

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NEWLY ELECTED EXECUTIVE
COUNCIL OF THE PAKISTAN BOTANICAL SOCIETY (2011-12) HELD AT
ISLAMABAD ON 26th JUNE 2011**

The 1st meeting of the newly elected Executive Council of the Pakistan Botanical Society (2011-12) was held under the Chairmanship of *Dr. Zabta Khan Shinwari*, President, Pakistan Botanical Society on 26th of June, 2011. The meeting started at 10:00 am at the Pakistan Academy of Sciences, Islamabad with the recitation of a few verses from the Holy Qur'an by Dr. Khan Bahadur Marwat, Vice Chancellor, University of Agriculture, Peshawar. Following members attended the meeting:

President	Prof. Dr. Zabta Khan Shinwari	Convener	Chairperson, Department of Biotechnology and Bioinformatics, Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad
Ex-President	Prof. Dr. Ikram ul Haq	Ex-Officio Member	Vice Chancellor, GCU, Lahore
Secretary/Treasurer	Prof. Dr. Asghari Bano	Member	Professor of Plant Sciences Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad
Ex-Secretary/Treasurer	Prof. Dr. Zaheer ud Din Khan	Ex-Officio Member	Chairperson, Department of Botany, GCU, Lahore
Vice President (Punjab)	Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf	Member	Dean, Faculty of Sciences, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad
Vice President (Kheybar Pakhton Khawa)	Prof. Dr. Khan Bahadur Marwat	Member	Vice Chancellor, University of Agriculture, Peshawar
Vice President (AJK)	Prof. Dr. Rehana Asghar	Member	Chairperson Biotechnology, Mirpur University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir
Chief Editor (PJB)	Prof. Dr. Muhammad Qaiser	Member	Vice Chancellor, Federal Urdu University, Karachi
Joint Secretary	Dr. Tehreema Iftikhar	Member	Assistant Professor, Department of Botany, GC University, Faisalabad

Agenda Item 1: Revision of Bye-Laws of the Pakistan Botanical Society

Dr. Shinwari pointed out that the Bye Laws of the PBS need revision. All members of the Society discussed the matter at length and agreed with Dr. Shinwari that throughout the text on Bye Laws, the time span must be written as “a term”, rather than “one or two years” as already written at several places in the document.

Article 3: Membership

It was discussed that a sound documentary proof for seeking the membership of the Society must be provided with the form.

Decision: Proof of the transcript/degree in Plant Sciences (attested photocopy) shall be sent to the concerned for the Executive membership. Membership in other relevant fields may be clarified by the Chief Editor PJB in case of any ambiguity.

Dr. Rehana Asghar pointed out that there must be a category of “Honorary Member” to acknowledge his/her contribution to Botany. After thorough discussion it was decided that the aforesaid category may be added along with the already existing “Emeritus member” category.

Decision: the House approved the proposed category with the already existing category of “Emeritus member”

Article 4: Revised membership dues:

All members were of the opinion that the membership dues of the Society be increased for the fund raising purpose. Unanimously following rates for various categories were decided:

Category	Previous Membership fee (Annual)		Revised Membership fee (Annual)	
	Local (Pak Rs.)	Foreign (US\$)	Local (Pak Rs.)	Foreign (US\$)
Life Membership (Once)	5000	-	8000	500
Regular Membership	800	-	1000	50
Student Membership	300	-	500	-
Institutional Membership	10,000	-	20,000	2000-

Article 5: Office Bearers

It was discussed that for office bearers the qualification a candidate must be clearly defined. This will be analogous to most of the academic societies.

Decision: the House approved that those who intend to contest for the elections of any of the Society Office Bearers must hold 16 years of education in the subject of Botany.

Article 5: Office Bearers (Council)

The names of the following persons were suggested by the members as the councilors for the current council of the Society other than the elected members:

1. Dr. Raza Bhatti (Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai University, Khairpur/Director Botanical Gardens)
2. Dr. Seema Mahmood, Professor of Botany, Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan
3. Dr. Sultan Mahmood, University of Science & Technology, Bannu
4. Dr. Muhammad Saleem, Professor of Botany, University of Punjab, Lahore

Decision: the House approved the names for the councilors.

Article 7: Elections of the Office Bearers

Reference to this article it was clarified that the committee constituted by the President of the Society for elections shall be convened by the chief editor of the Pakistan Journal of Botany and any other two members nominated by the president. It was further clarified that the time period for the elections need not to be written in the document. The president and secretary general will not be eligible to contest for the following term.

Decision: the House approved the proposal

Agenda Item 2: New Year's Activities

For the new term the tentative venue and dates were discussed for the upcoming 3rd International Conference of Plant Scientists & 12th National Meeting of Plant Scientists. It was proposed that 8-15th of September, 2012 will be the suitable tentative dates for the next General Body meeting/PBS Conference. The meeting will be held at Islamabad and the excursion trip to Taxila, Khewra mines also be arranged. It was suggested that a National Symposium will be held prior to the mega event and Professor Rehana Asghar agreed to host that at AZK University

Decision: the House approved, Islamabad as the venue of the conference to be held tentatively on 8th to 15th September, 2012.

