

Minutes taken for the C-1/C-7 business meeting – Nov. 4, 2009

The joint Division C-1/C-7 business meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm by Brett Carver, Div. C-1 Chair and Jim Anderson, Div. C-7 Chair, on Wed. Nov. 4 in the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Pittsburg, PA in conjunction with the annual CSSA meeting. The minutes for the joint C-1/C-7 held in 2008 were approved as read by Katrien Devos, seconded by Karen Moldenhauer and passed by the membership.

Report from Bret Carver – Division chair of C-1

Brett reported that the number of paper and poster submissions had declined compared to 2008. A total of 134 papers/posters had been submitted for the 2008 meeting in Houston. Only 94 papers/posters were submitted for the 2009 Annual Meeting, of which 76 were poster presentations and 18 oral presentations including the 13 presentations that were part of the two symposia sponsored by C-1. The two symposia were entitled ‘Footprints of genetic progress: looking back’ and ‘Building a strong financial base for sustaining a healthy plant breeding community’. Having the topical sessions was extremely helpful in grouping the presentations but there were too few oral sessions. Brett noted that oral presentations had been restricted by the blackout periods during the keynote lectures. This will be changed in 2010 as there will only be a blackout period during the CSSA keynote lecture, but not during the keynote lectures organized by the other societies. Brett also remarked that he had submitted 14 or 15 topics to the CONFEX system. Some had not received sufficient submissions and had been either converted to poster sessions or combined with another session. He noted that it might be better to submit fewer topics. In some cases, the conversion from oral to poster presentation had not been communicated clearly with the authors. Two individuals had remarked that they thought that they were presenting an oral presentation, but were in fact listed for a poster presentation or *vice versa*.

Report from Jim Anderson – Division chair of C-7

Jim reported that 37 oral presentations had been given during this years’ meeting and 14 posters had been presented. Two symposia had been organized entitled ‘Footprints of genetic progress: looking forward using genomics, biotechnology and bioinformatics to enhance gains’ and ‘Coordinated agricultural projects: progress and lessons learned from barley, rice and wheat’. In addition, two smaller oral sessions had been organized. Attendance at the oral session was about 150 for the “Looking Forward using Genomics, Biotechnology, and Bioinformatics to Enhance Gains” symposium, and about 80 in the CAPs symposium and each of the oral sessions.

Report by Ed Runge on the Monsanto Beachell-Borlaug International Scholars program

Monsanto has provided \$10M (\$2M/year for 5 years) to support international scholars for a ‘Western’ experience in rice and wheat breeding. Students from any country qualify and it is expected that they will study in a ‘Western’ country for a minimum of 6 months and preferably for a period of 1 year. The funds are administered by Texas A&M University. Six awards will be made in rice and six in wheat each year. The award is for three years and in partnership with an international center. The web site is:

www.monsanto.com/mbbischolars. The 2009 recipients attended the World Food Prize ceremony.

Presentation of potential symposia and session topics by the incoming chairs of the C-1 and C7 divisions

Incoming chairs for C-1, Georgia Eizenga and C-7, Katrien Devos, presented the topics suggested by the membership for sessions in the 2010 meeting in Long Beach, California. Time was allowed for questions and comments. There was some overlap in the lists. Some topics would be suitable for co-sponsoring by other divisions and the chairs would discuss this. Jim Anderson commented on the success of 'Dirt the movie' and suggested that the C-1/C-7 divisions could do something similar. Jim suggested playing the documentary 'Freedom from Famine' on the life of Norman Borlaug in keeping with the Green Revolution 2 theme (produced by Iowa Public Television). NSF also has films that might be suitable. Another idea was "Emerging Technologies".

Results of the C1 poster competition

Winners of the C-1 poster competition were announced and will be posted on the C-1 web site.

The student winners were:

1st place went to Junyun Yang, North Dakota State Univ., with an award of \$500 (Poster 508). Her poster was entitled "Breeding and Genetics of field Dry Down and Test Weight in short-Season Elite Maize Hybrids" and co-authored by M. Carena and J. Uphaus.

2nd place went to Jason W. Haegele, Univ. of Illinois, with an award of \$300 (Poster 509) His poster was entitled "Characterization of Grain Yield and Nitrogen Use Traits in the Intermated B73 x Mo17 Population" and co-authored by J.B. Church, M. Letchworth, G.A. Bradfish and F.E. Below.

3rd place went to Peter V. Maloney, North Carolina State Univ., with an award of \$150 (Poster 501). His poster was entitled "Advances in Breeding for Winter Hardiness in Oats" and co-authored by J. Lyerly, D. Wooten, G. Brown-Guedira, J.P. Murphy, D. Livingston II, D. Marshall and J.M. Anderson.

