

## Extraordinary General Assembly of the Swiss Society of Plant Physiology

### Ausserordentliche Mitgliederversammlung der Schweizerischen Pflanzenphysiologischen Gesellschaft

### Réunion extraordinaire de l'Assemblée Générale de la Société Suisse de Physiologie Végétale

#### Minutes/Protokoll/Protocole (draft)

**13 Sept 2021, 11h00 –12h50,**

Genopode Building, Auditoire B, Dorigny Campus UNIL + online on [Zoom](#)

Committee: Christian Fankhauser CF (chair), Thomas Boller, Kirsten Bomblies, Cyril Zipfel CZ, Sylvia Martinez (minutes),

Members: Simon Aeschbacher, Reinhard Bachofen, Marie Barberon, Célia Baroux, Sylvain Bischof, Ted Farmer, Urs Feller, Niko Geldner, Ora Hazak, Günter Hoch, Rie Inatsugi, Pauline Jullien, Beat Keller, Roland Kölliker, Luis Lopez-Molina, Fiamma Longoni, Fred Meins, Yamama Naciri, Christiane Nawrath, Christian Parisod, John Pannell, Yves Poirier, Sergio Rasmann, Philippe Reymond, Christoph Ringli, Christelle Robert, Julia Santiago, Klaus Schlaeppi, Meredith Schuman, Kentaro Shimizu, Sebastian Soyk, Thomas Städler, Bruno Studer, Joop Vermeer, Clara Zemp, Tobias Züst.

Excused: Nick Amrhein, Ueli Grossniklaus, Markus Geisler, Felix Gugerli, Christian Hardtke, Fiamma Longoni, Doris Rentsch, Didier Reinhardt, Diana Santelia, Bernhard Schmid, Meredith Schuman, Ted Turlings, Roman Ulm, Jean-Pierre Zrÿd

#### Agenda / Traktanden

##### 1. Welcome by the president, approval of agenda items / Begrüssung durch den Präsidenten, Genehmigung der Traktandenliste

The president welcomes all participants and they unanimously agree on the proposed agenda.

##### 2. Minutes (General Assembly, 27 January 2021) / Protokoll (attached)

Participants unanimously agree on the minutes of the last general assembly.

##### 3. Change of society name / Namensänderung der Gesellschaft

Proposed name(s): Swiss Society of Plant Biology or Swiss Society of Plant Sciences

As previously announced, the committee proposes a name change for the society. President Christian Fankhauser explains that several names were discussed among the committee members and with representatives of other academic societies.

It was agreed to propose the name: "Swiss Society of Plant Biology" to the General Assembly.

All meeting participants discuss the proposed new society name.

In a vote the assembly unanimously decides to adopt the name Swiss Society of Plant Biology.

##### 4. Revision of the bylaws / Statutenänderung

The next step in the process of re-activating and bringing the society up-to-date includes the adaptation of the by-laws to the current focus, needs and language (gender-sensitive). The committee prepared a synopsis text illustrating the old and new bylaw text. In addition, an English version was prepared which will serve to discuss the text during this meeting.

The assembly goes through the whole text and discusses several paragraphs. Some discussed suggestions and remarks concern:

- Incorporating text stating the society's aim to support young scientists (SA).
  - Seat of the society: The case of electing a chair that might later move abroad and the resulting change of location for the seat of the society (KS).
  - Reduced annual fees for young members (CP) and a free membership for young scientists (GH).
- The president reminds all participants that the proposed text is only made for cases when something goes wrong and he informs that e.g. defining membership fees is never fixed in the bylaws, since members determine the annual fee at the General Assembly.

The assembly unanimously accepts the amended bylaws.

## 5. Participation of the society to national and international societies / Teilnahme an nationalen und internationalen Gesellschaften

The society wishes to work along other societies. We will continue to explore how we fit together.

### - Link to SPSW

The website [swissplantscienceweb.ch](http://swissplantscienceweb.ch) offers a very good overview of existing research groups in plant biology. The network/society benefits from the help of SPSW/Sylvia Martinez including for the organization of the SwissPLANT conference.

JS: Would it be possible to raise some funds to continue all these activities?

CF: Momentarily we are happy to have the support by SPSW. A successful BioSites research infrastructures proposal would strengthen our society/network even more (see also 6. Varia).

### - Participation with SCNAT and with Life Science Switzerland (LS2 – a society of SCNAT).

CF: Had conversations with SCNAT and LS2. Both would like to have us as a section of LS2.

CF gives an overview of LS2 and describes discussions held within our own committee. Our society is part of SCNAT. They never kicked us out, we still are part of it. The transitioning from a dormant society to becoming a section of LS2 would be too fast.

→ The committee proposes that the Swiss Society of Plant Biology first establishes itself as a reactivated society.

Any decisions about becoming a section of another society should be taken at a later stage.

Discussion:

CZ: It is unfortunate that we are so little engaged in LS2 activities. We could connect to all of their research topics of the LS2 meeting. In the future we should try to contribute to the LS2 annual meeting. We could contribute to the comparison of animal and plant research and learn from each other.

CF also talked to the Swiss Botanical Society (Christian Parisod) and the Swiss Society of Agronomy (Roland Kölliker). Both societies are happy about the reactivated new society. They do not see us as a competition and ideas came up about having common activities.

CF: Last item, the Federation of European Societies of Plant Biology (FESPB) has invited us to be part of the it (as in former years when our society was still active): Membership fee is 600 Euros annually for a society with less than 100 members. Currently we have 76 paying members. We will find out what is the benefit of being part of FESPB. Most of the work might probably be done by EPSO.

## 6. Varia

Klaus Schläppi presents the Swiss Plant Phenotyping Platform (SP<sup>3</sup>) project. This pre-proposal was successfully submitted and qualified to submit a full proposal to SNSF. There is no other preproposal on imaging and SP<sup>3</sup> received letters of support by all Swiss universities with plant science research. This is a strong message for plant sciences.

The group discusses some questions related to included fixed-system imaging techniques, exclusion of forests etc.



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