

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 13th EAPR VIROLOGY SECTION BUSINESS MEETING – COYLUMBRIDGE, 21 JUNE 2007

1) Present

Ge van den Bovenkamp (Netherlands)
Walter Bitterlin (Switzerland)
Kirsten Bundegaard (Norway)
Jim Crosslin (USA)
Finlay Dale (Scotland)
Petr Dedic (Czech Rep.)
Adrian Fox (Scotland) – Minutes secretary
Paul Gugerli (Switzerland)
Yves le Hingrat (France)
Colin Jeffries (Scotland) - Chair
Gad Lobenstein (Israel)
Jose A. Caram de Souza Dias (Brazil)
Carl Spetz (Norway)
Lesley Torrance (Scotland)
Ingrid Wulfert (Germany)
Huimin Xu (Canada)

2) Minutes of the 2005 Bilbao Business Meeting

There were no matters arising from the meeting in Bilbao.

3) Minutes of the 2007 Wageningen Council Meeting

In response to the minutes from the Council meeting, C. Jeffries raised the issue of difficulties that the EAPR had been experiencing with publication and organisation. He confirmed that a new business plan in place with each council member having been given specific areas of responsibility. In addition, Potato Research would now be published by Springer. The proposal from the Virology Section for an EAPR newsletter instead of individual Section newsletters had not been taken up by council. There was a brief discussion on whether a homepage would be a better means of disseminating information for our section. There were concerns raised about the availability of time to keep content current. There were no volunteers to take responsibility for the Virology Section. It was generally agreed that updates following meetings would be a start and we would see how we went from there.

There also appeared to be some issues with membership services. Attendees reported uncertainty of membership status, multiple requests for payment of subscription when it had been paid, membership but no editions of Potato Research received for 2 years.

4) Brasov EAPR Meeting

The meeting was made aware of the need to appoint a section chair before the Brasov meeting (see point 7).

5) Citation Index

EAPR would like to increase their citation index but abstracts from meetings do not qualify for this. However, a review of abstracts covering a specific topic would increase the citation index. To this end, the Chair asked if anyone would be willing to

do this for the current meeting, adding that there was no limit on the number of authors if that would spread the workload. It was suggested that people could review their own subject area rather than compiling a general conference review. The members present were reluctant to take on the responsibility citing lack of time as the main issue. The Chair requested that any ideas as to a way forward could be e-mailed to him.

5) Archiving of Proceedings

Following an offer from CABI to archive abstracts from EAPR meetings, Colin Jeffries had written to the Paul Struik, EAPR asking for his opinion. Paul was concerned that “we might give something away for free to the general public that we might only want to disclose to our members who then get something extra for their membership fee.”

Following a discussion on the various merits of the EAPR versus CABI for this type of activity a vote was taken. The general consensus was to put the proceedings on the EAPR web site but to also pursue this with CABI.

6) Section Working Groups

The Chair asked if further working groups were needed within the Virology Section. Following discussion it was suggested that, due to constraints of time and funds, working groups could be set up when necessary taking a cross disciplinary approach. There was general agreement of this point. The Chair noted that the section would establish working groups as and when there was a need to do so.

7) Nomination of Section Chair

Two nominations for the next Chair (commencing at the Triennial 2008) had been received, Jari Valkonen and Colin Jeffries, following an email trawl of members prior to this meeting. There was uncertainty whether these nominations were eligible. Jari may be the next President of the EAPR and was a Council Member and Colin was at the end of his six year term. After reviewing previous incumbents of the position, it was suggested that the section look at the various groups involved in the section and nominate from there. The Dutch were asked if they could nominate someone. However, the members present indicated that the main issue was time available for carrying out the associated responsibilities. Colin Jeffries was asked if he would stand for re-election. He was uncertain whether this was allowable under the EAPR Constitution. If it was, then he would be willing to consider this, but would require a Vice-Chair as an assistant to help with the workload now specified in the job description from the EAPR. It was suggested that the Vice-Chair should be able to step into the post in three years, and for this reason a person from the country nominated to hold the next meeting could fulfil the role.

Since the business meeting Dr Jeffries has confirmed that serving for a 3rd term (more than 6 years) is not allowed under the EAPR Constitution. In addition Dr Jari Valkonen has declined because he is already a member of Council. Nominations are therefore required for this position. If the members cannot agree a Chairperson then Council will nominate one.

8) Host for next Section Meeting

Two nominees were put forward to host the next meeting, Estonia and North America. Concerns were raised over a meeting in North America being prohibitively expensive for many European members to attend. There was discussion over the merit of a meeting in Eastern Canada (Prince Edward Island) or North Eastern USA (Maine). It was suggested that the PAA should be given a formal invitation to the next section meeting, with the possibility of a joint meeting in the near future. There were further suggestions of holding the next meeting in Denmark or Switzerland, but in both cases the likely candidates to organise such a meeting were approaching retirement.

Although Estonia would be willing to take on the responsibility the Estonian delegates would have to check with their senior colleagues as to the feasibility of such a meeting. Piret Petersen (Estonia) was asked to take the proposal forward and to respond to the section Chair within the next two months.

Update December 2007 Estonia are seeking government and industry support to host the meeting

Since the business meeting Dr Gulsen Sertkaya has suggested that it might be possible to hold a meeting in Turkey

9) AOB

The meeting took the opportunity to thank Colin Jeffries for his efforts as section Chair and for organising such a successful meeting.

There was an invitation from Jim Crosslin to attend the WERA-89 meeting in south west USA in mid-march. The subject of the meeting was potato virus disease control. The Chair expressed his wishes that this could be the start of closer working between organisations in the USA and Europe.

A Fox
Minute Secretary for meeting
20 July 2007
updated 24 January 2008