

Scientific_Spring_2007

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

April 2007

Submitted by Gary White

The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) was formed during the summer of 2005 to review science issues and make recommendations to the Board of Directors of the American Iris Society when appropriate. Following is a summary of the committee's activities from the November 2006 AIS Board meeting to April 5, 2007.

IRIS-RELATED RESEARCH

Discussion: The last grants to be awarded by AIS after recommendation by the former Grants/Scientific Research Committee were in 2004.

Status/Recommendation:

1. Status of current grants awarded by AIS.

Dr. Alan Meerow's AIS funded research on 'Population genetics of *Iris hexagona* using microsatellite DNA': The AIS financial obligations for this grant have been completed. Dr. Meerow subsequently requested a "no-cost" extension of his grant through April of 2007, and the AIS Board of Directors voted to approve that request. The final report from Dr. Meerow will be expected upon the completion of his study. In addition, we will ask Dr. Meerow to author a brief summary article for the AIS Bulletin.

2. The SAC is currently having discussions about re-focusing the AIS scientific grants program and the possibility of joint funding of high priority projects by the AIS and the AIS Foundation.

SCIENTIFIC REVIEW OF AIS PUBLICATIONS

Discussion:

1. **Scientific Articles in the AIS Bulletin.** The SAC has developed a method for reviewing manuscripts of science-related articles submitted to the Bulletin Editor for publishing in the AIS Bulletin. The SAC reviews the manuscripts, comments on scientific soundness, suitability for publishing, and offers suggestions for improvements to the manuscript. Recommendations of the committee are then forwarded to the author of the manuscript and to the Bulletin editor. Incorporation of these recommendations from the SAC is at the discretion of the author and the Bulletin editor. The Scientific Advisory Committee, however, is available for further assistance, if requested.

2. Other AIS Publications. The committee would coordinate the review & revision of other science-related educational and informational AIS publications.

Status/Recommendation:

Scientific Articles in the AIS Bulletin. The SAC reviewed one article since the last BOD meeting. The committee's recommendation was that this article not be published in the AIS Bulletin. There were unexplained results and unresolved issues with data collection methods in that manuscript. Addressing these issues would require more than a simple revision.

To date, the committee has reviewed six manuscripts, and all but one were recommended for publication. One article recommended for publication was also withdrawn by the author.

Project Funding

Discussion:

The Scientific Advisory Committee requested \$5,000 be budgeted for applicable projects in 2007. This request was approved by the AIS BOD in November 2007. Per Board motion, money not spent in 2007 will be placed in a restricted Science Fund for later use.

Status/Recommendation:

To date, the money budgeted to the SAC has not been spent or recommended for expenditure.