



**Minutes of the LASDB Board Meeting and
Agreements of the LASDB General Meeting
17 and 18 June, 2007**

The LASDB Board Meeting was held at the Gran Hotel Melia, Cancun, Mexico on occasion of the 3rd LASDB meeting, the 1st Pan-American Meeting in Developmental Biology, the 66th Annual SDB Meeting and the 8th SMDB Annual Meeting. The main purpose was to review the present status of LASDB and to discuss future directions.

Delegates in attendance were:

Argentina	Pablo Wappner
Brazil	Jose Xavier-Neto
Chile	Miguel Allende (Treasurer) Miguel Concha (Secretary) Juan Larrain (new Treasurer) Roberto Mayor (President)
Ecuador	Eugenia Del Pino
México	Juan Riesgo Escobar Mario Zurita
UK	Claudio Stern (External)
USA	Eddy DeRobertis (External)

1. President Election

Claudio Stern gave a report concerning the procedure for the election of the new LASDB president. Briefly, a committee was set up, composed by Eddy DeRobertis, Ariel Ruiz i Altaba and Claudio Stern that searched for candidates for the presidential

election. After the search, the name of Mario Zurita was proposed and approved by the LASDB Board. The committee received the electronic votes from the LASDB members, being the result as follows:

Yes (approval of M. Zurita):	65 votes
No	: 0 votes
White	: 2 votes
Total	: 67 votes

Finally, the name of Mario Zurita was approved by the LASDB General Meeting as the next president of the LASDB.

As it was approved in the previous LASDB meeting in Brazil it will be a period of overlap between the current and elected president, which should not be longer than one year.

2. Board Election and up-date of the e-mail list

As the situation of DB in each LA country is quite different, the election of each local representative should reflex these differences. The LASDB president will discus with each local representative to decide about the best procedure for the election of the new representatives for each country. It is proposed that in some countries as Brazil, two representatives should be elected, and in most countries a titular and deputy representatives should be considered.

As the communication with the members of the LASDB is done by e-mail an important step in the election of the local representatives is the update of the e-mail list. The president will contact the local representatives from Brazil, Mexico and Uruguay for their updates, as all the other countries are already updated.

3. Next LASDB meetings

The 4th LASDB will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 2008. It was informed by the president that the 5th LASDB meeting could be held in Uruguay, as Cristina Arruti will be pleased to be the Meeting Secretary for that occasion. There was a preliminary approval of this proposal but further interactions with the local representatives from Uruguay will be required for the final decision.

As the LASDB/SDB/SMBD joint meeting held in Cancun, Mexico, was a great success it was proposed that all the efforts should be made to continue with this kind of joint meetings in the future. It was proposed that in addition of a Pan American joint meeting with the SDB, other joint meetings should also be considered, such as an Ibero-American meeting together with the Spanish and Portuguese SDB. It was particularly attractive the idea of proposing to the ISDB the organization by the LASDB of the 17th ISDB meeting in 2013. Further analysis of all these alternatives will be required to take the final decision, but there was a unanimous consensus about the benefit of this kind of joint meetings for our discipline in LA.

4. Treasurer report

Miguel Allende gave a complete report of the economical situation of the LASDB.

There are several expenditures that are required by law (Legal Paperwork for initiating operations in Chile, end of year accounting statement, notices in press, honorary for attorney), and they should continue in the future.

There are other expenditures that could be avoided, such as the account fees which are higher if the amount left in the account is low. In consequence, it was proposed and accepted by the Board that a minimal of US\$2000 should be kept in the account to avoid paying extra fees.

It was informed that in order to minimize the cost of the web page maintenance, the LASDB web page was moved to a site generously provided by the ISDB (<http://www.developmental-biology.org/lasdb/index.html>)

Finally, Miguel Allende had asked previously to the President to renounce as Treasurer because of his multiple commitments in Chile. The renounce was accepted by the President and a new Treasurer, Juan Larrain, was appointed. The change of treasurer requires some paper work that will be done in the next 6 months.

These Minutes were prepared by Roberto Mayor (LASDB President) and Miguel Concha (LASDB Secretary)