



Minutes of the IOCB Board Meeting No. 2/2019 on March 26, 2019

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

Excused: Pavel Jungwirth

Guests: Zdeněk Hostomský, Jan Gazda, Veronika Palečková, Iva Pichová

Secretary: Irena Valterová

The minutes of the last meeting were unanimously approved.

1. *IOCB budget for 2019.* The budget is prepared as balanced with respect to expenses and incomes. Dr. Jan Gazda sent the material ahead of time, the Board members evaluated the proposal and Dr. Gazda addressed specific points of the board members. Critical points concerned mainly investments, personal expenses, and financing of research core facility teams (which were not specified in the budget). The research core facility team budgets should be negotiated by the respective team leaders with the director. The IOCB Board will approve the budget per rollam as soon as J. Gazda includes comments raised by the Board members.

2. *Mechanisms of grant applications from IOCB.* Veronika Paleckova (IOCB Project Office) and the director explained that applications for large grant projects should be treated differently than e.g. standard GAČR projects to ensure high quality and avoid competition within the institute (experienced in the past). P. Svoboda suggested establishment of an electronic interface (internal on-line application form), in which the intent for grant application should be uploaded, distributed to the Board members for reading, consideration and recommendation. An estimate is that maximum twenty of such grant application intentions per year would have to be considered. The Board members agree to evaluate the prestigious and competitive as well of controversial grant applications to help the director to make a decision.

3. *HR award.* Iva Pichová informed on the HR Excellence in Research' Award, which is a certificate of the highest quality of European research institutions. It is granted by the European commission (EC). Awarded institutions have to acquire a set of general principles and requirements specifying the roles, responsibilities, and entitlements of researchers and employers. The benefits of a HR Award for IOCB would be

- a) higher acquisition of research funding from EU (FP9) and national programs (TAČR),
- b) higher international attractiveness and visibility for researchers,

- c) more strategic partnerships in pan-European research networks & consortia,
- d) higher quality of human resources, professional growth and working culture, and
- e) implementation of European standards; transparency and openness towards the public.

The Ministry of Education CR offers financial support for the preparation of HR Award application (deadline June 10, 2019). It is equally possible to apply directly to the EC. To succeed in the HR Award competition, administration procedures at IOCB will have to be changed and adapted to EC rules. The Board members believe that it would also be beneficial for the relationship between administration and scientists at the institute. The Board recommends to take steps toward a direct application at EC, which can be submitted at any time (no deadline). It will be necessary to nominate a coordinator and a working group that will map the current situation at IOCB, define weak points and prepare a plan for changes. The HR award (if awarded) is valid for 5 years. A member of the Board should volunteer to actively participate in the working group.

4. *Bader Award for bioorganic and bioinorganic chemistry*. Two applicants from IOCB aim to submit their applications. According to the rules, the Board of IOCB can write supporting letters to young scientists who would deserve the Award. Both applicants (Ivana Mejdrová and Pavla Perlíková) were recommended by the Board (voting: 7 in favor, 1 abstained).

5. *Lumina quaeruntur Award*. The Board highly and unanimously supports the application of Tomáš Slanina for the Lumina quaeruntur Award 2019, financed by the Academy of Sciences of CR.

6. *Cryo Electron Microscopy*. IOCB will buy a 200 kV instrument to be placed on the campus. Furthermore, the director was invited to participate/contribute to buying a 300 kV instrument together with BTU/Biocev. This instrument would be located at Biocev and IOCB scientists would have their share of instrument hours. The Board unanimously supports the IOCB contribution and participation in establishing the facility. It will be an asset for structural biology in the CR (voting: 7 in favor, 1 abstained).

7. *IOCB Interdisciplinary grants*. The director thanks the external Board members for their effort and help with evaluation of the reports. All running grants were extended and will be financed in 2019.

Next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 18, at 10 AM in the director's meeting room.

April 1st, 2019