

## International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

### Officers of ICSP

#### Redacted Minutes ICSP-EB Internet Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> September 2019

##### Action points

1. Send approved minutes of the 29<sup>th</sup> of August to the Members of the ICSP and JC and place them on the ICSP website (LD, FV).
2. Forward voting results RfaO 97-99 to Members ICSP and JC (LD) and draft the Opinions for publication in IJSEM (DA/IS).
3. Voting process for selection of a nominee for the Van Niel Prize to be circulated (IS) and votes for first and second choice candidates to be sent to Dijkshoorn (all members EB). Summary of votes (LD)
4. Respond to Ventosa that ICSP will be interested in a session (FEMS 2021). (IS)
5. Follow-up correspondence with Cha (IUMS) (IS).
6. Proceed with finalising the Glasgow minutes and circulate them to ICSP/ JC members and attendants of the meeting (LD). Put on website (FV).
7. Contact Bull about the outreach contest (LD).
8. Work on succession planning for ICSP and EB members (LD/IS/all), including informing the current delegates of the implications of the new statutes regarding renewal of their nominations (IS/LD). See Minute 7.

**Minute 1. Call to order.** The Chair Iain Sutcliffe called the meeting to order at 14:00 BST (London time)

**Minute 2. Record of attendance.** The Members that participated were I. Sutcliffe (Chair), F. Rainey (Vice-Chair), L. Dijkshoorn (Executive Secretary), D. Brown (Secretary Subcommittees), W.B. Whitman (Treasurer), F. Venter (Member-at-Large), D. Arahall (Chair JC) and R. Rosselló-Móra (Vice-Chair JC). W.-J. Li (Member-at-Large)(with apologies) and C.T. Bull (Secretary JC) did not participate .

**Minute 3. Minutes of the 29<sup>th</sup> of August 2019 meeting.** The minutes were approved.

**Minute 4. Matters arising/Action points from previous (29<sup>th</sup> August 2019) meeting:**

1. Circulating approved minutes of 25<sup>th</sup> July EB meeting (LD) to ICSP and JC members (done).
2. Collection of votes on RfaO 97-99 (done).
3. Brown was asked to check the Glasgow minutes. Done.
4. Contact Prof Cha (IUMS). (Done, see Minute 9).
5. Van Niel prize: see Minute 5.

**Minute 5. Van Niel prize - finalisation of candidates list. Redacted:** *During the previous EB-meeting five names were proposed. One other candidate was added to the list.* It was decided that the EB will nominate one candidate to the University of Queensland. Each EB-member will propose a first and second candidate, and the one with most nominations will be the definitive candidate. IS will send a summary of the process and candidates. The EB-members are requested to send their proposals to Dijkshoorn.

**Minute 6. Editorial Board of the ICNP (update).** Sutcliffe reported that Aharon Oren (Editor-in-Chief of the Editorial Board) is making progress. There are two potential controversies the Board will have to deal with:

- 1) the 'modest proposals' made by Whitman (2016) and 2) the Cyanobacteria.

Sutcliffe reported that the Editorial Board plans to prepare materials presenting both sides of the arguments relating to these issues, which will be sent to the ICSP members for consideration and debate, before voting on which approach to adopt.

**Minute 7. Recruitment of new members and succession planning.** As a result of the adoption of the revised statutes, in the spring of 2020 all ICSP members will either need to be reappointed or replaced by their Member Societies. (See also the minutes of 29<sup>th</sup> August 2019.) Current members need to be informed of this

and reminded to contact their Member Society. Accordingly, Sutcliffe and Dijkshoorn will draft a communication to the members. It is also necessary to again remind Member Societies without delegates of their ability to nominate. EB members were asked to review the list of IUMS Member Societies (<https://www.iums.org/index.php/regular-iums-members>) and consider whether they have personal contacts who might be encouraged to put themselves forward as members. A call for delegates can also be placed on the ICSP website (LD/IS/FV).

**Minute 8. FEMS 2021 – possible session?** Sutcliffe reported that he had received a letter from Ventosa with the proposal that ICSP would join FEMS 2020 in Hamburg, continuing the sequence of meetings held in Maastricht (2014), Valencia (2017) and Glasgow (2019). It was discussed that FEMS is a good platform to promote taxonomy and the work of the ICSP. Sutcliffe will reply Ventosa that ICSP is interested.

**Minute 9. Planning next Plenary. (IUMS 2020 and/or BISMIS 2021).** Sutcliffe sent a letter to Professor Cha (IUMS, Korea) asking whether the IUMS organizing committee was interested in supporting an ICSP session and could provide a meeting room for the plenary. The answer from Cha was rather confusing; it seemed as if ICSP was offered the opportunity to support their (IUMS) planned session on taxonomy/genomics. Rainey commented that a new ICSP board would be active in 2020 and this board would then have to deal with IUMS 2020. Sutcliffe will respond to Cha that, on reflection, the EB cannot yet commit to meeting in conjunction with IUMS as that decision should be taken by the incoming EB. One other option was ISME (9-15 August 2020); ecologists involved with taxonomy might attend that meeting. After some discussion, the proposal of the EB was to target BISMIS 2021 for the next plenary (unanimous vote).

**Minute 10. JC and voting.** Results of the RfaO have been voted on by the ICSP. Arahall and Sutcliffe were congratulated for this achievement. The Opinions can now be written for publication in IJSEM. Sutcliffe and Arahall will discuss how to proceed. The voting on RfaO 99-102 and 103-105 are the next to be handled.

**Minute 11. Update from IJSEM.**

Rainey reported that the (IJSEM) editorial board meeting (September, London, UK) went well. Twelve out of 19 associate editors, including some of the new members, attended. Some of the younger attendants provided good discussions, e.g. about workflow and quality of papers. It was recommended to start a mentoring program to train new associate editors. Mentees will include young reviewers, including postdocs. **There are a few former editors who could participate as mentors.** In the past, IJSEM had editorial board meetings at conferences. Some editors would like to move back to this approach. Venter, who also attended the IJSEM editorial board meeting, mentioned that there will be a new Open Access Journal with low impact. This might be useful for publication of the single-strain-species, which have a negative influence on the IJSEM Impact Factor. The IJSEM requested that the level of travel support available be increased. The EB decided (unanimously) that travel funding should be increased from GBP 750 to GBP 1000 beginning Jan. 1, 2020.

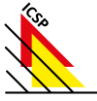
**Minute 12. Update on subcommittees.** There was no news.

**Minute 13. Update Education and Outreach.** There was no news. Dijkshoorn will contact Bull regarding the proposed video competition.

**Minute 14. Date of next meeting.** This will be October 31 at 2:00 UK time. Sutcliffe noted that the UK clock will then be one hour back and asked the EB members to coordinate their meeting time with that of the UK.

**Minute 15. AOB.** There was no other business.

**Minute 12. Adjournment.** The meeting was closed at 15:10 UK time.



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*Lenie Dijkshoorn, Executive Secretary, 30 September 2019 with edits from Fred Rainey, Barny Whitman and Iain Sutcliffe.*