



# ABACBS AGM 2018 Minutes

**Date:** 28th November, 2018

**Time:** 1:53pm-2:40pm AEDT

**Location:** Arts West, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Victoria

Chair: Tony Papenfuss (TP)

Apologies: Sebastian Kurscheid, Melissa Davis

Minute taker: Andrew Lonsdale

## 1 Open Meeting

TP opens meeting at 1.53pm.

Shows QR code links to relevant papers for meeting -

<https://www.abacbs.org/conference2018/agm>

These will be spoken to during meeting

## 2 Attendance and Apologies

TP display quorum rule = 10% of membership

Alan Rubin (AR) > 60 members present of 390 members

To be eligible, member for ten working days. Quorum reached.

Apologies from Sebastian Kurscheid, Melissa Davis

AR - if coming in, please go back up to top to register

TP: LHS side of room is for eligible members, RHS for ineligible, as show of hands from eligible members will be used for most votes

## 3 Proxies received

TP: Any proxies received?

Alan Rubin (AR) proxies - 10

Show of hands in audience, approx 3 with proxies in audience

AR - Check that proxy forms were handed in, and proxy votes issued. None still holding forms.

## 4 Acceptance of 2017 Annual General Meeting minutes

Accepting the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting

TP - Any questions? None.

First: Ashley Waardenberg

Seconded: Simon Gladman

Abstained: Jocelyn Pennington

As accepted

## 5 Acceptance of the Annual Report of the management committee

Annual report highlights from TP:

- 430 financial, life 4, associate 397, total 381
- Joshua Ho (JH) resigned as secretary, Ashley Waardenberg (AW) appointed following call for EOIs
- Awards introduced
- EOI for conference and regional events
- Advocacy and events in the year
- COMBINE highly active as always

TP - any questions or comments about annual report? Move to accept:

Moved: Annette McGrath

Seconded: Alan Rubin

Passed unanimously

## 6 Acceptance of the Annual Financial Report

TP introduces treasurer, Annette McGrath (AM)

Shows financial report

First year of membership dues, first year without EMBL Australia sponsorship

2018 Revenue \$64,818.22

2018 Expenditure \$107,283.91

Net loss of \$37,973.29\*

This is against a profit in 2017, so there is a substantial net surplus over the 2 years.

Net loss - income in previous year, spent in this financial year

Examples:

- ABABCS conference
- Paid sponsorship for Bioinfo - 2016 + 2017 this year, income previous year

Rest of report speaks for itself

TP - current financial position?

AM - \$185,076.30, though with liabilities against conference

Alicia Oshlack (AO) - are conferences losing money?

AM - speak to 2017 - made a surplus

TP - this year on track to make surplus

TP - net overall loss this year because money owed comes from previous year. Position of society very good.

Bruno Gaeta (BGa)- Does the society need to register for GST?

TP – We have not crossed the threshold

Ben Goudey (BGo)- is \$107K expenditure a lot or little for society age and size

AM - ABACBS around 4 years, don' t know

TP - we are doing well. Bank balance is security blanket, in case conference or other event makes loss, can absorb loss. Current position sustainable because close to every event in surplus, usually small, aim to about break even. Benefit from EMBL Australia sponsorship for first 3 years - 46K per year x 3 years, and gave away 26K to BioInfoSummer and Winter School school, and 20K for ABACBS

David Powell (DP) - projected budget for 2019?

AM - waiting on conference outcome

BGa: best practice proactive in society is 10% of turnover backup

David Lynn (DL)- income from conference last year is unclear in budget

AM - bill to SAHMRI \$19K, refunded \$1500, also travel bursaries and awards to COMBINE, and most of sponsorship is built in, remainder surplus

DL - budget suggests conference returned \$1500 to society, DL recalls around \$7K, appreciates complexities of various sources of income and expenditure

AM - agree, return conference budget was initial \$7K , then reimbursements for Jimmy Breen, stationary, other items to reflect what is in budget

Roxane Legaie (RL) - plan for future years, to split budgets in future?

TP – We would hope so, but this is an on-going discussion in the executive

Torsten Seemann (TS): money from EMBL Australia is gone, how does that affect the society and the schools?

