

IPG Executive Committee Meeting

MINUTES

February 2, 2009

1:00–2:00 PM

In Attendance

John Walker, IPG Director
Walter Gassmann, Division of Plant Sciences
Kathy Newton, Division of Biological Sciences
Bruce McClure, Division of Biochemistry
Jeff Anderson, Postdoc representative
Amy Replege, Graduate Student representative

IPG Executive Committee Appointments

John welcomed members of the committee, all of who were recently elected to serve on the Executive Committee by the IPG membership. Election results and appointments are as follows:

2009 IPG Graduate Student Representative- Amy Replege, Division of Plant Sciences
2009 IPG Postdoctoral Fellow Representative- Jeff Anderson, Division of Biochemistry
2009-2011 IPG Faculty Representative, Kathy Newton, Division of Biological Sciences
2009-2010 IPG Faculty Representative, Walter Gassmann, Division of Plant Sciences
2009 IPG Faculty Representative, Bruce McClure, Division of Biochemistry

IPG Budget

Due to fiscal cutbacks by the University in response to the national recession, the F21C non-salaries budget will be cut by ~6%. Since IPG funding comes through the F21C program, the IPG can expect some cut in its budget. Although it is not clear yet how much will be cut from the budget, these cuts will be made primarily to the operational dollars and not salaries.

IGERT Pre-proposal

The IPG submitted a letter of intent to be one of four campus programs to submit a pre-proposal for the NSF Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship Program (IGERT). The theme of the IPG training grant is “Plants For Changing Environments” and will focus on plant abiotic interactions with the environment.

PIs are John Walker, Henry Nguyen, Robert Sharp, Jay Thelen, and Dong Xu. Other interested parties include Jim Birchler, Dale Blevins, Jianlin Cheng, Georgia Davis, Ye Duan, Sherry Flint-Garcia, Felix Fritschi, Candi Galen, Toni Kazic, Mannie Liscum, Mike McMullen, Jan Miernyk, Kathy Newton, Henry Nguyen, Mel Oliver, Steve Pallardy, J. Chris Pires, Chi-Ren Shyu, Gary Stacey, Zhanyuan Zhang, and Joe Polacco.

IPG Discussion Board

The IPG now has an electronic Discussion Board available online at <http://ipg.missouri.edu/board.php>. The Discussion Board allows for a number of private and public groups to be established. A private group will be established for IPG Executive Committee members. The goal is to move discussions about resources and techniques that currently go out over the IPG Listserv to the IPG Discussion Board, which allows for archiving and searching. There was a suggestion to look into the ability to use RSS feeds.

Graduate Student Recruitment

Last Friday, February 6, 2009, the IPG hosted a joint recruitment event with the Divisions of Biochemistry, Biological Sciences, and Plant Sciences. The event included a speed mentoring component (from 2:00-4:00) and a poster session/recruitment reception (4:00-6:00). Approximately, 27 potential recruits attended at least some portion of the event: 11 from Plant Sciences, 1 from Genetics Area Program, 1 from Biological Sciences, and 13 from Biochemistry. Faculty who participated in the speed mentoring included M. Liscum, Z. Zhang, W. Gassmann, S. Flint-Garcia, B. McClure, T. Kazic, F. Fritschi, and K. Newton.

2009 Symposium

Planning for the 2009 IPG Symposium is well underway.

We have currently secured \$16,000 in extramural support for the Symposium; sponsors include the NSF, Functional Plant Biology, Syngenta Seeds, Biochemical Journal, Monsanto, and Phenotype Screening. Two exhibitors have also been confirmed: CID and Phenotype Screening. Additional sponsors are being pursued.

The schedule, poster abstract submission, list of speakers, and registration are available online at <http://muconf.missouri.edu/ipgsymposium/>.

Committee members recommended sending an e-mail to the IPG-L listserv that reminds people of the dates of the symposium and letting them know that information about registration and campus fees will be forthcoming.

2010 Symposium

The topic of the 2010 IPG Symposium will be protein phosphorylation and dephosphorylation.

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Awards and Nominations

The IPG has nominated several faculty for ASPB awards:

- Tom Guilfoyle and Gretchen Hagen, for the Charles Reid Barnes Life Membership Award
- Robert Sharp, for the ASPB Fellow Award
- Mel Oliver, for the ASPB Fellow Award

Committee members discussed the establishment of an IPG Award or Prize, to be given at the annual IPG Symposium. Such an award program may help bring greater visibility and prestige to the IPG and its annual symposium.

Committee members also discussed the need to identify and nominate IPG faculty for more campus awards.

Faculty Hires

Despite the recent freeze on hiring at the UM System level, strategic planning for future IPG hires is ongoing. Walker is continuing to have discussions with faculty from individual divisions to determine faculty positions desired.