

ICSP- International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

Officers Executive Board

Redacted Minutes of Internet-meeting 30th April 2020

Action points:

1. Ongoing from previous meetings: Circulate minutes of 2nd September, 28th November, 2nd and 30th January, 27th February EB meetings to EB and JC members and to FV for the website (LD); Finalize minutes of Glasgow plenary for IJSEM (LD).
2. Draft an announcement of the result of the vote for publication in IJSEM (IS/WW/LD).
3. Thank outgoing delegates (IS/LD), and organize the election of a new Executive Board (All).
4. Organize the election of a new (27th) class of the JC (IS/DA/CB/RRM).
5. Inform IJSEM EiC of approval of 8 new candidate Editors (FR).
6. Reminder to Subcommittee Chairs of need for re-election (DB).
7. Contact UQ regarding ratification of the Van Niel Prize nominee (IS).
8. Determine list of Life Members (IS/All).
9. Respond to Tindall enquiry regarding Conflict of Interest statements (IS).

Minute 1. Call to order. The Chair called the meeting to order at 14:00 BST London time and was reassured to note that ICSP business was still continuing despite the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 virus.

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

Minute 3. Minutes of the 26th March 2020 meeting. Minor comments were given during the meeting. The minutes were approved provided that the comments were implemented.

Minute 4. Matters arising/Action points from previous (26th March) meeting actions.

Action points:

1. Remind delegates who have not yet voted (on the Sequence as Type) to do so (Minute 5) (LD/DA). Done.
2. In early April, forward the results of the vote on use of sequence as type to the members of the ICSP, JC and Editorial Board of the ICNP, and put results on the website (LD/IS/FV). Inform participants in the electronic discussion forum of the outcome of the vote (IS). Done.
3. Draft an announcement of the result of the vote for publication in IJSEM (IS/WW/LD). Ongoing.
4. Welcome delegates to new terms as members of ICSP and thank outgoing delegates (IS), and organize the election of a new Executive Board. Ongoing (IS). Ongoing.
5. Organize the election of a new (27th) class of the JC (DA/CB/RRM). Ongoing.
6. Ongoing from previous meetings: Circulate minutes of 2nd September, 28th November, 2nd and 30th January, 27th February EB meetings to EB and JC members and to FV for the website [LD]. Finalize minutes of Glasgow plenary for IJSEM (LD). Ongoing.

Minute 5. Result of vote on sequence as type. All 23 ICSP members were noted to have voted. An additional vote was received on 31/03/20 from a new delegate representing (*redacted:*) *another microbiological society*. Since IUMS subsequently confirmed that this Society had not renewed its membership for 2020, there was a majority agreement that this vote should not be counted as the delegate was not legitimate. Results of the 23 votes have been communicated with the members. The outcome is also on the website. A report for IJSEM has been drafted and circulated to the EB for comments. There was discussion as

to whether extensive comments on procedural matters in a separate email thread entitled “Irregularities in the membership of the ICSP” should be included in the Supplementary materials being prepared. A majority decision was taken that these comments should not be included. The finalised manuscript needs to be submitted to IJSEM (IS/LD/WW). Sutcliffe has asked the ca. 150 individuals who were included in the email discussion on the topic whether their email addresses could be retained and used for announcements of matters related to ICSP. So far 33 approvals had been received and this list will hopefully prove a useful resource and means of contact with a wider community.

Minute 6. New terms and EB elections [IS/LD]. Currently, there are 19 delegates who have begun a new term but some still need to be formally confirmed by their national society or are otherwise to be confirmed. The Chair has written to each ongoing or incoming delegate to formally welcome them to the new term of office. The Chair will also write to outgoing delegates to thank them for their past contributions to the ICSP. Some Societies have delegates whose terms have lapsed and are in the process of being replaced. The ICSP will remain in contact with the IUMS about the list of societies that have paid their IUMS membership fees and thereby retain their right to nominate delegates to the ICSP. The Chair also remarked that there is an unfortunate under-representation of female delegates.

The ICSP members have been requested to send their expression of interest for the different positions on the EB. Several informal expressions of interest have been received by the Chair, although so far no candidates for the position of Treasurer have come forward. A reminder will need to be sent asking for candidates for the Executive Board roles (deadline 1 May).

Minute 7. FEMS2021. The Chair confirmed that FEMS have approved an ICSP workshop at the FEMS2021 meeting in Hamburg (July 2021) entitled “Surveying the phylogenomic landscape: the impact of novel methodologies on prokaryotic systematics”. The incoming EB will need to take responsibility for selecting speakers.

Minute 8. Update on Editorial Board of ICNP. *Redacted text: The EB unanimously decided to leave the selection of the next E-i-C of the ICNP to the next EB. Other members of the Editorial Board will be appointed ex officio following election of new EB and JC officers.*

Minute 9. Update from the JC [DA/RRM/CB]. The Chair is drafting Opinions 100-102 for publication in IJSEM. A new (27th) class of the JC is to be sought. As members of the JC are nominated by the members of the ICSP, the Chair agreed to ask members to nominate candidates (including self-nominations); it was also agreed that the new mailing list (see Minute 5) should be contacted to seek informal expressions of interest. Arahal reported that there has not yet been a vote on Opinions 103 and 104.

Minute 10. Update from IJSEM. Rainey reported that IJSEM has lost several editors and others may move as well. The recent proposal of eight new candidate editors was approved by the EB. Rainey will inform the EiC IJSEM. Sutcliffe noted that the Chair, the JC Chair and the EiC of IJSEM had taken action regarding a requested exemption from Rule 18f received from the authors of an IJSEM manuscript.

Minute 11. Update on subcommittees. Brown reported that there was nothing to remark. The subcommittees have been asked to re-elect their Chairs. A reminder will need to be issued.

Minute 12. Update from the working group on Education & Outreach [LD/CB]. The video project should be left to the new EB. What could be done is to ask people from the mailing list whether they are interested to put videos of lectures etc. on the website (LD). A section for such material could be created within the website (FV).

Minute 13. Treasurer's report. It was noted that the Chair had been reimbursed for paying the gotomeeting fee.

Minute 14. Date of next meeting is Thursday May 28th 2 pm UK time.

Minute 15. AOB.

(1) The Van Niel prize. The Chair reported that there has not been a follow-up from the University of Queensland on the prize. He will take this up (IS).

(2) Life members. There is ambiguity concerning who the current life members are and this needs to be investigated (IS/All). There was an agenda item to propose a candidate during the ICSP plenary at IUMS 2014 (Montreal), but it is not clear whether the vote was taken since there are no minutes. Actions to nominate life members will be a task for the new EB.

(3) Tindall had enquired by email to a list of ca. 50 recipients whether the current EB and other relevant officers had provided Conflict of Interest statements during the current term of office. The Chair noted that his own potential Conflict of Interest was addressed and minuted during the Valencia 2017 Plenary but regretted that other statements had not been collected. The Chair takes responsibility for this oversight and will apologise to the Tindall's email list. The incoming EB will be reminded to be vigilant about this and Conflict of Interest statements can be collected from candidates for the EB and JC during the forthcoming election.

Minute 14. Adjournment. The meeting was closed at 3:30 pm UK time.

Lenie Dijkshoorn, Executive Secretary, 19th May 2020 with edits from Iain Sutcliffe 20th May 2020.