

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the International Society for Seed Science

16:00 BST on 29th September 2022

The meeting took place online using Zoom Meeting. The meeting was chaired by The President J. Buitink and was attended by 22 members including J. Buitink (President), L. Colville (Secretary), S. Penfield (Treasurer), G. Leubner (Elected trustee), L. Bowden (Appointed trustee), and regional representatives: O. Leprince (Western Europe and Scandinavia), T. Pawłowski (Eastern Europe and Russia),

Apologies were received from Jose Barrero, Héctor Pérez, Frank Lanfermeijer, Manuela Nagel, Hugh Pritchard, Charlotte Seal, Naoto Kawakami, Fiona Hay, Gabriela Auge.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted without modification.

2. Approval of the [Minutes](#) of the AGM 2021 (Online)

The minutes were approved without modification.

3. [AGM President's Report 2021-2022](#)

J. Buitink presented her report. Highlights from the last year were reported, including Seed Ecology VII meeting, three joint ISTA-ISSS webinars, updates to the ISSS handbook and appointment of C. Seal as appointed Trustee following H. Pritchard's retirement. Future activities of the society such as assigning concrete duties to the Regional Representatives, appointment of a Communications Officer.

The report was adopted by the members.

4. [AGM Secretary's Report 2021-2022](#)

L. Colville presented her report. The society currently has 180 members, and has seen an increase in student members from 30 to 42 which has likely been driven by the reduced registration fees and provision of student travel grants for the Seed Ecology VII meeting.

D. Bewley: If a fee waiver for low/lower-middle income countries is introduced how will it impact the membership?

L. Colville: Membership would be expected to increase. Free registration was offered for the ISSS 2021 online meeting, and this resulted in a lot of registrations from these regions, so there is interest in the society.

B. Bewley: Africa is a diverse region. Are most members currently from S. Africa?

L. Colville: We only have 6 members from the Africa region, but not sure whether most are from S. Africa.

J. Buitink: There is also a difficulty of sending membership fees from some countries.

J. Buitink: Asked for suggestions for China representative.

S. Penfield: Will send a suggestion.

The report was adopted by the members.

5. [AGM Treasurer's Report 2021-2022](#)

S. Penfield presented his report. The society has seen a large rise in subscriptions due to the ISSS meeting held in August 2021. The society's main expenditure has been on sponsorship of two regional meetings and the upcoming biennial meeting in Paris. The balance as of 31/03/22 was £31,063.60. In July 2022 the society inherited £349,261.03 from the estate of the late Professor Marc Alan Cohn

G. Leubner: Questioned why there was no fee from Seed Science Research.

S. Penfield: No information about this.

H. Hilhorst: Payment stopped when CUP realised that the ISSS did not own SSR.

The report was adopted by members.

6. [Seed Science Research SSR Editorial Report 2021-2022](#)

H. Hilhorst presented his report. The Impact Factor for 2021 has fallen to 1.585 from 2.250 in 2020. ISSS members are encouraged to contribute to SSR as much as possible. The issue of whether SSR should become fully open access and the consequences for authors from lower income countries was raised.

J. Buitink: Asked about open access and transformative agreements with CUP. She also outlined the Frontiers model and suggested that CUP should do better with advertising journals and articles.

S. Penfield: For transformative journals there is a cut-off of December 2024 for becoming fully open access, so even if we do nothing SSR will become fully OA then.

7. **News from the regional representatives**

N. Kawakami (Japan)

15th International Symposium on Preharvest Sprouting in Cereals 2023, 4-6th October in Tsukuba, Japan

International Symposium on Barley Mutants, 9-11th October in Tsukuba, Japan

J. Barrero (Australia and New Zealand)

7th Plant Dormancy Symposium in Perth, Western Australia, 12-15th September 2023: <https://plant-dormancy-perth.com/>

T. Pawłowski (Eastern Europe and Russia)

11th Conference of the Polish Society of Experimental Plant Biology. Includes a topic on seed science, 10 – 22 September 2023 in Poznań, Poland (in English)

8. **Approval of modifications in the [handbook/meeting guide/duties guide](#)**

Modifications were approved by a vote of members (19/19 in favour).

