



Minutes of the IOCB Board Meeting No. 1/2025 held on February 13, 2025

Present: Pavel Jungwirth, Radek Cibulka, Jan Černý, Martin Dračínský, Pavel Majer, Pavlína Maloy Řezáčová, Kvido Strišovský
Excused: Michal Hocek, Petr Slaviček
Guests: Jan Konvalinka, Jiří Polman
Secretary: Irena Valterová

1. *Meeting with group leaders ("brainstorming").* In January, the director and management met with group leaders in Liblice to discuss issues and hot topics concerning IOCB. Jiří Polman summarized and distributed minutes of the meeting. Board appreciated that many of the issues raised during similar meeting in 2024 have been or are being resolved by IOCB management. The discussion on 2025 strategic meeting topics was initiated by Pavel Jungwirth emphasizing the importance of research freedom appreciated by the IOCB group leaders. Comments of Michal Hocek to the document, provided to the board in written form, were presented by Pavel Majer. It was noted that the Document from Liblice serves as an inspiration and means of group leaders to express their perspectives, not a comprehensive action plan. Director confirmed that it is very important for him to hear these voices and he takes them seriously.

Main topics discussed:

- a) Postdoc policy - how to attract good postdocs, funding, salary, benefits, career policy, help with housing, practical help with living in Prague with family. There was general consensus with no major discussion.
- b) Financial sustainability - internal efficiency (core facilities, question of payment for services), EU grants, private donors, improvement of technology transfer. Brief discussion took place on whether raising private funds might cost more than the money collected.
- c) Space sustainability - audit of space, optimizing the usage of space, recommendations for the group size for junior, senior, and distinguished categories. This was the most debated topic, with some members strongly opposing strict space limits.
- d) Communication and AI - data protection, authorship ethics
- e) Attracting excellent junior group leaders - scouting, regular calls with predictable schedule.

2. *IOCB Goals and Organization.* Pavel Jungwirth, initiated the process of formulating the next strategic document. The secretary sent the current document (2020-2025) to the Board members. An updated version for 2026-2030 should be ready by the end of this year. Members are invited to send comments, suggestions for changes, modifications, additions to the Board Chair and the Secretary before the next meeting. It is expected that this issue will be discussed at several future meetings until agreement is reached on the final version. Group leaders and the IAB will also have the opportunity to comment.

3. *Ethical Proxy.* Board members were informed that Lenka Žáková was elected by IOCB employees for the next 5 years. IOCB thus currently has two ethical proxies - Lenka Žáková

- and Radek Pohl. For the next elections, the Board proposed to publish short profiles of the candidates.
5. *Junior Group in the Field of Theoretical Chemistry*. Negotiations with one of the candidates (Fabio Lolicato) continue; he will come to IOCB for further negotiations and will give a lecture in March.
 6. *Awards Nomination Policy at IOCB*. The Board discussed and approved improvements to the award nomination process. Responsibilities will be shared among the Project Office, the Research Support Office, and the Director's Office. The workflow for different types of awards was clarified, including those requiring a Board recommendation. The Board appointed Martin Dračinský as the contact person for awards that need Board input. Practical information will be announced on the intraweb and communicated to group leaders. A new email address will be created for straightforward nominations.
 7. *Dream Chemistry Award (DCA)*. Pavel Jungwirth provided information in the DCA organized in Prague, the presentations will take place on December 1 and 2. The Dream Biology Award (DBA) is in preparation, the coordinator is Tomáš Pluskal. The first DBA is expected to be held in 2026. It is proposed to give the competition more publicity/advertising to attract the best participants and a large audience.
 8. *OP JAK projects*. Pavlína Maloy Řezáčová provided an update on OP JAK projects. An application for the *OP JAK Výzkumné prostředí* call was submitted in December 2024 and is currently under evaluation. IOCB intends to for funding under the call "OP JAK návraty", which is intended to support researchers returning from a career break. Blanka Collis (Research support department) is designated contact at IOCB. If funding is secured, IOCB will need to establish an internal grant system within the specified topic. The Board expressed its support for this proposal and intends to assist with designing the internal evaluation system.
 9. *Electronic Laboratory Notebooks and Data Management*. Pavlína Maloy Řezáčová provided an update on data management at IOCB. The institute currently establishes data management (DM) framework with the help of DM working group headed by Jiří Vondrášek. In the Research support department, **Data Steward** position was established at the beginning of 2025, with Marie Šafner appointed to the role. Matúš Drexler, as **Data Coordinator**, is responsible for electronic laboratory notebooks and the development of a request system for core facilities. The selection of an ELN is nearly complete, the final choice will be adapted to the needs of different research groups.
 10. *Miscellaneous*.
 - a) IOCB has been successful in a legal battle in claiming VAT refunds on European grants.
 - b) An agreement on the exchange of doctoral students was signed between IOCB and Charles University.
 11. *Next Meeting*: The next Board meeting is scheduled for March 11 at 9:00 in the director's boardroom. Future meetings are scheduled for every second Tuesday of each month.

Minutes taken by I. Valterová

February 18, 2025.