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**IBS Committee Meeting Notes – IBC2014**

July 2014

Florence, Italy

**Committee Name:** Editorial Advisory Committee

**Chair:** Byron J.T. Morgan

**Attendees:** 15 members

**Meeting notes:**

**1. Review of Biometrics**

Jeremy Taylor commented on  important aspects of *Biometrics*, with reference to the excellent slides prepared for AEs, and which he had shown me earlier. There was discussion of the fall in acceptance rate, from 27% in 2005 to 16% in 2013. He felt that this was within normal variation. However it was noted that under the current system, particular editors always receive certain types of paper, within their main area of expertise. Thus *Biometrics* in effect operates like three separate journals. An unsubstantiated rumour suggested that the acceptance rates of different CEs varied. It was not known whether information of this kind circulated between the CEs, and Jeanine agreed to check with Maria. There was some concern in the meeting that certain areas of Biometry had not been favoured in recent time, but no figures were able to be presented. It was also mentioned that perhaps some papers were being rejected by CEs while apparently relevant. Is the journal becoming more theoretical?

There was discussion of the falling impact factor of *Biometrics*. There might be future plans for review papers, which have an effect on impact factor. It was also noted that impact factors can depend upon particular highly cited papers, and also that the 6-month time lag between doi and publication might be a factor, as impact might (?) formally be due to citations to the printed form, missing citations to the doi form. It was also noted that *Biometrics* papers tend not to have long lists of references, unlike many other journals, and that this might result in reduced impact. Balance of the journal was also discussed, including the Practice section, and whether or not *Biometrics* might include description of meetings. It was thought that historical precedent was in favour of publication of the President's address.   In general discussion it was felt that there should be thought as to improved **outreach** of the journal. BJTM  mentioned the successful Robert May prize of the relatively new journal, *Methods in Ecology & Evolution* (impact factor about 5-6), for young authors. In his view this was well done, and the idea might be adopted by the IBS journals.

In addition: AEs should be IBS members. The **prose editing project** should be advertised widely. Many factors will change with the move to electronic publication, allowing more in the way of outreach material.

**2. Review of JABES**

Linda reported. It was noted with satisfaction that Jabes was now  profitable and with an increasing impact factor.

**3. Best Paper awards**

There was some discussion of how the system operated, for each of the journals, including the previous web discussion of the committee concerning whether papers should be by IBS members, and when they should be members. The general feeling was that best papers should be just that.

**4. IBS member benefits - Open access charges**

This was regarded as a matter for the Finance committee. It was suggested that charges might be more expensive for non-members of the IBS.

**5. IBS  monograph series?**

There was general discussion of this, as well as the suggestion that IBC  proceedings might be published, with a light editing process. There was no support for either this or the monographs. Julio made the interesting comment that members in developing countries are encouraged to publish their work in the best journals, and a proposal for publishing conference proceedings could undermine that.

**AoB**

1. There was discussion of the effect of moving from paper to electronic only. Ernst commented that the Netherlands had found that such a move was profitable: paper is expensive.  The Springer representative observed that electronic only could mean an end of issues as such.

2. It was noted that the IBS office is happy to help IBS committees with arranging things like teleconferences.

3. It was noted that inactive committee members might be best advised to leave IBS committees. I think it was said that there are electronic checks on participation in web discussions.

4. It was noted that the new web site remains under construction.

**Prepared by:** José Pinheiro **Date: 8** July, 2014