TP: At this point, still provide modest support to bioinfo summer school. Winter school cannot be supported, supporting Nick Hamilton to find alternatives. Purpose of EMBL money was to build up ABACBS, good security net, if we could access similar money again (EMBL discussions ongoing)

Ryan ??: Interest received is low for amount

AM: Two bank accounts (CBA to Westpac), switched from one to other, and didn't get interest from it. Interest from Westpac on 6 months

TP - CBA had no interest, no fees

AM : Any other questions?

Move the financial report

Accept: Leon di Stefano

Seconded: Aaron Darling

Carried unanimously

## 7 Special Resolutions

TP - vote on changes to constitution

TP - read out sections 4 and section 77

Introduce Online electronic voting at AGMs

Simplify complex process we are about to do

Explain process - AW and TP worked on constitution , WEHI sponsored lawyer to make changes, greatly helped

Prior to AGM, Exec decides on electronic or paper ballots

It seems there would be little reason to opt for paper going forward, but there is flexibility to do so.

Changes include time frame for minimum times when nominations would be opened, ballots out

Electronic voting closes during the AGM

Note thank to AW for annotated tracked changes to constitution

Read out Special Resolution 1: "The Rules of the Australian Bioinformatics and Computational Biology Society Incorporated are amended as set out in the marked-up copy of the Rules circulated to each member with the Notice of the Annual General Meeting and tabled at the Annual General Meeting."

Show ABACBS website and draw attention documents

Questions or comments?

This is something we have wanted to do for some time.

Moved: Ashley Waardenberg

Seconded: Stephen Bent

Passed unanimously

## 8 Resolution to set the membership fees until the next AGM.

TP: Resolution 2. Set membership fees. Proposed to keep the same.

Questions or comments?

Leon di Stefano - rough breakdown of full to students

TP 250 full: 160 student

Move: Roxane Legaie

Second: Torsten Seemann

Passed

## 9 Appointment of Returning Officer

Thank you to current exec

Terrific year, debate and discussion level high

Thank everyone, include Joshua Ho as well before AW replacement

AR stepping off as post doc rep

AW stepping off as secretary

TP stepping down as president

[APPLAUSE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS]

Positions made vacant by TP  
Pass chair to AR as returning officer

## 10 Positions to be declared vacant

AR: proceed with election

If enter via lower door, with no ballot paper, not signed in, go to top stairs and sign in and get ballot paper

Two pieces of paper for vote - little piece for post doc  
Big piece for ordinary member

List positions with only one nomination for 2018-2019 committee:

**President:** Aaron Darling  
**Vice-President:** Alicia Oshlack  
**Secretary:** Sebastian Kurscheid  
**Treasurer:** Annette Mcgrath  
**Student Representative:** Leah Roberts  
**Professional Representative:** Roxane Legaie

Positions announced and check if they accepted - all accepted in person, TP confirms Sebastian Kurscheid and Leah Roberts confirmed electronically.

Positions requiring vote:

### **Postdoctoral Representative**

Ignatius Pang  
Jovana Maksimovic

### **Ordinary Representative**

Nicola Armstrong  
Jimmy Breen  
Richard Edwards  
Ignatius Pang

Vote on post doc first, then  
Vote on 2 ordinary members

Write names on each piece of paper  
Post doc will go first

First name is sufficient, legible of declaration

AR fill out ballot for post doc first:  
[AW, AO collecting votes]  
AW and AR collating post doc vote  
AR - post doc is Jovana Maksimovic

Notes Ignatius Pang ( IP) also standing for ordinary member  
AR: Write two names on the larger piece of paper

[AW, AR collecting votes]  
AW and AR collating ordinary member vote

Ordinary members results are (?? check numbers)

NA 60

JB 45

RE 44

IP 28

NA and JB declared elected

Declare everyone elected

Welcome to new committee

AR stood down as returning officer, turn over to Aaron Darling (AD)

AR thanks members for following instructions for hopefully last paper vote at meeting

AR passes chair to AD

AD: Is TP willing to fill role of past-president?

TP: Yes

AD- final item, not on agenda. Stand and give applause to TP for his service in setting up the society.

[LONG APPLAUSE]

## 11 Meeting close

Meeting closed by AD at 2.40pm.