



General Assembly
Leuven, 2023-04-14

Presenters:

- John Creemers (President), Janet Carton (Vice President)
- Ana Borovecki (Treasurer) Joana Palha (EC member)

Attendees:

- Members of the General Assembly

The meeting started at 15.10 AM (CET)

Proposed agenda items

1. Agenda items and minutes of the last meeting
2. President's report
3. Treasurer's report and auditors' report
4. What Orpheus can do for you?
5. Meeting with PhD students
6. Update of the Best Practices document

1. Minutes of the last meeting and agenda

Voting: The minutes of the last General Assembly meeting (Istanbul, Turkey 2022-05-13) and the proposed agenda were accepted **unanimously** by the members of the General Assembly

2. President's report

- President of the Orpheus presented the main goals of his presidency and his activities during the last year:
 - o The main goal of Orpheus during his presidency will be to increase the number of members and attract members from continents other than Europe. The Orpheus promotion campaign was executed through attendance at the following meetings:
 - Coimbra PhDHS, Coimbra, Portugal (2022-09-18)
 - AMSE 2022 Conference, NextGen PhD researchers in Biomedical Sciences; Quality assessment, training, and career development. Kvriati, Georgia (2022-10-06).
 - o There Orpheus courses were organized:
 - Karaganda Medical University, Kazhastan, 2022-22-11)
 - School of Medicine, University of Minho, Braga, Portugal (2022-11-25)
 - Program in Biomedicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Beira Interior, Portugal, 2023-02-16)

- Two supervisors' training workshops were organized at Medical School, University of Zagreb in January 2022 and March 2023.
- During the last year, only one label was awarded (Istanbul University). 12 additional institutions are in the process of obtaining the label.
- Two regular Executive committee meetings were organized; one in Braga, Portugal, and one online meeting.
- The Orpheus website was reorganized and updated.
- The Orpheus LinkedIn account was re-activated.
- The survey for Orpheus members is prepared and it will be soon distributed among the members.
- One meeting with PhD students was organized to identify their current problems with doctoral program organization.
- The update of Best Practices and self-evaluation document are prepared and ready for distribution.

3. Treasurer's and auditors' report

- Ana Borovecki presented the treasurer's report.
 - The current financial situation is good. On 2023-03-31 the balance on the Orpheus account was even better than last year.
 - The money for the travel fellowships was defined. Orpheus will announce 5 travel grants up to 1000 euros and 2 additional travel grants in the amount of a maximum of 1000 euros for the participants from the institution organizing the next conference. This scheme will replace the 2 + 2 scheme of €1500 that was used for the Leuven meeting.
 - The non-paying members were reminded of their obligations.

4. What Orpheus can do for you?

- Vice-president Janet Carton presented three main activities that can be beneficial for Orpheus members:
 - Best practices documents that are defining guidelines for organizing doctoral programs.
 - Labeling procedures and awarding certificates or labels that are a way of quality assessment of the doctoral programs
 - Training: The training courses will be for generic topics, not discipline-specific at present. Most of the training material will be available on the Orpheus website.

5. Meeting with PhD candidates update

- Joana Palha report:
 - The meeting with PhD candidates was held online (2023-02-24).
 - The following problems were identified by students:
 - Need for detailed information on the rules and regulations for admission.
 - Precisely defined Joint degree rules.
 - Benefits of internship in other laboratories.

- Better PhD candidate/supervisor interaction; defined frequency of interaction, co-supervision, ways of selecting the supervisor, and mechanisms for evaluating the supervisors.
- The meeting was very successful and this form of communication will be pursued in the future.

6. Best practices documents

- Johna Creemers reported on the current status of the new Best Practices document.
 - The part related to the stipulation of the number of publications/monograph equivalent was presented.

The thesis is normally based on the equivalent of approximately three papers or manuscripts, although fewer may be acceptable if published in a highly rated journal, and represents the output of at least 2½ years of full-time research. The thesis may be based on a monograph approximating the same research content. The PhD candidate should be able to take full intellectual responsibility for all parts of the thesis. In considering these requirements, the assessment committee should take account of the provisos listed in the Annotations at the end of this section. (BR6.2, revised)

Voting: The proposed formulation and the new Best Practices document was **unanimously** accepted by the members of the General Assembly.

The meeting finished at 15.30 PM

Minutes prepared by Damir Sapunar

Signed by John Creemers