Attendees: ca 45 (of which 24 BioSB members), of which ca 20-25 PIs.

1. BioSB: activities 2015 & plans 2016 by Jaap Heringa

ppt: Link ppt JaapH

Jaap opens the meeting and welcomes all attendees. The goal of this meeting is to exchange ideas, while vivid interaction is much appreciated.

The year 2015
In 2015, the BioSB course programme was continued, albeit with reduced numbers of attendants as compared to previous years. The BioSB Board convened on a monthly basis, and priority issues were the new organisation and membership situation, adapting the organisation structure and installing BioSB committees. As a result, there is now a more lightweight organisation structure, the Education committee and Research Committee are up and running and the YoungCB Committee became well aligned with BioSB. Furthermore, BioSB has been (and still is) involved in the organization of two conferences, BioSB 2016 and ECCB 2016.

BioSB organization
BioSB is currently embedded within DTL Data Projects which makes appropriate use of the old NBIC organisation structure with legal contracts in place, including a PIC code to attract (international) projects, and with financial expertise.

The BioSB Board members are Barbara Bakker, Lodewyk Wessels and Jaap Heringa. Jaap Molenaar is chairing the Education committee, Bas Teusink the Scientific committee. The office is led by Celia van Gelder. Julian de Ruiter is chairing the PhD committee (YoungCB) -- YoungCB is represented in this meeting by Annika Jacobsen.

The current plan is to have an international review committee convening every five years to evaluate the BioSB developments (quinquennial review), providing advice and an international perspective. The report by the committee will be made available to all BioSB members.

The year 2016 and beyond
BioSB is exploring further collaborations with other research Schools (e.g. MolMed, ASCI), industry, SMEs (e.g. eNPicom) and is preparing a MoU with DTL. ELIXIR activities

are embedded and aligned wherever possible. Vitor suggests adding ISBE to this list, which is well noted. **(Action 2015.04.19_01)**

Patrick Kemmeren suggests exploring the route of aligning with the UvA/VU as representative institution ("penvoerder") for BioSB, but Jaap Heringa explains patience is needed, given the current activities and reorganisations needed for the current merger of UvA/VU sciences, until things settle down a bit in Amsterdam. All universities are represented as partner within DTL which makes DTL Data Projects a good host to use as legal entity for now.

2. Update from Education Committee by Jaap Molenaar

ppt: Link ppt JaapM

The BioSB Education committee consists of Jaap Molenaar (Chair), Natal van Riel, Chris Evelo, Douwe Molenaar, Dick de Ridder, Julian de Ruiter and Celia van Gelder (Secretary). The committee is still looking for a member from industry.

Course overview
The BioSB course overview is shown, consisting of a) 6 introductory courses, b) 9 core courses and c) >12 specific courses. Martijn Huynen noticed two Python courses. Jaap Heringa explains one is organized by ENPIcom (company), and BioSB has a number of seats at reduced fee in this course. The other Python course still has to be planned by BioSB, this is under action by the Education Committee , and will be part of the Introductory Courses, and as such will be free for BioSB PhD members.

Core courses
Core courses are held once every two years and partly consist of some 'old NBIC' courses that are appropriate for being continued within BioSB, and partly of new BioSB courses. Core courses had less attendants in 2015 than in earlier years. One element is probably the change of cost structure. Patrick Kemmeren mentions BioSB is competing with local graduate schools.

Ideas brought up:

- Offering core courses at a yearly basis would be a good way to attract more PhD students to become member, since this facilitates attendance that can be more easily planned for during the course of a 4-year PhD.

- Another suggestion from the audience of this BioSB meeting is to put more effort in core courses rather than in introductory courses.

Specific courses

Specific courses form a heterogeneous list of courses that BioSB co-organizes with other parties. Courses to be added to the specific course list are very welcome, and BioSB office will be able to help organise these. Jaap Molenaar can be contacted for more information.

E-courses

E-courses will be online shortly, since the existing courses of NCSB are now migrated and implemented in the newly updated portal. PhD members register for free; others pay a fee. E-courses are: 1) Biomolecular Principles of the Cell; 2) Elementary Calculus in SB; 3) Modeling of Biological Processes. Course 2) and 3) will be tutored by Hans Stigter and will be the first one(s) going online, while Bert Groen has been found prepared to kindly assume responsibility for course 1). At the moment, e-courses are only available as basic courses. BioSB is investigating the possibility to extend the e-course platform by developing core courses. Celia van Gelder adds she is collecting information on experiences with e-courses also within other initiatives (e.g. GOBLET) to prevent reinventing the wheel.

Upcoming courses

Jaap Molenaar mentions three upcoming courses for which seats are still available: 1) Kick Start R, 2) In Silico Life: constraint-based modelling at genome scale and 3) Python for Life Scientists. The latter course is organised by Enpicom, and a special arrangement for attending this course was made with BioSB.

Course organisers and lecturers are kindly thanked by Jaap Molenaar for their efforts and time investment.

