

Minutes BioSB members meeting

15 May 2018

Jaap Heringa opens the meeting and presents the agenda of the meeting

Joske Ubbels updates the attendees on the Young Computational Biologists (YCB). Briefly, YCB is the official student group for the Regional Student Group of the ISCB. The YCB strived to be a network for young researchers in bioinformatics and systems biology. The YCB runs three types of activities. First the organize visits to non-academic organizations (such as companies), for example the HArtwig MEdical Foundation where WGS on tumors of patients in trials is performed. Second, the organize the BioCafe, typically colocated with PhD courses and finally seminars on topics not in the academic masters program such as soft skills (networking, politician), reproducible research and data stewardship. The YCB also organized the annual PhD retreat, preceding the BioSB conference. the retreat was attended by 37 students (the mailing list comprises 300 persons). The YCB is run by a board of 5 persons and are also advised by a faculty board (Jaap Heringa, Barbara Bakker and Jeroen de Ridder). The YCB will also have a seat in the Education Committee to advise on the course portfolio. The YCB will replace the entire board at this time, but will have an overlap of a number of months with the new board to ensure continuity.

Jaap Heringa provides a BioSB 2018 conference update. This year there are more than 400 attendees of which 107 are master students, 88 PhD students, 147 academic and 35 industrial members. The next BioSB conference will be organized by Bas Teusink and Frank Bruggeman from Amsterdam.

New membership model. The new model was briefly introduced. Basically membership is offered at registration for the conference at a rate of 25 EURO, but immediately compensated as the conference fee is reduced by 25 EURO for members. Other than the membership compensation it is now a pay-as-you-go model, especially for the courses. As the office support is reduced, more is expected of the course tutors in terms of in-kind contributions to the course organization.

Finances. Patrick Kemmeren provides an overview of the running expenses and income. The overview of the budget is attached to provide all details. In summary, regarding the running costs over the past year we have a deficit of 3K EURO. However we still have unpaid memberships and course fees from 2015, 2016 and 2017. For the courses this amounts to 2K EURO and for the membership fees, after a write-off of 5K EURO, we still have an outstanding amount of 10,200 EURO. We also agreed to compensate members for the memberships that have been paid and have an end-date beyond January 2018. This amounts to approximately

15K EURO. A proposal is made to the members that BioSB will not initiate a campaign to compensate all members for these amounts, however, if a member wants to get reimbursed for the relevant amount, BioSB will do so. The procedure is that members can apply for the compensation with Femke Francissen, and the compensation will be reimbursed to the same account holder that paid the membership in the first place. As this will prevent a further depletion of the reserves, the proposal is put to the vote. Result: one vote against, one abstention and the remainder (a majority of approximately 32 members) in favor. The proposal is accepted. The reserves are then roughly as follows: end of 2016 BioSB has reserves in the amount of 78K EURO, at the end of 2017 approximately 65K EURO.

There was a discussion regarding the application of the reserves towards, for example, the e-Learning platform. Especially Jaap Molenaar is a strong proponent of this proposal. Others would like to be more cautious, and first revamp the core and special course portfolio and ensure that the courses do not run a deficit and that BioSB can maintain a stable and positive balance on the running account. Once such a steady state is reached, we can investing in other products and service offerings, which have a sustainable business model. The Board will prepare proposals in collaboration with relevant committees in due time.

consider adding additional 'nice-to-haves' to the course and conference offerings.

Barbara Bakker presented the updated regulations. These will be circulated to all members for approval. The main changes involve 1) the inclusion of the description of the agreement with DTL; 2) that the board of the PhD Committee (YCB) is not voted for by the members of BioSB as they do not have any members, and they are granted more flexibility in forming their board; 3) the YCB have a representative in the Education Committee and Scientific Advisory Committee and 4) the BioSB board has created portfolios: Chair and liaison with DTL (currently Jaap Heringa), Education (currently Barbara Bakker), Research and Finances (currently Patrick Kemmeren) and Communication (currently Lodewyk Wessels). The updated regulations will be circulated to the members soon and members have till 29 June 2018 to comment on these regulations.

Jaap Heringa announced that Lodewyk will be stepping down as board member, which leaves a vacancy to be filled. Nominations can be sent to Femke Francissen till 15 June. If there are multiple candidates an electronic vote will take place. If there is a single candidate, objections to this candidate can be sent to the Femke till 29 June 2018. The elected candidate will join the board from 1 July 2018.

In the absence of Dick de Ridder, his chairmanship is ratified by the members. Dick then gives an update on the activities of the Education Committee. Formal change: apart from a chair the committee now also has a vice-chair (Natal van Riel). These two leaders should preferably represent the Systems Biology and Bioinformatics community within BioSB. He also introduces the new members of the committee. Due to the new membership model the workload of the

EduCom has also increased, but the more direct involvement of the board via the member for Education will ensure that this is managed properly. The committee is in the process of overhauling the course portfolio and thinking about the effective integration of DTL and Elixir. DTL can provide expertise on setting up new courses. Dick showed a list of topics where possible new courses will be developed - these were collected during the special members meeting on 30 November in Utrecht. The EduCom will approach the relevant persons to take care of these topics, and volunteers are also encouraged to offer their services and suggest topics not on the list. The committee will also implement the concept of courses jointly certified by DTL, Elixir and BioSB and will seek advice from these bodies regarding such courses. Vittor indicates that it will be very useful if members could have regular access to information such as the list of topics on which courses will be organized. It is agreed that this can be communicated in the regular newsletters. Jaap Heringa thanks Jaap Molenaar (the previous chair) for his contribution to the education committee.

Bas Teusink gives an update on the activities of the Science Committee. These include providing advice on the Elixir/ISBE proposal, organization of the Life Science meets industry workshop, 19-23 November, input for the BioSB conference and organization of 2 hot topic meetings. The organization of more hot topic meetings will be invigorated, as well as regular Science Committee meetings.

The meeting is adjourned by Jaap Heringa.