pointed out by John Coleman that the basis for the Board composition will change as a consequence of the umbrella nature of the Society, as in the future only national delegates will be a member.
- The proposal of Peter Gruss was accepted to designate one (below 500), two (500-1000) or three (above 1000) votes to member societies in the Board depending on their membership size.
- It was also agreed to maintain the present situation in which previous officers will stay on the Board for a maximum of 6 years, including two years after termination of office thus providing sufficient overlap with the new officers in charge.

The Board agreed that the new ISDB Statutes and Bylaws plus aforementioned amendments would be put on the agenda for adoption by the General Assembly that very day. According to the ruling ISDB Statutes (art.24) an affirmative vote of two thirds of the ISDB members present will be required.

4. Relationship with the European Developmental Biology Organization (EDBO)

Sofar the following national societies have already joined or will join ISDB soon: Germany, Italy, Croatia, Norway, the Netherlands and Spain, and others hopefully will follow.

On behalf of EDBO Ann McLaren explained that EDBO members want EDBO to continue to exist and also support the EDBO (supporting) membership of ISDB. The reason for this obviously is the semi-guarantee provided by the ISDB to provide seed money for the EDBO Conference, held every four years. To this end a reservation in the budget plan will be made of \$1.500 annually.

5. Budget Plan 1997-2001

No final budget plan was presented as the future plans are still open for discussion and can be influenced by the Board, and specifically by the new President-elect. Except for the returning expenses of seed money for the ISDB meetings and the financial costs connected to the Ross G. Harrison prize several suggestions were put forward:

- seed money for smaller meetings
- financing of workshops etc.

- establishment (and maintenance) of a world data base of developmental biologists.
- travel costs for participants from the poorer countries (e.g. Eastern Europe and Latin America).

There appeared to be no consensus about subsidizing smaller meetings and workshops as the point was made that it is generally not too difficult (at least in North-America and Europe) to attract money from a variety of sources, incl. EMBO (which explicitly seemed to have changed its policy with respect to developmental biology). There was however broad consent on supporting activities beneficial to the poorer countries, but the number one priority will be to support the regular meetings. The idea of the data base will be studied further.

After some discussion about whether or not there should be differential contributions per member for smaller and larger constituent societies it was accepted that a fixed contribution of \$2/member should remain.

6. Proposals for the transition period

In the absence of the candidate it was suggested to the General Assembly to nominate **Walter Gehring** (Switzerland) as the next President. This proposal was approved by the Board unanimously. It is for the new President-elect to decide on the continuation of the position of **Siegfried de Laat** as present Secretary/Treasurer. Similarly a new International Secretary has to be found, whose appointment has to be approved by the Board. In any case, a transitory period of 12 months will be kept in which the outgoing President and the new President-elect will co-exist for the sake of continuity.

It will be proposed to the General Assembly to appoint **Paul van der Saag** (the Netherlands) as the new Business Manager as the successor of **John Bluemink**.

7. Ross G. Harrison Award

The proposal of an ad-hoc CIE (Rosa Beddington, David Solter, Chaya Kaleheim and Peter Gruss) to award **Nicole LeDouarin** with the Ross G. Harrison prize was taken with an overwhelming majority. It was decided to materialize the prize this time (and in the future) with \$2,000.

8. Other Business

- **Next congress:** After Los Angeles (1985), Utrecht (1989), Vienna (1993) and Snowbird (1997) it seems appropriate to think about the Far East as venue for the next congress in 2001. Candidates could be Japan, Korea or Australia. According to the Statutes a call for bids will be sent on short notice to the societies of these countries.

9. As no further points had to be discussed or were brought forward the ISDB Board meeting was closed at 14.15 p.m.

PvdS.

ISDB GENERAL ASSEMBLY

July 6th 1997 at 15.00 p.m. in Snowbird (Utah)

Minutes

The meeting was attended by: Peter Gruss (President ISDB), Rosa Beddington (UK), John Coleman (USA), Tony Durston (the Netherlands), Sigurd Fromm (Norway), Walter Gehring, President-elect (Switzerland), Nicole LeDouarin (France) Anne McLaren (UK), Elliott Meyerowitz (USA), Masatoshi Takeichi (Japan), John Bluemink (outgoing Business Manager), Paul van der Saag (incoming Business Manager).

