

ISB Executive Committee Meeting – 02 March 2010
Public Minutes

Attendees:

Pascale Gaudet
Lydie Bougueleret
Lorna Richardson
Teresa Attwood
Alex Bateman
Tanya Berardini
Tadashi Imanishi
Owen White
Ioannis Xenarios

1. 4th International Biocuration Conference.
Planning for the conference is underway. The organising committee are open to suggestions for sessions and topics. A substantial portion of the funding required has already been secured, and some new avenues are under investigation to provide the rest.
The details of the conference (costs and logistics) will be posted in the ISB website asap.
2. Funding Opportunities for the Society.
A number of possible funding opportunities exist for the society, and are currently being investigated. The exec committee will determine what funding is required to achieve the goals and mission of the society, to then approach these funding opportunities.
3. Advertising the Society
The exec committee will maintain a calendar of meetings that will be attended where the society and its goals can be advertised. These meetings will be announced on the ISB website. All society members are encouraged to mention the society in their acknowledgments slide in any presentations etc.
4. Promoting links between journals and databases.
Meetings have already taken place (and more are scheduled) with various publishers to discuss links between journals and databases. The meetings have initiated discussions on the publishers' perceived concerns over the permanence of resources. As this represents a community-wide issue, all members are encouraged to contribute to the forum discussing this topic.
5. Rules for the ISB governance.
In conjunction with the legally binding constitution (available on the ISB website) the society (under Swiss Law) can define a set of guidelines for the governance of the society which must be in agreement with the constitution, but can contain more specific details. This is useful for specifying of membership renewal dates, and AGM frequency etc. A document detailing these rules for governance will be circulated to the exec committee for official approval.
6. Promoting databases and biocuration.
It was felt by the exec committee that the ISB should be a hub for information regarding gold standards of biocuration and best practice.
7. Genomic Standard Consortium Collaboration
There was a suggestion of establishing links between the ISB and the GSC who are working

towards incorporating as an entity in the USA. While the ISB is in principle open to collaboration, given the overlap in the missions of both, it was felt that the respective roles would need to be better defined.

8. Biosharing

The biosharing website aims to aggregate groups interested in data repositories, data management, standards, etc. This is of interest to our membership and so we will include a link to them from the ISB website.

9. Association with a journal

After much discussion about the ISB's official association with a journal, and substantial majority decision could not be reached. It was felt by the exec committee that it is too important a decision to agree on by marginal majority and so it has been shelved for now. The exec committee will revisit the discussion in the future. It was decided to write to the editors of both journals to inform them of the postponement of our decision.

10. AOB

A connoted tag of "biocuration" has been initiated, and a list of papers relevant to biocuration already exists. The link to this list will be sent to the mailing list and members are encouraged to tag their own papers.

11. It was decided to approach "Database" to ask them to highlight the Biocuration Conference in any papers arising from it.