

Minutes of the IOCB Board meeting No. 7/2017 on June 13th, 2017.

Present: Ullrich Jahn, Pavel Jungwirth, Pavlína Maloy Řezáčová, Radim Nencka, Radek Pohl, Petr Svoboda, Pavel Šácha, Tomáš Obšil, Petr Slavíček

Guests: Iva Pichová, Zdeněk Hostomský, Martin Fusek, Milan Drahoňovský

Secretary: Irena Valterová (excused)

The meeting took place after the Joint meeting of the IOCB Board and the IOCB Supervisory Board. Minutes of the Joint meeting are provided separately.

The following points were discussed and/or decided:

1) Budget, financial results, audit and Annual report

The documents were discussed and agreed on. The budget was already approved at the February meeting. The IOCB Annual Report (Výroční zpráva) was approved with 8 votes (one abstained).

2) Recommendation of the venue of the IOCB retreat 2018

The IOCB management offered several venues for the IOCB retreat 2018. The IOCB Board unanimously recommends Valeč.

3) IOCB Support for University Internal Grant Programs

IOCB students feel that it is important to compete for grants from University Grant Agencies, improving thus their skills and later career chances, however, they do not feel fairly treated. After a lengthy discussion several options emerged and potential solutions were evaluated. The IOCB Board recommends that the IOCB management enters negotiations with the university authorities about a mutually beneficial and fair solution.

Petr Svoboda offers to hold a “Grant writing workshop”, with that students should apply early since there is only a limited capacity.

4) SWAT teams and Targeted Research at IOCB

Martin Fusek provided an overview on the status, topics, financial figures, and milestones. Out of all projects with connection to TTO, six groups are directly managed by the TTO. Questions on how to approach the TTO in case of interest and the procedure to form a SWAT team were addressed.

5) Dream Chemistry Award Update

So far about 30 nominations from respectable institutions worldwide were received. All members of the Board are requested to further distribute information about the award and solicit further nominations.

6) IOCB Strategy 2017-2021

An ad hoc group of IOCB group leaders including the head and vice-head of the Board created two documents, which were inspired by the IAB recommendations concerning the strategy of IOCB with respect to basic research and the establishment of core facilities. Issues, such as distribution of the minutes and the tone of the documents were critically discussed among the Board members. Formulations, especially concerning the success rate of junior position tenure, were also critically discussed and the intent of the statements was clarified. It is stressed that these documents are not fixed final strategies, but should represent a foundation for finding the best possible ways to increase scientific excellence and efficient operation of IOCB. They should be thoroughly discussed in due course to aid decision-making concerning the further scientific and organizational development of IOCB.

Connected to this, the issue of mediocre grant success (particularly in international calls) at IOCB was raised. Potential causes were discussed. The IOCB Board should follow up on this issue.

The next IOCB Board meeting will take place on August 1st, 2017, 11.00 at the director's meeting room.

June 16th, 2017.