



Minutes of the IOCB Board Meeting No. 1/2018 on January 17, 2018

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

Guest: Zdeněk Hostomský

Secretary: Irena Valterová

1. *IOCB Interdisciplinary Grants.* Three grants were approved out of five applications. One of the three was submitted without consent of the group leader. The board discussed this issue and recommends for the future in cases that when the group leader is not applying himself/herself his/her group member must obtain an approval for the application. A corresponding form is available on the IOCB website and should be filled up for all applications including the internal ones.

In the discussion, junior grants of the Czech Science Foundation were mentioned. These grants aim at supporting new independent junior groups. Is the institute prepared for that or how does this agree/disagree with the IOCB rules for the formation of new junior groups? The consensus was that we should stick to our internal rules and that GACR junior grants should not be “tickets” for formation of a junior group, but complement Junior groups established by IOCB.

In the discussion, P. Svoboda also mentioned that he is not in favor of interdisciplinary grants in their present form. He also suggests that either internal grant program should be either revised or the money should be used in a different way to support science at IOCB. Proposed changes for interdisciplinary grants included replacing a regular deadline with a continuous application principle. Furthermore, the application format should follow unified rules that would make it easier for the evaluators. External Board members agreed to summarize the discussion and the comments/recommendations for the director (internal members may be in a conflict of interest).

Proof of Concept Grants. So far, no application has been submitted. The Board encourages PIs to apply; there is no fixed deadline.

2. *IOCB Retreat 2018.* It will take place in Valeč 28.-31.5.2018, maximum capacity is 250 participants. 15 places will be allocated for participants from non-scientific teams (administration, workshops, services). The external Board members are welcome to participate. The suggestion for the length of talks is 35 min for senior groups and 25 min for junior groups. The group leaders have the freedom to decide who will be presenting from the group (it can be

the group leader, students/postdocs, or a combination thereof). The administration will have 40 min for introduction and presenting their new services (e.g. changes in the grant office). Research-service group will have 20 min each; other groups (service groups, IT, etc.) will present posters. Number of participants from each group will be proportional to the group size (FTEs), service and targeted groups will have one place for the leader. This information will be forwarded to the PR department. Preferentially students and young scientists should participate.

3. *Dream Chemistry Award*. Last-year competition organized at IOCB was successful. This year, the meeting will take place in Poland. The director should decide by March 2018 whether IOCB would continue this tradition (organization alternately one year in Poland and the other year in the Czech Republic). The Board supports the idea (voting: 8 members for continuation, 1 abstained); it is a good PR for the institute. The DCA should get more international attention by announcements in Chem. Eng. News or similar chemical journals. For next years, the Board recommends to better define the rules (what exactly is a “dream” and what is realistic).

4. *General assembly of IOCB employees*. On Friday, Feb 9, the annual general assembly of employees will take place at the Balling Hall in National Library of Technology at 10:00-12:00. The assembly will be conducted in English. U. Jahn will have a presentation on the activities of IOCB Board in 2017. The Board members are encouraged to send him topics for his presentation.

5. *IOCB Tech and i&i Prague*. P. Maloy Řezáčová informed on the meeting of the IOCB Tech Supervisory Board (members B. Petschová, P. Maloy Řezáčová, Z. Janeba); P. Slavíček, who is a member of the Investment Advisory Board of i&i Prague (members: Z. Hostomský, M. Fusek, J. Krechl, P. Slavíček), informed about its current projects (DIANA, iBodies, and others) and questions raised will be discussed with M. Fusek at the March meeting for further information.

6. *Research-service (RS) groups*. A series of face-to-face meetings of research-service group leaders and members with the involved IOCB public will start on January 30. P. Maloy Řezáčová will lead the organization and run the meetings. The goal is to inform the employees about the instrumentation, methods, possibilities and expertise of the RS groups in order to improve the collaboration and quality of research at IOCB. The proposed form of the meetings is:

- Information about provided services (suggested time 20 mins)
- Future perspective for development of the teams (5 mins)
- Presentation of the research component of the team (5mins)
- Discussion with users: experience, needs, and suggestions

Audience: director, board members, research team leaders, frequent service users, plus wide IOCB public (advertisement on web). Specific questions or comments from users may be sent in advance to the RS team leaders. Expected duration of the meeting is 90 min.

7. *Evaluation of junior teams*. Most of the junior groups will be evaluated in 2019, only one (R. Nencka) has evaluation in 2018. The discussion about future junior hires was about open calls vs. targeted calls for a predefined field of science. The director prefers targeted calls to develop

research areas the institute needs. It is also important to consider the laboratory capacities of the institute when planning new calls.

8. *Collaboration with the J. Heyrovský Institute.* The initiative came from Dr. Martin Hof, the director of the Heyrovský Institute. The plan is to start with organizing a joint symposium that would give information on the research in both institutes and to find possibilities of overlapping research where a cooperation may start. The IOCB Board supports this idea and encourages the director to lead further negotiations.

9. IOCB-sponsored Endowed Chairs at universities. No significant progress was achieved since last meeting. The IOCB management is preparing the rules and conditions with the management of UCT Prague and Charles University. The idea is that this position would be temporary (3-5 years) and paid fully by IOCB. The university would select a lecturer for this position (Czech or foreigner) with IOCB being involved in the selection process. P. Slavíček offered help at UCT Prague, T. Obšil will talk to the Dean of the Faculty of Science of Charles University about the possibility of a similar scheme there.

The next board meeting will take place in the director's meeting room on February 1st, 2018, at 10 am.

January 30, 2018.