Apologies for absence were received from: Max Birnstiel, Igor Dawid, Siegfried de Laat, Denis Duhoule, William McGinnis and Yan Shaoyi.

1. **Opening**

All the members present were welcomed by the President **Peter Gruss**.

2. **Summary of the past four years**

The President **Peter Gruss** provided a short summary of the most important events in the last four years.

- The ISDB will become an umbrella organization for national societies, but at the same time will maintain the possibility for personal memberships.
- In order to provide the necessary financial basis for this operation in the future it has been possible to strike a deal with the Elsevier Publ. Comp. concerning their journal *Mechanisms of Development* (MOD):
 - * personal members of the ISDB or affiliated national societies can subscribe in 1997 for a reduced price of \$115 (instead of \$ 145). A small part of this fee paid will benefit the ISDB,
 - * the ISDB (and affiliated societies) can utilize a certain number of pages free for society news etc.
 - * the main profit for the ISDB will come from royalties paid by Elsevier, depending on the netto income and the number of papers published/year. Present estimates are running up to minimally \$15,000/year thus providing a stable and sound financial basis for the Society.
- An ISDB/MOD WEB page has been opened containing upcoming papers and abstracts.
- Since the permanent (business) seat of the ISDB is in the Netherlands the Statutes and Bylaws of the Society have been changed given the new organizational setup and in

accordance with the local legal situation in the Netherlands.

- For the future more new initiatives can be developed: in particular PR of the Society needs to be improved further and this will be an prime task for the new International Secretary to be elected.

3. Financial Reports 1995/1996

(see also the *xbijlagen* 1 and 2)

The reports were presented by the Business Manager of the Society, John Bluemink. For 1995 the financial statement for 1995 closed with a positive saldo of Dfl. 7.988 (around \$4.000), while 1996 was closed with a surplus of Dfl. 2.78 (nearly \$1.500). In 1997 royalties from MOD have added up to around \$ 16,000.

4. Statutes and Bylaws

The ISDB Statutes and Bylaws have been adapted to the new situation. In fact there are only a few key changes expressed in the three different types of membership: by person, by (national) society and a supporting membership (e.g. EDBO), while the rest has been practically unchanged. The present General Assembly has to formally approve by a two-third majority of members present.

- A proposal by Board member **Ann McLaren** to extend to the membership not only to *national*, but also to *regional* societies, was accepted by the Board and therefore is now part of the present proposal to the General Assembly. As a consequence of the novel umbrella nature of the Society only national delegates will be a member in the future. For this reason it is proposed to respect a transition period of one year, as well -as an addition to article 10- comprising that passed Officers will stay on the Board for an additional two years to guarantee continuity. And finally the proposal to designate one (below 500), two (500-1000) or three (above 1000) votes to member societies in the Board depending on their membership seize.
- A formal vote was taken among the members present and the new Statutes and Bylaws and the additions proposed and described above were accepted without no-votes or abstentions.

5. Election and Appointment of new President, International Secretary and Business Manager

It was proposed to elect **Walther Gehring** (Switzerland) to the new President, while **Siegfried de Laat** (the Netherlands) was re-electable for the position of Secretary/Treasurer. It was proposed to the General Assembly to appoint **Paul van der Saag** (the Netherlands) to the new Business Manager, succeeding **John Bluemink** (the Netherlands).

For the position of International Secretary **Gary Schoenwolf** (USA) was a candidate, but it is up to the new President-elect under approval of the Board to finalize his appointment.

All proposals were approved with no-votes or abstentions.

6. **Future congresses**

A call for bids for the next congress (to be held in 2001) will be sent out this Summer to the following countries in the Far-East: Japan, Korea and Australia.

7. **Other Business**

- a. **Rosa Beddington** (UK) proposes to publish a report on the present ISDB Meeting in *Mechanisms in Development*. She will take appropriate action.
- b. **Jim Coleman**, speaking on behalf of the members present, expressed thanks to the outgoing President **Peter Gruss** for everything he has done for the Society in the past four years.

PvdS.