

ISB Annual General Meeting - held at Biocuration 2014, April 8th, Toronto, Canada
Members of the ISB Executive committee present: Alex Bateman (Chair), Pascale Gaudet, Marc Robinson-Rechavi, Claire O'Donovan, Jennifer Harrow, Melissa Haendel
Regrets: Teresa Attwood, Monica Munoz-Torres

Minutes

1. Introduction

A reminder of the ISB Mission statement:

- Define and promote the work of biocurators
- Foster connections with user communities to ensure that databases and accompanying tools meet specific user needs
- Promote communication and exchanges between curators: meetings, workshops
- Encourage best practices by providing documentation on standards and annotation procedures

This is the Inaugural AGM. The goal is to create a new communication channel, and get feedback on what we are doing.

Presentation of the ISB EC members (slide with pictures of each member).

2. Update on ISB activities

2.1 Microgrants: Up to \$250 to further the aims of ISB. There are no deadlines. To date, two microgrants have been funded: (1) 1st workshop of GRECO group (Norway); and (2) OHSU library outreach meeting (USA). We are open to new ideas.

2.2 DATABASE is the official journal of the ISB since 2013. DATABASE is published by OUP which is Gold sponsor of this conference. It has been publishing proceedings of the international Biocuration conference. OUP will advertise the society in the journal and at appropriate conferences.

2.3 GOBLET: Global Organisation for Bioinformatics Learning, Education & Training, an umbrella for Bioinformatics, Biocuration, Biocomputing & Computational Biology learning, education & training.

- ISB became founder member of GOBLET June 2012
- GOBLET established as legal entity November 2012
 - ISB signed up as silver member
 - today, >30 members

First elections took place in November 2013

- Terri Attwood elected Committee Chair
- Pascale Gaudet elected Standards Chair

Opportunity to galvanise new training activities

- to promote ISB & ISB's work in this area
- to seek funding for joint initiatives

2.4 Biocurators as reviewers:

Curators not often (enough) asked to review papers - where we could potentially have a great effect on the literature before it goes to print
We don't publish a lot or on the same topics as papers that need reviewing => not found in reviewer ID systems

Journals such as Bioinformatics and PLoS welcome registering with their reviewer systems. Include your expertise and the keywords "biocuration" or "data curation"

For example: <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/bioinformatics>

2.5 New officer roles

Many important things need to get done, so the EC decided to create new officer roles. The proposed roles are:

- Membership Officer: monitoring email accounts, updating list of members, managing payments. This role is currently filled by Lorna Richardson (previously ISB Secretary)

Other proposed roles:

- Convention Officer
- Publications Officer
- PR Officer
- Website Officer
- Training Liaison Officer

2.6 New website

Designed by Marie-Jean Meurs, Monica Munoz-Torrez and Pascale Gaudet. Word-press based. Will have improved functionality compared to our current site: members will be able to post content (jobs, conferences, discussions). Also, membership, email list and website will be integrated.

3. Finance report

membership fees	12 199
ISB representation	-303
travel fellowships	-5 807
expenses ISB exec	-426
taxes	-45
website	-500
GOBLET	-655
balance 2013	4 462
Total funds	30,463

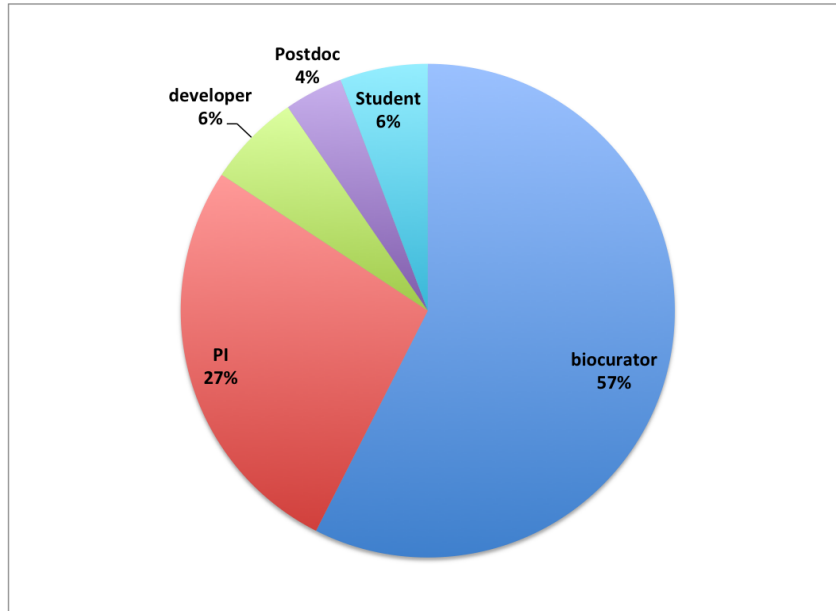
2014:

microsponsoring: budget CHF 2000

communication: budget CHF 500

4. Membership report

The society currently has 295 members



5. Terms of Office for Executive Committee

Proposed changes to terms of ISB Executive Committee members:

Current	Proposed
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Members of the Committee are elected for a period of 2 years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Members of the Committee shall be elected for terms of <u>3 years</u>.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">No limit on the number of times a person may run or how long s/he may remain on the EC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A member can serve two consecutive terms, <u>for a total of 6 years</u>, subject to successful reelection by the membership at the end of the first term

The goal of this proposal is to improve stability while improving the turnover of the committee.

There will be an online vote on this proposal in the upcoming weeks.

6. Questions/suggestions from the floor

Questions/suggestions on new proposal for EC terms

6.1 Does the new proposal for Terms of Office for Executive Committee relate to the position on the Exec, ie can someone do 6 years as Secretary, and

then 6 years as Chair ?

-> No. Those terms refer to the terms as Member of the Executive Committee.

6.2 Under this new proposal, is there a chance that the entire EC would need to be renewed at the same time ?

-> This is theoretically possible but unlikely. With respect to the current EC, there will never be more than 3 people who will have to step down at once.

6.3 Other similar committees have President, President-elect, so that continuity is assured. Can the ISB implement a process like that ?

-> Suggestion noted.

Questions/suggestions on budget

6.4 The ISB budget does not mention the conference budget. What is the link between the conference and the ISB?

-> The ISB and the conference organizing committee are independent entities. The ISB supports the organizers of the upcoming conference by providing a 'seed' budget, if available. The ISB is not liable for any losses by the conference organizing committee.

Questions/suggestions on conferences

6.5 The ISB should plan conferences 2 years in advance, rather than one.

-> Suggestion noted, will put that in place for the upcoming conferences.

Questions/suggestions on membership

There was discussion as to how to increase the membership; and also how to change the ratio of the different members. There seem to be a large fraction of PIs.

6.6 Other societies offer complimentary membership upon conference registration. Is this possible ?

-> Would need to be worked out with the conference organizing committee so that fees could be transferred.

6.7 Student membership is very cheap (20 CHF). All students should be encouraged to become ISB members.