
Minutes of the IOCB Board Meeting No. 7/2020 on September 2nd, 2020

Present: Pavel Jungwirth, Pavlína Maloy Řezáčová, Radek Pohl, Radim Nencka, Pavel Šácha, Petr Svoboda, Petr Slaviček

Excused: Tomáš Obšil, Ullrich Jahn

Guest: Zdeněk Hostomský, Hana Macíčková-Cahová

Secretary: Irena Valterová

The minutes of the last meeting were approved unanimously.

1. *Research Service Group Evaluation.* The Board of users (17 members) submitted their evaluation of the service parts of the groups. Hana Macíčková-Cahová represented the Board and informed about the evaluation process. The opinion of the Board of users is to do the evaluation every 3 years, since to do it more often would be an excessive time and work load for both, the evaluators and the leaders of the evaluated groups. The IOCB Board fully agrees with this frequency of evaluation. A meeting of the IOCB Board, representatives of the Board of users, the director, and leaders of all the seven research-service groups is planned for September 21. The evaluation of both research and service parts will be combined, presented and discussed. The evaluation will be finalized at the October meeting of the IOCB Board.
2. *IOCB Financial Strategy.* Discussion from the last meeting, where the Director presented a general plan to increase financial transfer to IOCB Tech and establish in the future under IOCB Tech a new institute of translational research, continued. The legal form of the transfer of finances between IOCB and IOCB Tech for the purpose of founding a new translational research institute is not yet clear. The Board requests specific information on these issues for the next meeting in October, after the meeting of the IOCB Supervisory Board on September 23, 2020. The IOCB Board specifically asks for details concerning control mechanisms of the use of transferred finances and concerning establishment and management of a reserve fund.
3. *Safety at IOCB.* This issue was discussed earlier and there has been little progress since then. The Board requests again i) a workshop or at least on-line training of employees concerning the safety issues, ii) hiring one (part-time) more person (English-speaking) to the safety department, iii) manual of waste management. In addition, Board suggests that GMO management might be strengthened in the future as the demand on the GMO agenda is increasing. Radim Nencka agreed to ask Michal Hocek to deliver a seminar on safety at IOCB.

4. *Ethical Issues.* The board discussed ethical issues concerning three publications of Radek Zbořil as a corresponding author and conclusions of three ethical committees (two from Olomouc and one from the Institute of Physics). While Radek Zbořil used Palacký University affiliation on these publications, the board felt obliged to discuss the situation nonetheless as Radek Zbořil is a part-time employee of IOCB. The board voted unanimously to issue the following statement:

In line with conclusions of the three ethical committees, the board considers the three incidents as neglects of the corresponding author responsibility to present data in a truthful manner, especially from the moment Radek Zbořil was made aware of fabricated data in his papers. Regardless of the circumstances under which scientific misconducts in these papers were revealed, it is opinion of the board that by taking the position of a corresponding author, one assumes responsibility for data management and storage, content of the paper, and open communication with the scientific community. Accordingly, the corresponding author must be fully cooperative when an ethical issue about his/her work is raised and must not hesitate to request immediate retraction when toxic data produced by the first author make it into his/her publication. This applies whether or not conclusions would remain valid and the work would be “otherwise OK”. The board is aware that none of the misconducts occurred in affiliation with IOCB and respects the freedom of IOCB group leaders to build their teams as they see fit. At the same time, the board reserves the right to provide its opinion on issues concerning ethics of scientific work of IOCB employees.

5. *IOCB Goals and Mission.* The *document* IOCB Goals and Mission 2016-2020 should be updated for the next 5 years, 2021-2025. It will be prepared by the IOCB Board together with the IOCB management. The Board members are asked to think about what needs to be updated/added. The idea of founding a new translational research institute should be included.
6. *COVID 2019.* Testing at the Institute will be possible in the group of J. Weber soon. It will be only in small scale for IOCB employees and the result will be only informative without official certification.

The date of the next meeting of the IOCB Board in October will be determined by doodle voting.

September 6, 2020