

Minutes of the DNK General Meeting 2012

Venue: Freiburg/Breisgau, FRIAS Building of the University of Freiburg

Date/Time: March 14th, 2012 - 11:15-15:00

The list of participants is attached.

Dr. Nathalie Fomproix, Secretary General of IUBS attended as invited guest.

AI 1 and 2: Prof. Dr. Ralf Reski, President of the DNK, welcomed the participants, mentioning that 27 biology-related scientific societies are members of VBIO and thus are represented by the representatives of this association (president, vice-president, secretary). Prof. Dr. W. Frick, speaker of the directorial board welcomed the participants and introduced them to FRIAS (Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies) a Central Institution of the Future concept of the University of Freiburg, funded in the scope of the Excellence Initiative of the German Research Foundation. It consists of 4 (soon 5) Schools, History, Language & Literature, Life sciences - Lifenet and Soft Matter Research. The staff of the school is composed of Internal Senior Fellows ($\frac{1}{3}$), External Senior Fellows ($\frac{1}{3}$) and Junior Fellows ($\frac{1}{3}$), in total ~80 fellows and 20 staff members. The annual budget is 10 Mio €.

AI 3 IUBS

Dr. N. Fomproix, Secretary General of IUBS introduced aims, structure and activities of IUBS. At present IUBS has 28 National Members (USA and Great Britain have left IUBS) and 80 Scientific Members. Income of IUBS is by the annual membership fees and by funding of programmes by ICSU. Scientific programmes are proposed by members and decided upon in the General Assembly. They receive financial support from IUBS. One of the very successful programmes is "BIOCODE" striving at a harmonized uniform nomenclature of all Eucaryotes. Also International Meetings can be supported by interest-free loans usually up to 5000,-€. All members are provided with annual reports of IUBS. The General assembly is held every third year, in July 2012 the GA is in Souzhou, China. Dr. Fomproix explained the protocol of the GA; Usually GAs are combined with a scientific symposium, the subject(s) of which can be proposed by an organizing committee of the society or National Committee of the country in which the GA is held. The scientific symposium (usually 2 days) should take place between the Opening and the Closing Ceremonies of the GA. IUBS is publishing books and runs a scientific journal ("Biology International"). Its webpage has been recently reconstructed and is now both attractive and informative. For further information the reader may consult this webpage (www.iubs.org/).

AI 4 Activities/conferences of the Societies

VBIO and the Presidents of the present societies reported about their programmes and their regularly and extra meetings. All of them showed a high degree of interdisciplinarity and several of them are international societies. For details the readers may wish to study the webpages of the societies.

AI 5 VBIO

VBIO comprises 5300 individual members, 63 cooperative members and 27 scientific members (scientific societies). The Vice-president of the DNK is ex officio a member of the

Steering committee of VBIO. VBIO has two pillars: research and education. It publishes statements to burning problems related to biology, such as Grüne Gentechnik, Tierschutzgesetz, Entbürokratisierung des Gentechnikgesetzes, Biosafety. One of the very recent activities is an online directory of biological master studies in German Universities (about 600 curricula!). www.master-bio.de

AI 6 Planning of upcoming DNK activities was combined with AI 8 Preparation of the 32. IUBS GA (see below).

AI 7 DFG reports and international activities

Dr. Schönwitz reported on the implementation of a Senate's Commission for Biodiversity Research, and new procedures relevant for application for research grants (modularisation, electronic application). Introduction of these novelties was without problems. She introduced the participants to the new instrument "Nachwuchsakademie" for which reputed scientists can apply. The goal is to train junior scientists in preparing and writing applications for projects. The application for a Nachwuchsakademie (junior staff academy) is evaluated by the respective Fachkollegium. One of the criteria for funding is a deficient situation for junior staff scientists. For more information see the webpage of the DFG or contact Dr. Schönwitz. IPBES: DFG as well as VBIO and some of the societies are interested in the tasks and activities of IPBES and the implementation of the IPBES secretariat(s). Concerted action and cooperation with the involved Ministries, in particular the Ministry of Environment, is needed. The issue is very complicated because of the regulations of the CBD. First the German Ministries (Environment, Research and Education) have to come to a conclusion, which then goes to the Delegation of the EU which has to present a common vote. Usually this requires many compromises. The German Academy of Science "Leopoldina" has started a collaboration with the French Academy of Science to offer input into IPBES activities from the side of scientists.

