

Minutes of SBSP board meeting 18 May 2015

Telephone conference call 9:00 to 10:00

Members Attending

Jakob Skov (JS)

Brian Lassen (BL)

Pikka Jokelainen (PJ)

Rebecca Davidson (RD)

Vaidas Palinauskas (VP)

Andrea Miller (AM)

Age Kärssin (AK)

Gunita Deksne (GD)

1. New board: board manual to all, Facebook rights to all

The board manual needs to be read and updated by the new board. JS will begin revisions and circulate among the board. BL has a copy of the board manual that includes the codes for the webpage. The manual with the codes will only be shared between the webmaster and the president. This is to ensure that the codes are not searchable online.

PJ has given Facebook rights to all board members. Board members were encouraged to keep the page active. Sharing newly published articles is encouraged from all members, posted on the sidebar. The main news feed should be reserved for SBSP activities and information that the society should promote or share.

2. Messages and flowers to new honorary members

JS will forward a written message to the Board for approval. PJ will forward the addresses of the honorary members to RD. Following approval of the message, RD will arrange the delivery of the flowers. The payment will be made by VP from the Baltic account. AM will obtain pictures of the new members for the website.

3. Accepting the membership of Akinwale Efunshile (voting list includes old board, but the official decision will be made by the new)

Akinwale's membership was approved.

4. Website

Except for the Paypal function, BL reports that the new website is ready to be launched. BL requests updated contact information and pictures from the new Board. The GA minutes from April also need to be uploaded once they are approved. All Board members are reminded to send information to BL for the website when needed.

RD reports that the PayPal issue has been on hold. PayPal needs to have proof of a real person behind the Society's account. RD will contact PayPal for updated information and ask how other NGOs in Europe have handled this problem. BL also suggests Amazon Web Pay as another option.

5. Status and future of the bank account fusion

The bank account fusion is still ongoing. Eventually all accounts will be consolidated into one account in Sweden (as agreed on by previous SBSP boards). The head treasurer and one other board member must have rights to the account. Previously for the Swedish account this was RD and Ulrika Forshell. With the new Board, RD and AM will have rights to the account. For the Swedish account to remain open, a Swedish national (someone with Swedish citizenship) must also be on the account. Currently, this is Eva Osterman-Lind.

The Icelandic account has been emptied and closed. The Baltic account is nearly empty. VP paid for the Young Scientist Awards from the recent SBSP meeting in Uppsala from the Baltic account and will also pay for the honorary member's flowers.

6. Evaluation of the YSA competition

The 2015 YSA competition was largely handled by JS and was considered a great success. The Board began an evaluation of the competition in this meeting but will continue to discuss this matter in the coming meetings.

The small number of students participating was disappointing. After evaluating student eligibility, only 4 were eligible in the oral competition and 2 in the poster. According to the rules, all 6 candidates were judged together. Although this was by the book, JS was concerned that it is difficult for poster candidates to compete with oral candidates. JS asked if there were ways to improve the competition for the future.

PJ commented that the best way to improve the competition was to work to increase the number of students participating. The competition was announced online and rules were provided very early. However, students had to check a box on their registration form to participate. After this, students received no direct contact about the contest. For future meetings, it was suggested to contact student registrants directly about the contest (even if they hadn't checked the box) and provide contest information.

VP suggested that non-member students should be allowed to participate. PJ disagreed and said that the current prize is quite large and the membership fee for students is not that much. VP suggested that the audience award could be open to all students. JS agreed that this might be a good idea, while the judged competition should be maintained for members only.

Based on other similar competitions, PJ also suggested that competitors could be asked to do more than the presentation (for instance, write a small essay or provide a CV). JS agreed that it could make the award more prestigious, but worried that it might add a lot of work for the volunteer judges.

BL and VP suggested that it would benefit the student participants to receive some feedback from the judges about their presentation afterwards.

JS asked if 500 Euros was too much for the prize. PJ commented that it seemed in line with other similar prizes. PJ also suggested that as long as the SBSP budget could afford the prize (and currently it can), it should remain at 500 Euros. The Board agreed.

JS suggested to continue the discussion at future meetings.

7. AOB

RD noted that SBSP needs to pay the membership fee to the European Federation of Parasitologists for 2015. It costs the Society approximately 50 cents per member. We can pay for two years (2015-2016). JS will forward the information to VP to pay from the Baltic account.