

ISDB Board Meeting
June 20th , 1999, 13:00 at Oslo (Norway)

Agenda:

1. Opening and welcome by the President, Walter Gehring
2. Budget Plan 1997-2001: Seed money for EDBO Meeting
3. Election of a board member (rep. Lacament).
4. Ross G. Harrison Award (2001) Appointment of an ad hoc committee
5. Other Business

ISDB Board Meeting June 19th 1999 in Oslo (Norway)

Minutes

The meeting was assisted by: Walter Gehring (President), Anne McLaren (U.K.), Danny Duboule (Switzerland), Wolfgang Driever (Germany), Elliott Meyerowitz (U.S.A.) and Paul van der Saag (Business Manager).

1. Opening

by the president **Walter Gehring** at 13.27h welcoming everybody. The parting president **Peter Gruss** is acknowledged for the important work he has contributed to the ISDB during his presidency.

2. Budget Plan 1997-2001; Seed Money for EDBO Meeting

The financial situation of the ISDB is positive as present reserves are around \$ 54.000. This situation is expected to be stable as long as Elsevier is continuing her (generous) support of around \$ 15.000 annually.

It is approved that a contribution of \$ 10.000 to the present EDBO Meeting is appropriate. As the ISDB is to be considered an umbrella organisation it is also agreed that in similar situations in the future similar contributions shall be made by the ISDB. On behalf of EDBO **Anne McLaren** expressed her appreciation for this support.

Subsequent discussion is focussing on several alternative possibilities in spending/using ISDB money. Smaller meetings could also be sponsored, but there is probably more need for travel grants for students from the poorer countries to attend the ISDB Meeting. So far the Japanese colleagues have not asked for financial support, but it is decided to approach them and ask for their budget plan in case they are interested in the \$10.000 seed money. **Peter Gruss** emphasized that also in this case a possibility could be to support young scientists from countries in the Far East (China, Korea and India) in attending the Meeting in 2001 in Japan. It also should be realized that the selection process will not be easy. It is decided that the ISDB will conceive a letter describing this possibility and inform the societies/leading developmental biologists in the region.

It is suggested by **Peter Gruss** that money could also be spent on enlarging the financial sum attached to the **Ross G. Harrison** prize, which is now rather limited (\$ 3000). After some discussion however it is decided to install an extra prize in the form of a special ISDB lecture/award to be delivered by a scientist below the age of 40. The suggestion (by **Elliott Meyerowitz**) to investigate possibilities to design a special medal (with the ISDB logo) for this award will be investigated.

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4a. Election of Board Members

Gary Schoenwolf has resigned as international secretary. As a successor Ben Scheres (Utrecht, NL) is suggested by Elliot Meyerowitz. The active fulfillment of this function could also bring about improved communications between the ISDB and the national societies.

There is some discussion with respect to the representation of e.g. Asian (Japan, China, Australia) scientific communities in the Board, which are considered to be underrepresented. It is suggested by Peter Gruss that this could be an important task of the international secretary, who should therefore get in touch with the national societies (if existing). Peter Gruss proposed to organize serious elections during the ISDB congress in Japan in 2001 but at the same time to have a strong Daily Board until then, consisting of President, Secretary-Treasurer and International Secretary. This nucleus then could be extended with a limited number of experts representing certain specialized areas (e.g. plants, evolution) and representatives of national societies.

4b. Venue ISDB Congress in 2005

There are signs that some Canadians want to have the next ISDB congress in Canada. It does not seem to be such a good idea when rotation between the continents is the principle. There is agreement that it is Europe's term again, after Vienna (in 1995?). After some discussion the order of preference among candidate European countries is Italy first and Germany (Berlin) and U.K. (Edinburgh) ex aequo as second. Thus it is logical to contact Italian developmental biologists (e.g. Dado?, diLauro, Cortese, Bernardi).

5. ISDB Awards

a. Ross G. Harrison award

It is suggested to establish an *ad hoc* committee consisting of the Board Members to consider and select candidates. It is generally felt that "younger" scientists should have more of a chance.

b. Hilde Mangold Prize

The introduction of a second award is agreed upon designed for young independent developmental biologists (< 40 years of age). The idea is comparable to the annual EMBO medal. The Board Members are forming the committee, but will act upon suggestions by the International Secretary. Also in this case the winner should give a (special) lecture during the ISDB meeting. It should be announced on the (MOD) website that this initiative has been taken by the ISDB. Ideas about the physical form of the prize are fuelled by Wolfgang Driever when he mentions that he has a profile of Hilde Mangold in bronze.

6. Other business

As there was no other business the President closed the meeting at 14.40 h.

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