9. Next Meetings:

- a. **2023: 14th (biennial) ISSS Conference on Seed Biology 2023 will be organized by Christophe Bailly in Paris, France, 3-7 July 2023.**

A presentation and video about the conference were shown.

J. Buitink: What discount on registration fees should be offered for ISSS members?

G. Leubner: Suggested twice the ISSS membership fee, i.e., £60.

H. Hilhorst: Agreed.

O. Leprince: An option could be to increase the registration fee for non-members.

D. Bewley: Objected to the term 'industrials' in the presentation. Suggested 'industrial scientists' should be used instead.

J. Buitink: To suggest corrections and amendments to C. Bailly.

10. Nominations and appointments:

- a. Charlotte Seal for Appointed Trustee, replacing Hugh W. Pritchard.

11. Any other Business

- a. **Membership fee waivers for members from low and lower-middle income countries**

Approved by a vote of members (20/20 in favour).

H. Hilhorst: Asked how it will be advertised to people in those regions.

J. Buitink: The waiver will be advertised on the ISSS website.

- b. **New lifetime membership awards**

The award of two Lifetime Membership Awards was approved by a vote of members (17/18 in favour).

- c. **Legacy donation from Marc Cohn**

J. Buitink outlined who Marc Cohn was and the ideas proposed by the Exec committee for the use of the legacy donation.

D. Bewley: Is there not already a student prize for best talk/poster?

A. Balestrazzi: Particularly supported the idea of bursaries for young scientists.

D. Bewley: Agreed that travel bursaries are very beneficial.

H. Hilhorst: Liked that all of the ideas were for the benefit of students and young researchers, and thought that Marc would have liked this.

O. Leprince: Asked whether fellowships would be on an annual basis, and how much.

H. Hilhorst: Need to invite proposals that will be assessed by the exec committee.

D. Bewley: Agreed, and suggested that the focus should be on PhD students with the bursaries to cover travel expenses and living costs, and a report required afterwards.

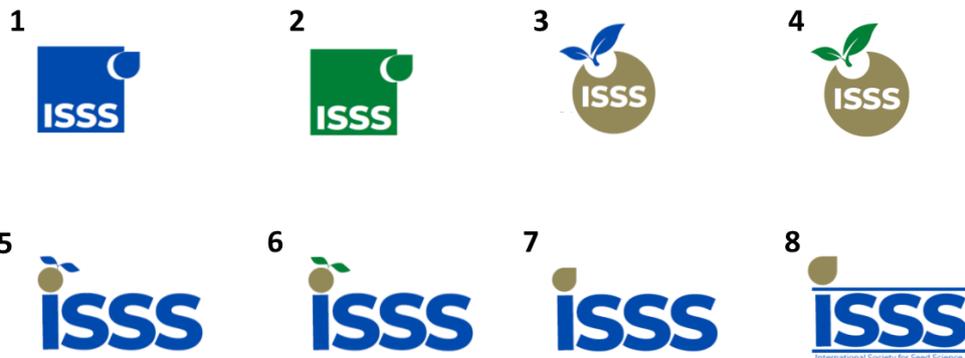
J. Buitink: Suggested £2-3,000 every year. Also outlined the use of a fellowships to progress the society through assistance with organisation of meetings, promotion, website, etc.

H. Hilhorst: Agreed that this was a good idea.

J. Buitink: The executive committee will bring a proposal to the members.

d. New logo for ISSS

The following logo ideas were presented and voted upon:



Numbers 4, 1 and 8 were short-listed as the preferences.

D. Bewley: There are a lot of ISSS associations, so it is important to keep the text.

G. Leubner: Suggested to add text to the logos and send to members.

e. Other items arising during meeting

E. O. Olung'ati: Suggested that research partnerships between researchers in Africa and developed countries through internships and research attachments would be beneficial.

H. Hilhorst: Suggested that E. O. Olung'ati send a proposal to the executive committee for consideration.

12. Closure of the AGM

J. Buitink closed the meeting at 17:24 BST.