The DFG is prepared to pay the annual dues to IUBS, however, in the near future, Leopoldina, as **the** German Academy for Science may take over the responsibility for the DNK.

AI 8 Preparation of the IUBS General Assembly 2012

A flyer was distributed showing the aims, dates, venue and theme of the 31st GA (July 5th – 9th, 2012) in Souzhou China associated with a Conference on Biological Sciences and Bio-industry. According to the protocol of a GA, several committees will be set up, one in advance of the GA, the nominations committee, the others *ad hoc* at the beginning of the GA. One of the committees is in charge of the preparation of the following GA. The idea arose that the 32nd GA should be held in Germany which has not yet organized an IUBS GA. In principle, the DNK agreed but due to short notice could not yet elaborate a title for the scientific symposium. The venue could be Berlin, in one of the larger conference hotels, e.g. the Seminaris-Hotel. The date has to be discussed as well as the organizing societies. VBIO may take the lead, but this will also depend on a suitable topic of the conference. Perhaps one politically or scientifically burning overarching theme could be found to which several societies could organize specific symposia. Another point to be discussed is financing, as the

traditional policy of IUBS is not to ask for conference fees. Nevertheless a tentative invitation may be presented at the 2012 GA by the German National Committee.

AI 9 Elections

Prof. Reski, for reasons associated with his function in the FRIAS will not be able to serve another term as President of the DNK. He proposed Prof. Dr. Regine Jahn from Berlin as new DNK President. Prof. Reinhard Krämer and Prof. Erwin Beck would be prepared to extend their functions as Vice-president and Secretary, respectively, for another term. This proposal was accepted by acclamation.

Prof. Reski, for the time being the German representative in the IUBS Executive Committee will join the IUBS nominations committee. Prof. Jahn as the chairperson of BIOCODE will also attend the Souzhou GA. The DNK supports her nominations for the next IUBS Executive Committee.

AI 10 Miscellaneous

An item was not presented.

Freiburg i. Br., April 27th 2012



Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Erwin Beck



Prof. Dr. Ralf Reski

Agenda for the DNK General Meeting 2012

Wednesday, 14th March 2012

Nr.	TOP	Contributor
1.	Welcome address by the Director of FRIAS	Werner Frick
2.	DNK: Objectives and organisation	Ralf Reski
3.	IUBS: Objectives, organisation, activities	Nathalie Fomproix, Executive Director IUBS
4.	Activities/conferences of the societies	all
5.	VBIO: Activities	Reinhard Krämer
6.	Planning upcoming DNK activities	all
7.	DFG: Reports and international activities (ICSU, IUBS, IUMS etc.)	Roswitha Schönwitz, DFG, Erwin Beck
8.	Preparation for the IUBS General Assembly 2012	all
9.	Election of the DNK board	all
10.	Miscellaneous	all

DNK General Meeting on Wednesday 14th March 2012

List of Participants

Nr.	Society	Name
1	DNK President	Ralf Reski
2	DNK Secretary	Erwin Beck
3	DNK Vice-President / Spokesperson VBIO / Representative Gesellschaft für Biochemie und Molekularbiologie	Reinhard Krämer
4	Executive Director IUBS	Nathalie Fomproix
5	DFG	Roswitha Schönwitz
6	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Limnologie e.V.	Elisabeth Meyer
7	Deutsche Phytomedizinische Gesellschaft e.V.	Falko Feldmann
8	VBIO President	Wolfgang Nellen
9	VBIO (Berlin Branch Office)	Kerstin Elbing
10	Deutsche Botanische Gesellschaft e.V.	Karl-Josef Dietz
11	Gesellschaft für Ökologie	Volkmar Wolters
12	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Biophysik e.V.	Hans-Joachim Galla
13	Gesellschaft für Biologische Systematik	Regine Jahn
14	Freiburg University, Secretary to Prof. Reski	Anne Katrin Prowse