Discussion about fees, members, courses

Martijn Huynen asks why the number of attendees is lower than before. Celia indicates that one of the main reasons for this may be the new fee structure, which, in combination with the membership model, is something that people have to get used to. We are still fine-tuning this. Patrick Kemmeren indicates there is also competition with the local graduate schools. People in local schools may have obligations with their own school that prevent them to follow BioSB courses and also schools themselves may have their own courses (especially for the introductory courses, which may be available locally, e.g. Python). Marcel Reinders indicates that in Delft (ASCI) there is no problem and students are free to choose their PhD courses. It could be that it is worthwhile to

invest / focus more on the Core courses. The Education Committee is responsible for the Education Portfolio and will discuss these issues and report back..

One PhD student indicates that he will not join anymore because he only has one year left. Celia indicates that for those PhDs a 1-year membership is available (in contrast to the regular 2 year membership). Provisions allowing such flexibility are already in place.

3. Update from the Research Committee by Bas Teusink

ppt: link ppt Bas

Bas Teusink names the people within the Research committee: Bas Teusink (VU, chair), Marcel Reinders (TUD, co-chair), Lude Franke (RUG), Berend Snel (UU), Sacha van Hijum (NIZO/RUN), Jildau Bouman (TNO), Katy Wolstencroft (LU), Gabino Sanchez (WUR), Roeland Merks (CWI/LU) and Joep Schmitz (DSM). Together they constitute a nice combination of mature and young people within multiple disciplines (bioinformatics, systems biology, applied and fundamental sciences, industry.

Activities
The overall goal is to strengthen the scientific base of the BioSB community, fostering the community. Concrete activities discussed during the two times they convened after installment include a) a workshop at ECCB 2016 and b) an interactive BioSB session at BioSB 2016. The committee would like to instigate hot topic research meetings but rather not organise them themselves as a rule. It also would like to set the research agenda, after consultation with the BioSB board, DTL and other appropriate parties to determine how to best position the agenda on behalf of the community. Lastly, the committee would like to know how to respond to calls and other opportunities on behalf of the BioSB community. An example that is discussed is the NWO Complexity call. The question here is if this is perhaps a task for a special committee, the board, or DTL, and also how collective scientific input should be obtained. These subjects will be discussed further during the Interactive session at the BioSB 2016 meeting that is scheduled on April 20th at 13h15.

BioSB Conference 2017
WUR is kindly thanked for the investment of its time and effort in organizing BioSB 2016. According to Jaap Molenaar, there are already discussions on who will arrange next year's BioSB conference.

4. Introducing YoungCB by Annika Jacobsen

ppt: Link ppt Annika

Annika Jacobsen is board member of the Young Computational Biologists which has as its goal to build a network of young researchers and students in the field of bioinformatics and systems biology within the Netherlands, and connecting them to the rest of the world.

ISCB RSG
The YoungCB is the ISCB Regional Student Group Netherlands (RSG), collaborating with other RSGs -- ISCB is the International Society for Computational Biology. The YoungCB / ISCB RSG organizes various activities, including BioCafés in conjunction with courses, company visits, and the annual PhD Retreat.

Youngcb.nl
The website is set up to promote events, conferences and courses. YoungCB wishes to promote and achieve more interaction between PhD students.

April 20
YoungCB have organised a BoF (Birds of a Feather) meeting during BioSB 2016 on April 20 at 12h45 – 13h15.

5. Charter ("Statuten") by Barbara Bakker

Link to Statuten

ppt: Link Barbara ppt

Regulations proposal
As a membership-based organisation, BioSB should have basic regulations to fall back on in good and bad times. A link to such proposed regulations are presented on the BioSB 2016 website and the democratic structure of the charter will be discussed during this BioSB RS meeting.

Elections
In the proposed structure, the board, education committee and research committee are

elected by all BioSB members. The PhD Student committee is elected by PhD student members. The Board and committees are supported by the BioSB office, which has a managing director and support staff. It is suggested that the managing director and support staff will be appointed by the board.

Assembly of members

It is proposed to keep the assembly meeting an open meeting on a yearly basis, typically held at the BioSB conference, so to get input from members as well as non-members. The assembly of members advises the board and other bodies and needs to approve the budget. Members elect the various bodies and should therefore have voting rights. Membership benefits include reduced course and conference fees, priority admission and the right to vote.

In practice, these elections will probably not be not extremely competitive, but in principle they could be. In the latter case, voting procedures should be more formalised. Jaap Heringa suggests a quorum might be needed in case of important decisions. The other option would be to vote through an online system which would reach more members. ***Idea***

Board

The board consist of BioSB members and serves max. 2 terms of 3 years - Only the chair can stay on longer in an emergency situation when no replacement can be found. In the proposed charter, the board decides on education, research, quality management, while incorporating the advice from members and committees. Furthermore, the board delegates tasks to committees and BioSB office. Consent is sought from members for the yearly budget. The board can make decisions based on its mandate for that particular year, and will report on the BioSB activities and finances annually.

