

Minutes
Board meeting 16
BioEM

March 28, 2023
6 pm – 8 pm (CET)

In attendance:

Online:

Luc Martens (LM)
Florence Poulletier (FPoulletier)
Niels Kuster (NK)
Lucas Portelli (LP)
Olga Zeni (OZ)
Rich Nuccitelli (RN)
Frank Prato (FPrato)
Bennett Ibey (BI)
Anke Huss (AH)

Excused for not being present:

Wout Joseph (WJ)
Azadeh Peyman (AP)

Present during their part of the agenda:

Melanie De Coster (MD) present for making notes.

1) Adoption of agenda

Agenda was adopted

2) Minutes of the 15th board meeting: approval

Change: Item 4:

- 4.Question from a board member: IT'IS offers the hosting and accounting for free to BioEM, do we need to vote about this service?
 - a. Board unanimously decides to continue to rely on the services of IT'IS for hosting and accounting
- to
- 4. Question from LP: IT'IS offers the hosting and accounting to BioEM for free. I think these "savings" do not justify centralization of services at ITIS. Additionally, they do not have a written contract unlike other BioEM providers. I also think this is also not good. Does any other member of the Board share this concern?
 - a. The Board, except for LP, votes to continue to rely on the services of IT'IS for hosting and accounting as is (without a contract).

Approved.

3) Overview of the actions of Meetings #15

1. Item 4.3: Names and suggestions on a review editor specialized on plant physiology will be forwarded by TS to the board members so that an informed decision can be made at the next board meeting (TS was not present in the meeting)
2. Item 4.4: Organize meetings to discuss Journal's special issues:
 - a. NK: Neuro stimulation and/or neuromodulation: Journal committee (RN, FP, NK, LM) + TS
 - b. WJ: Dosimetry: WJ, LM, NK, AP and TS ✓
3. Item 8.2: MD: Add date to automatic invoices membership BioEM ✓
4. Item 8.3: MD: Mail to inactive members since 2020 and give them the option to renew without going through the full application procedure. ✓
5. Item 9.1: MD and NK: clarify and coordinate the grant payment procedure with the winners ✓
6. Item 10.1: NK, LM and AP: organize a meeting to formulate a proposal and forward it to the board members ✓

4) Topics for special issues for Bioelectromagnetics journal

1. Report meeting with Wiley officers
 - a. 2 things that must be improved:
 - i. Higher submission rate needed:
 - ii. Rejection rate is very high (numbers to be asked by LM to Wiley): quality of papers must be improved or review must be less critical (not really preferred if we want to increase the quality of the review).
 - iii. Final decision on a submission takes 218 days, this is too long and needs to be addressed
 - b. It was decided that the journal committee will meet with Wiley every 3 months.
 - c. LM will take lead to discuss with TS (To be done on Friday March 31 during special issue meeting on Dosimetry):
 - i. Why is review taking so long? + how to recruit more papers
 - ii. First special issue to be published this year

5) BioEM2023

1. Review of program schedule
 - a. Can a workshop/oral session/... be moved to the last day (Friday) to make the last day more attractive ?
 - b. Fpoullietier will check if this possible
2. 226 abstracts, 100 posters
3. Schedule of sessions should be put on the website as soon as possible
4. Abstracts notifications will be sent out on Friday March 31

6) Membership

1. Currently 40 full members, 2 students
2. It is expected that the number of members will increase from the start of registrations for the conference

7) Finance

1. Papers for investment ready
2. NK will have a meeting with the bank on Friday March 31. It is suggested to start with an investment of 125.000 Euro instead of the agreed 250.000 Euro
 - a. Uncertain times, agreement that NK discusses with the bank and makes a decision
3. Sidenotes of LM
 - a. Only invest money we don't need for operations
 - b. We should not look at the profit on investments over a year, but over longer term (e.g., 5 years)

8) Education committee

1. STM for students (slides OZ attached)
 - a. NK needs a description of the STM grant for tax purposes. Templates, call and criteria to be forwarded to NK by OZ
 - b. Remarks on suggested criteria
 - i. Why not 2 calls, 1 regular and 1 for students from low/middle income?
 - ii. RN: which countries are these?
 1. LM: same as for the memberships
(<https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519-world-bank-country-and-lending-groups>)
 - c. Conclusion:
 - i. 2 exactly the same calls: one call for students from countries with low/middle income without mentioning the number of grants (no certainty about number of applications for this category) and 1 regular call
 - ii. Call in November/December but advertise during BioEM 2023 (OZ)
 - iii. Max 2500 Euro per grant
 - iv. Agreement on the 3 criteria (but in 2 categories): Move to approve: FP, Second: RN
2. Erice school
 - a. Proposal by AH and Dr. Monica Guxens (Barcelona Institute for Global Health) to organize a Course on Electromagnetic Fields and Epidemiology
 - i. Side note AH: last course on epidemiology was 15y ago and well visited, there are many new projects and studies
 - ii. Course to be organised in 2024
 - b. Move to approve: FP, Second: RN.

9) Business plans for 2023

1. Slides NK attached
2. Explanation support for conference
 - a. 5000 Euro for Erice school
 - b. 5000 Euro for other educational initiatives or workshops
3. NK will improve slides for GA to make the figures clearer and will add a slide with real numbers for 2022 and estimation for 2023
4. Question: FP: Is the income from Wiley certain?
 - a. NK: Based on figures of the past. Income will certainly decrease in the future.
5. Question LP: does TS have to pay travel expenses for BioEM2023 from its allocated budget?
 - a. NK: correct
6. Approval of business plan to present on GA considering the comments:
 - a. Move to approve FP, RN second

10) Review of decision list and actions list

1. Item 2: LM/AP: Change item 4 in minutes board meeting 15
2. Item 4: LM: ask the rejection rate of Bioelectromagnetics
3. Item 4: LM to discuss the issues of the Journal with TS
4. Item 7.2: OZ: Templates, call and criteria STM Grant to be forwarded to NK
5. Item 5.1 Fpoullietier to revise the program if possible
6. Item 7.4: OZ: Advertise STM grant on BioEM2023
7. Item 8.4: NK will improve slides on business plan for GA

11) AOB and Adjourn

Next meetings:

April 18, 18:00 – 20:00 CET

May 16, 18:00 – 20:00 CET