Agenda Item 3: Publication of the Society's newsletter as a regular feature

The members discussed the possibility of release of the Newsletter of the Society. The name of Dr. Raza Bhatti, Director, Botanical Garden/Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai University was suggested. All members unanimously agreed with the proposal.

Decision: the House approved the suggestion

Agenda Item 4: PJB (its current Budget), Editorial Board etc

The budget of the PJB was presented by the Dr. Muhammad Qaiser, Chief Editor, Pakistan Journal of Botany.

Revision of salaries/honorarium of PJB Office staff

Dr. Muhammad Qaiser forwarded the request for the review of honorarium/salaries of the staff of the PJB editorial office. Following decisions were made in this regard:

The honorarium of Dr. Abdul Ghaffar (Emeritus editor) was unanimously decided by the members to be raised to Rs.20,000/- per month. The pay of the full time office staff of PJB office was also revised so Rehan's salary will be Rs.25,000/- per month. It was further unanimously decided that Dr. M. Qaiser be authorized for the revision and addition of the staff salaries in anticipation of the approval of the Council

Decision: the House approved the suggestion

Online submission system

Dr. Muhammad Ashraf suggested that a software for the online submission of manuscripts be purchased. This will help improve the citation and impact factor of the journal. Furthermore, the review process will become more transparent and quick. To increase the journal impact factor some potential review articles be invited and published at least one or two in each issue.

The house also discussed that checking of plagiarism must be done by the PJB office prior to acceptance of a manuscript.

Decision: the House approved the suggestion

Revision of editorial board/committee

It was discussed that some subject editors are not responding promptly due to their busy schedule, therefore it was suggested that editorial committee/editorial board may be revised. Dr. Shinwari and Dr. Ashraf pointed out that it is a gradual and stepwise procedure so aradical change should not be made. Dr. Shinwari further added that all the worthy members may suggest a committee of three editors for each subject area. In the next meeting this issue shall be addressed again.

Decision: the House agreed with the suggestion of Dr. Shinwari in this regard

Addition to editorial board/committee

It was pointed out by Professor Dr. Zaheer ud Din that there is no subject editor for “Morphology & Anatomy”. He further added that these are neglected areas in the PJB. The House discussed various names and Dr. Muhammad Ashraf suggested the name of Dr. Zaheer ud Din, GC University, Lahore for the subject editor of the aforesaid area.

Decision: the House agreed with the suggestion and further suggested that the subject specialists may be revisited and subjects renamed.

New Building for PBS & PJB at University of Karachi, feasibility and possibilities

On behalf of the PBS, Dr. M. Qaiser has a detailed discussion with the Vice Chancellor, University of Karachi, Karachi for the new building of PBS/PJB in the premises of the University. Dr. M. Qaiser further requested that the decision may be got approved by the Syndicate of the University as well.

Decision: the House appreciated the decision and efforts made by Dr. Muhammad Qaiser in this regard.

Printing Charges of the Journal

It was pointed out by Dr. Muhammad Qaiser that printing charges are increasing day by day. A thorough discussion was made in this regard and it was decided that number of copies may be reduced and hard copies shall only be provided to the life members and institutions. All other members and authors can download the pdf files available on the PBS website. This will cut down the extra expenditure. It was further decided that the printing charges may be revised which are as follows:

Number of Pages	Foreigner (US\$)	For member (Pak Rs.)		For Non-member (Pak Rs.)	
		Previous	Revised	Previous	Revised
For 1 st three pages	200	3500/-	4000/-	4500/-	5500/-
For Each Extra Page	50	700/-	800/-	900/-	1000/-

Decision: the House approved the revised printing charges

Enhanced space for the website

Dr. M. Ashraf pointed out that 2 GB space is not enough for the website of the PBS, therefore it may be increased up to 8 GB. In addition, a copyright form must be received from the corresponding author prior to acceptance of a manuscript.

Decision: the House agreed with the suggestion

Approval of the new face page of the Journal

Dr. M. Qaiser presented different specimens for the approval of the new face page of the Journal.

Decision: the House finalized one of the specimens presented to the members.

Agenda Item 5: Funding sources and applications

Dr. Ikram ul Haq and Dr. M. Ashraf pointed out that some fixed funds of the Society are lying with the National Agricultural Research Council and Punjab University, Lahore. It was suggested that the fixed funds be shifted to the account of the PBS for their appropriate utilization.

Decision: House approved the suggestion

Agenda item 6: Members' Directory (online)

Dr. Asghari Bano pointed out that the members' directory must be updated and uploaded at the website of the Society regularly. After a thorough discussion it was decided that online members' directory shall be updated by Dr. Tehreema Iftikhar under the guidance of Dr. Muhammad Ashraf.

Decision: House approved the suggestion

Agenda Item 7: Committee for the award of Gold medals

Dr. Marwat suggested that a committee be constituted which will nominate the eminent scientists in Plant Sciences for the award of the souvenirs, acknowledging their contribution in the subject.

Decision: the House approved the suggestion

Prepared by
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