External review

The charter proposes external review meetings to be organized every five years. The responsibility of the RS is to have a course program, organize conferences and act together as a community with respect to the research agenda (but not carrying out research programmes). The RS is looking for objective advice on our role in comparison with the rest of the world. The external review committee should provide an external perspective and bring in their international vision.

The decision has been made to change the review frequency to "at least five years", with the possibility to ask advice in between. Furthermore, the review committee members should overlap and not be replaced all at once, with an eye on the continuity of the committee. (**Decision 2015.04.19_01**)

The next external review committee meeting will be scheduled next year during the BioSB conference. (**Decision 2015.04.19_02**)

Managing director

The managing director supports the board and other bodies in many different ways, reports to the board and advises the board and other bodies. The manager heads the BioSB office and delegates tasks to the other office staff.

Education committee

The education committee is supported by BioSB office and the proposal in the draft regulations is that it consists of BioSB members. The key task is to develop, supervise and continuously improve the BioSB course program. The committee advises the Board on education policies.

PhD Student Committee

Within the BioSB RS, this committee, supported by BioSB office, organizes the yearly PhD retreat and advises the board on education policy and all matters that are of interest to the PhD students. Furthermore, the PhD Student committee has its own agenda with lots of outreach activities. People within this committee do not have to be BioSB member (although this is much preferred), they are elected though by BioSB members.

Reports

Reports are made yearly by the committees and at least quinquennially by the external review committee as stated in the regulations.

Approval of Charter

After consulting the members in the audience, the Regulations of the Netherlands Bioinformatics and Systems Biology (BioSB) Research School as presented during this BioSB RS meeting at BioSB 2016 have been accepted subject to the above mentioned amendments. **(Decision 2015.04.19_03)**

6. BioSB Finances 2015 and BioSB Budget 2016 by Celia van Gelder

ppt: link ppt Celia

Membership

Celia van Gelder provides information regarding the membership model, its costs and benefits. The current number of members is 29 PhD's and 34 other researchers. The Ambition for 2016 is to have 46 PhD's and 52 other researchers as a BioSB member.

Finances

Finances relating to the BioSB 2015 conference and the BioSB Courses in 2015 are

summarised, as well as the costs and income of BioSB courses in 2016. Furthermore, a list of personnel is shown with associated costs. In summary, BioSB has had a total loss of € 9,096 in 2015 and a projected loss of € 6,323 for 2016. Luckily, SB@NL as well as NBIC donated 56k EUR to BioSB in order to kick-start the BioSB organisation, allowing it to become self-sustainable over time.

7. Evaluation of the Membership model by Jaap Heringa

Membership model

Active acquisition is needed! *Idea* Courses are very interesting for Universities of Applied Sciences ("Hogescholen"). However, Jeroen Pijpers of Hogeschool Leiden (HL) comments that the BioSB introductory courses are of the same level as courses organized at HL, so becoming a member would not be all that beneficial for its students. HL is looking for online courses as well and is open for collaboration. Celia van Gelder would also like to explore HBO teachers becoming part of the teacher community.

Marco Roos noted that it is not beneficial to become a member when only visiting the BioSB conference. He compares it with the ISCB model, where a careful balance is struck between the membership fee and the conference fee for members and non-members.

Barbara Bakker indicates that probably for staff members it is not easy to get a clear financial 'win' with the membership. However, this should also not be the aim, which should be to all join in building a strong BioSB community.

Chris Evelo comes up with the idea to make membership for PhD students cheaper after two years. *Idea* Barbara Bakker explains it is financially not that much of a difference for BioSB to have students as a member (as compared with having them attend courses without being a member), but of course BioSB would like to build up the community for which members are crucial, and so incentives for students and staff to become member should be explored. (**Action: 2015.04.19_02. Collect all input about membership**)

Decisions

D_2015.04.19_01	**External review committee:** Change the term of external review committee to "*at least* five years", with the possibility to ask advice in between. Furthermore, the members should overlap

	and not be replaced all at once, to keep eye on the continuity of the committee.
D_2015.04.19_02	**External review committee:** The next external review committee meeting will be scheduled next year during the BioSB conference.
D_2015.04.19_03	**BioSB RS Regulations:** The Regulations of the Netherlands Bioinformatics and Systems Biology (BioSB) Research School as presented during this BioSB RS meeting at BioSB 2016 have been accepted subject to the decisions 2015.04.19_BioSB-RS_01 and 2015.04.19_BioSB-RS_02

Actions

A_2015.04.19_01	**BioSB collaborations:** Add ISBE to list of important collaborations
A_2015.04.19_02	**BioSB memberships:** Collect all input about the membership model. Evaluate current model, and adapt if needed.

Ideas

Core courses: Offer core courses at a yearly base to attract more PhD students.
Core courses: Put more effort in core courses rather than in introductory courses.
Assembly of members: Vote through an online system which reaches more members.
Membership model: Active acquisition is needed!
Membership model: Make membership for PhD students cheaper after two years.