Report by Ken Quesenberry, President of CSSA

Ken Quesenberry reported that membership is steady. Paid membership has increased by 0.5% due to membership fees for emeritus members. Budget-wise, the society is financially sound because a 10% across the board cut was done at headquarters early in the year. Approximately 3,350 people were registered for the current annual meeting. Attendance at the meeting was slightly lower than last year, but overall better than expected. An 'Industry Relations Task Force' is going to be set up to discuss how to attract higher membership from industry. The number of positions in academia is shrinking and there is a need for industry to support their scientists to come to the annual meeting. The loss of members in C-1 is more striking because it has the largest number of members. An industry survey has been completed, but the general message was that

members of industry would be interested to attend the meeting if reimbursed by their company.

Ken recognized Brett Carver and Jim Anderson for their service to CSSA. Corley Holbrook will continue as the C-1 board representative and C-7 board repr. Gary Muehlbauer's term will be completed in 2009. He will be replaced by Henry Nguyen.

Report by Corley Holbrook, board representative for C-1

Corley reported that the impact factor of Crop Science has increased from 0.9 to 1.325, putting it in the range with other society journals. This was accomplished by establishing the J of Plant Registrations and decreasing the time in review. The impact factor is based on number of times the journal is cited, how many people look at the journal, acceptance rate etc. The highest impact factors are for medical journals.

C-1 division: In the past year (from Jan. 2009 until current), 190 papers had been submitted to Crop Science. The average response time (between submission and first communication by the editor) was 42 days, and the acceptance rate of papers was 62%. The number of revisions requested was, in some cases, as high as five. The editors are attempting to set a limit of two times that a given manuscript is sent back for review.

C-7 division: 33 papers had been received in the past year, and the acceptance rate was 25%.

It was noted that many papers, mainly from foreign sources, were received that were not ready for submission and were returned as such. In the C-1 division, 36 such papers were received, 2 from the USA and 34 from other countries.

No data were available for The Plant Genome. Ken Quesenberry noted that Craig Roberts will finish his 6 year term as editor-in-chief and that a new Editor-in chief was going to be appointed who would focus on The Plant Genome. It was also noted by both Corley and Ken that the headquarter staff were doing an excellent job.

In 2008, a resolution had been proposed to cite, where reasonably possible, the release article or reference the GRIN system if there is no release article for all germplasm accessions mentioned in Crop Science. This resolution had been approved in the July 2009 board meeting. A 1-page description was going to be prepared to inform authors of this change and with information on the citation format.

Brett Carver remarked that this resolution should be extended to the other society journals. This also gives support to our National Plant Germplasm System. Ken Quesenberry commented that a request could be put in to the other societies to do so. He was going to put this item on the agenda for the next board meeting.

Headquarters is in the process of purchasing a new office building. The original plan was to build a new building but with the recession the plan was put on hold. Subsequently, the opportunity to purchase this office building which is about 8 years old became available for substantially less money than building a new building. This will move the publishing in-house, allow for adequate office space and no asbestos issues. If all goes as planned the purchase will be finalized at the end of December.

The Grand Challenges requested by the Obama administration were discussed. Joe Lauer, CSSA President-Elect is contact for CSSA.

Feedback was asked on the text messaging option for meeting information. Comments indicated people appreciated them but they were very generic. It would be good to adapt the messages to society and/or divisions the person receiving the message is associated with.

All divisions need to have a web site. In the case of C-1 and C-7 it was proposed by Ken Quesenberry that the incoming chair would be responsible for obtaining the information and sending it to headquarters for uploading. This was seconded by Karen Moldenhauer and passed by the membership. The web site should have the business meeting minutes, by-laws, poster winners, upcoming symposium, meetings of interest, links to the Beachell-Borlaug Fellowship, etc. The incoming chair for C-1 is Mark Brick and for C-7 is Stephen Moose. The chairs will inform the chairs-elect of this.

Report by Kim Garland-Campbell, editor of Journal of Plant Registrations

This is the second full year of production of JPR. JPR will not get an impact factor as impact factors typically require 3 years of citing, and most germplasm will have been replaced during that time period.

In 2007 (old format), there were 122 submissions. The number of submissions in 2008 was 94, and a similar number is expected for this year. The number of pages has already increased from 267 in 2008 to 306 pages at this time in 2009. The publishing rate conforms to the estimations made by headquarters.

The manuscript format was revised in 2009. It is now necessary to make a statement of intent for the developed germplasm (e.g. improved disease resistance, etc). The objective of the germplasm development needs to be included in the abstract.

The way the manuscripts are being reviewed has also changed. The C852 sub-committee system (crop-based) was not working and has been collapsed. Reviews are now mostly done ad-hoc.

Kim reminded everybody to cite germplasm (see Corley Holbrook's report) and also that protected germplasm can still be published.

Kim also stated that new paper types will be accepted (in addition to the traditional germplasm registration papers). Those include reports on mapping populations (must include additional information, for example on traits segregating in the population), reviews on cultivars that have become very important and, possibly, reports on germplasm collections. The latter need to be checked with division C-8 for potential overlap. Kim clarified that for mapping populations, it was expected that the parents would be submitted to GRIN, but that the authors would be responsible for distribution of the actual mapping population.

Brett Carver moved that the business meeting be adjourned at 4:30 pm which was seconded by Terry Coffelt and passed.