

Minutes of the SBSP board meeting September 15th 2014

Present: Brian Lassen, Rebecca Davidson, Gunita Deksnė, Pikka Jokelainen, Ulrika Forshell (minutes), Vaidas Palinauskas, Jakob Skov

New Members

All present voted in favour of accepting the applicants Muhammad Fiaz Qamar (PAKISTAN) and Reza Zolfaghari Emameh (FIN).

Website

Brian issued a suggestion of a website solution to the board members on August 18th, which required a final decision. A unanimous vote in support of the suggested plan (see below) motivated a decision to pursue this option.

Brian had condensed the previous correspondence between website suppliers and board members and also actively pursued new offers, but these were more expensive and did not apply VAT so they were abandoned. Although very close in pricing, both final candidates display the same weakness, i.e. that maintenance is not provided, but would require a webmaster.

Tegnestuen appeared to have the best-for-the-buck solution and provided the clearest offer. Fair priced, but the website would also require an unknown amount of work from BL before it can be handed to an external webmaster. BL further suggests asking Tegnestuen to include in a new price offer an additional 1 hour of instruction in managing the Joomla program (one for BL, one for the future webmaster).

After the creation of the website, a contract could be entered with one of the other companies, for maintaining and updating (webmastering) the website.

The Board agrees that that the new website should be ready to launch by December. All support the Tegnestuen alternative with BL as webmaster, and he will contact them now and ask how payment should be organized. First invoice went to RD and was paid through the NO account. BL will keep the Board advised.

Logo

It was necessary to reach a final decision on the logo. BL issued an email on August 18th outlining a suggestion as summarised below. In support of the suggested plan: Brian, Pikka, Vaidas, Rebecca, and Ulrika

Agreement has been reached involving a remake– not a new logo design. Most of the Board members support that the new logo should:

- A) look like Yggdrasil (not just “a tree”)
- B) have the full name of the society in a circle around the logo
- C) have the parasites/worms more clearly represented than in the previous logo.
- D) must be a quality remake of the old logo – not a copy/paste of the old logo with modifications.

Both Tegnestuen and Gunita’s contact will be requested to produce a new logo based on these specifications, and then we will choose from these. Our preferred choice will subsequently be presented at the General Assembly for acceptance and inclusion in minutes. All present were in favour of this.

Membership list

JS lacks final number of members so we can pay WAAVP membership for our Board. Mostly info from Sweden is missing. The members whose payment status is unclear will be transferred to each country for checking. A final reminder of members will be issued when payment system in place (planned by Jan 2015).

Stipend form

The undergraduate stipend form has been finalized. All members voted in favour of an application window of 1 month, and that the stipend be offered twice annually. The form will be uploaded on the website and the invitation to apply issued on 1 Oct and 1 April every year. The applications will be handled within 2 months from the closing of the application window.

JS raised the issue of risk and a desire to specify that the applicant needs to finalise within two years. However, delays can stem from a number of reasons. The application is for Masters and Bachelors - not PhD – and requires careful wording. A conclusion on this matter was not reached.

All favoured VP's suggestion that students' private accounts would be used instead of their institutions/faculties to avoid unnecessary bureaucracy.

SBSP6

It is vital that we all help spread the word about SBSP 6. BL asked about printing postcards again, which gained general approval. A digital postcard is also possible. All were in favour of producing one.

JS will issue emails to all members about SBSP6.

A discussion followed on travel grants for students in connection with SBSP6.

All were in favour of helping 4 students with travel with a sum of EUR 500 each. This amount will be issued in advance of the conference. PJ will check previous application form if it needs updating by next meeting. VP reminded that registration will open in November and info should be posted on website about Young Scientists award. A discussion ensued on how the lower participation fee should be awarded, and when membership had to be paid in order to be eligible for this opportunity. RD suggested to add the wording that membership has to be paid in order to pay the lower fee. BL said that the wording on the form could read: "I am a member and have paid".

EMOP XII

BL and PJ said that the search for sponsors/partners has begun and news is being spread, e.g. via the website. PJ and BL are members of the organizing team and there is a local firm organizing the event. All leads on possible sponsors are welcome. There are different options, including picnic sponsoring.

JS will start sending out information to all members soon and BL will issue a collaborative announcement on how to sponsor, but this is still in the future.

Firm membership

JS will draft a suggestion defining firm membership in time for the next meeting and it will be a point on the agenda.

Board manual

BL announced that the status of the board manual is updated at this point, except for WAAVP membership payment, which should be added.

AOB

The switch of signing right for the the Swedish bank account was touched on and UF advised that the forms have submitted, and is awaiting response from bank.