

## **2006 ICGI Conference – Business-meeting minutes**

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

The Blue Tree Park Hotel, Brasilia, Brazil

5.00 pm to 7.00 pm

### **Proceedings:**

Meeting called to order at 5.00 p.m. by the ICGI Chair, Dr. Russell Kohel

**Advisory Committee report** provided by the committee Chair, Dr. Roy Cantrell

- The advisory committee appreciated the great job done by the Chair and local Chair on the success of the conference, commented that the presentations were high quality this year, but were concerned that participation among the steering committee members and presenting authors could have been better.
- Dr. Cantrell recommended that members should avoid spending any more energy on political issues related to by-laws, and workgroups need to be more active as functional units within ICGI. Finally, he suggested that the ICGI needs to develop a white paper regarding its stand on genome sequencing and SNP markers development.
- The floor briefly discussed the issues brought up by Dr. Cantrell and concurred that it's important to develop a white paper outlining the goal of sequencing the cotton genome and resources available around the world to accomplish this goal. The group also was concerned about the number of speakers not present in the meeting.

### **1. Publication of talks:**

- Dr. Paulo Barroso, co-chair of the local committee, suggested that presenting authors could submit an online publication in the Brazilian Cotton Journal. Due to the short deadline (end of September), the need of ten or more manuscripts to make a special issue on the journal, and also concerns of conflict with previously published works, most presenters were not inclined to submit a manuscript for publication. Manuscripts will not be published.
- John Jacobs (Bayer Crop Sci) suggested that we should at least put the PowerPoint presentations online in the ICGI website. After a brief discussion, the presenting authors that were present in the meeting voted to not have presentations online (3 yes, 5 No).

### **2. Nomination for 2008 Research Conference/co-chairs:**

- Dr. Kohel reminded everyone of the need to consider nominations for the 2008 Research Conference and new co-chairs of ICGI and workgroups. He stated that the procedures for submitting an application for nominations for both the location of the 2008 conference and the new co-chairs are stated in the by-laws.

### **3. By-law amendment:**

- Dr. Kohel noted that the organization has ongoing problems with the lack of interest in the voting process. An amendment was proposed and approved by the Steering Committee for a vote by the membership. The proposed amendment created two classes of membership: student (non voting) and professionals (voting). It was worded so that it retained the exclusion of non-public professionals from holding office, but

also ended up excluding them from voting. Following discussion, Dr. Kohel agreed to have the proposed amendment withdrawn.

- As currently stated in the by-laws, only public professionals could hold office. Many members commented that scientists working in the private industry should be allowed to vote and hold office. Richard Percy suggested that we should look into correcting the by-laws so as to allow the industry scientists to participating in the voting process.

#### **4. Membership activity and C&BLs:**

- There was a general discussion about membership activity, and specifically the lack of Steering Committee activity, stimulated by the Advisory Committee Report's that raised the issue of lack of SC participation. There was a general feeling that the Work Groups needed to take a more active role other than just in planning for sessions at the Research Conferences. Liz Dennis had some comments and the specific recommendation that there should be a list of assets developed by the Work Group Chairs from their respective members. Russ Kohel agreed to initiate such an activity.
- There also was discussion about the role of the C&BLs. Although the C&BLs have been in place for just one year, and it is early to judge them, some felt that they tend to be restrictive in the functioning of ICGI. The counter view was that they serve an important role in guiding the democratic process, and that they can be modified when needed to better serve the organization. The C&BLs are posted at <http://icgi.tamu.edu/>

#### **5. Membership list**

- Currently, there are no mechanisms for purging the membership list to eliminate those that are no longer active in ICGI. Therefore, a mechanism to update the list needs to be created, which should help in solving the problem of not having enough voting members to pass an amendment. It was agreed that an annual renew of membership should be established, and that this would at least eliminate inactive members.

#### **6. Special Topics**

- The following special topics was proposed for discussion in the Special Topics session:
  - DNA sequencing by Jeffery Chen
  - Genomic nomenclature by Jodi Sheffler
  - Radiation hybrids by David Stelly
  - Cities for the 2008 meeting
  - Participation in next year's World Cotton Congress meeting by Roy Cantrell
  - Adventitious transgene in conventional breeding program by Peng Chee

Meeting adjourned at 7.04 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Secretary/Treasurer, Peng Chee.