

SABC Users' Committee Meeting
Wednesday 26 October, 2005
11.30am, SABC Large Seminar Room 2.36

Minutes

Present: Mike Jones Frances Brigg, Dave Hodgson, Moira Desport, Lars Kamphuis, Marie Scobie, Andrea Tongue, Zhaohui Wang.

Meeting opened at 11.30am

1. Apologies: David Berryman

2. Acceptance of minutes

Minutes of the previous meeting of 5 September, 2005 were accepted as an accurate record.

3. Matters Arising

Regarding the request for contribution by the ACNFP toward the purchase of the Nanodrop, Lars asked if the ACNFP could have a meeting re the budget and the Nanodrop. Mike said that the Nanodrop had already been purchased with funds he had raised from BS&B, the Plant Biotechnology Research Group, Saturn Biotech and Dave Berryman's Forensic grant, and so a meeting about this equipment was not needed.

Safety Regulations and Chemical Lists

Frances advised the Committee that WorkSafe have been very thorough in laboratory inspecting. More safety information will be coming down through the system. Risk Assessments cannot be performed by staff until they have been trained, and this training has not yet been provided. Frances suggested that everyone should keep working through their chemical lists as the risk assessments will require this knowledge. She also suggested that operating procedures should start to be written by the individual groups because these need to be completed at a project level.

Labelling software has been provided for the ChemAlert program so individuals can print their own labels. As well as chemical details, name, date and year should also be included on the label.

A safety report was also lodged because during the recent fire drill, GBA staff working at their laminar flows could not hear the alarm.

4. Equipment Update

An updated SABC equipment wishlist was handed out (attached). The Nanodrop, the plate reader and the Biomek 3000 have been ordered. Although a general call to all SABC researchers was made for suggestions for equipment, no requests or suggestions had been received for any other equipment items. The Biomek and the Plate Reader were purchased as a package for \$70,000. The Department of Agriculture contributed \$44,000 and other groups have provided additional funds. Mike reported that these were: Saturn Biotech (\$7,500), Proteomics International (\$7,500), SABC (\$1,000), BS&B (\$5,000), Vet School (\$5,000).

For the next round of ARC LIEF funding the ProTof mass spec is still item one, and an application to raise funds will be written. The last application was unsuccessful, but Mike will try again in the next round early in 2006.

The laser on the Confocal scanning microscope has malfunctioned, Dave is having this checked.

There used to be two water baths in the plant lab, but one has disappeared and the other is not working properly. Dave will follow this up.

4. SABC Planning meeting and ARWA Update

Mike reported to the Committee that meetings are held every Friday morning providing updates on ARWA progress. To date progress has been slow. Andy Patterson and Richard Payne are the only ARWA staff and they are located at the Department of Agriculture. \$60,000 has been provided to kick start some 'Icon projects'. These funds are to be used to prepare a business plan which would have to involve a number of groups within ARWA.

There is still no information on how many groups from DAWA will be coming to Murdoch. The first building will be the Biosecurity Building for animals and plants. Construction will start after 1st July 2006. Biosecurity is not part of ARWA, it is part of policy and regulation (DAWA). A Murdoch/ARWA webpage is going to be set up which will be updated regularly with the latest information.

6. After hours access

The animal lab reported a number of mini protean systems and lab consumables, clamps and transfer tanks have gone missing. These are items that have been purchased by research groups. They have not been broken and sent off for repair and cannot be found anywhere.

In order to identify items, if they have been borrowed, Frances suggested using the engraver available from the biology workshop to engrave items.

It was also reported that a number of strangers have been seen in the SABC on weekends. The suggestion of swipe card access to individual labs was discussed, it was agreed that this would create more problems.

Dave will do a sweep of the facilities and neighbouring labs to see if he can locate the lost equipment. In order to try and stop theft researchers need to be vigilant and to mark equipment where possible.

7. SABC Christmas Event

A BBQ or some sort of celebration needs to be scheduled, possibly on a Friday afternoon. If anyone has any ideas please pass them on to core staff.

8. A.O.B.

AQIS Certification of the SABC labs is needed. This application needs to go to Phil O'Brien; it will be a combined SABC/DAWA lab application. Dave Hodgson will forward to Mike.

Lars commented that during the cleanup, there was insufficient room to store acids in the acid cupboard. The possibility was raised of cleaning out the poisons cupboard in 2.11 and turning it into an acids cupboard and transferring the poisons to cupboards in 2.01 and 2.02. The solvent cabinet has a section for general use. Frances advised that there is usually acid there and to check before purchasing additional acids.

Poisons are also expensive to purchase and to dispose of, so researchers should check if there are any that are surplus and can be used before purchasing new stock.

Meeting closed 12.30pm. Next meeting, Wednesday 22nd February 2006 at 11.00am.

SABC EQUIPMENT WISHLIST

October 2005

Item No	ITEM	DESCRIPTION	BY	COST	Status
Major grants required	Major items for consideration	1= ProTOF Mass spec; ~ \$480K Bioplex system Biorad – ‘fluid microarray’ system for multiplexed diagnostics ~\$80K	SAC/RA/RT/MJ/Saturn/Proteomics Int.	Various	Major grant applications required
	Biomek robotic workstation or equivalent	Replacement robotic workstation for high throughput diagnostics, marker-assisted selection etc	DAWA/RA/MK/MF	70K raised	Biomek 3000 Ordered 9/2005
	Replacement autoclave	Need to replace SABC autoclave	Users Cttee	?	
	Various	BioRad Particle gun; solution interactions, metabolics NMR	Vaious		
	Plant growth cabinets	Lighted and cooled growth cabinets for controlled plant growth	MJ/RO	TBA	Plant growth cabinets
Intermediate value equipment	Next generation versatile plate reader system, eg for SNPs etc	Victor ² Fluorescent/polarized fluorescence/luminescence – more urgent now with demise of SABC plate reader or equivalent	MJ/RA/KG/RO	57,500 or equivalent	Plate reader funds raised, Ordered 9/2005
	Agilent 2100 Bioanalyzer	Lab on a chip technology, chip based nucleic acid analyzer	DB/MJ	52,000	
	Microscope (compound)	High resolution compound microscope/fluorescence/Nomarski	RO/MJ	50,000	
	Microscope (inverted)	General work inverted microscope	RO/MJ	25,000	
	CCD camera system	Dedicated high resolution CCD camera/software for image manipulation	MJ	25,000	
	Protein HPLC	Bio-Rad BioLogic DuoFlow Systems	RO	55-86,000	Available in Chemistry – contact Doug Clark/DB
	Illuminated incubators	Convion illuminated incubators and shakers x 3	RO	\$25,000 ea	
	Array scanner	GenePix Personal 4100A array scanner (Axon)	SW	25,000	
	Rotorgene	Additional Rotorgene for Q PCR (Corbett)	PS		Provided by Parasitology
Minor value equipment	Nanodrop	Nanodrop DNA microspectrophotometer	DB/SW/various	\$15,000	Rank 1, Ordered 10/2005
	Bio-Rad package that would increase the SABC's Proteomic capabilities	Large-format GelAir Drying System plus accessories, and a large-format TransBlot cell for electroblotting, plus accessories. All up, the combination costs about \$8,000.	RL, general proteomics	8,000	Rank 2
	Protean IEF system	Bio-Rad IEF system to meet demand, alternatively there is the IsoelectrIQ2 IEF system from Proteome Systems	RL, general proteomics	14,500.	Rank 3
	Protein expression system	Roche rapid translation system	DB	10,000	Hold off
	Data projector	Fixed data projector for seminar room, including fitting	Users' cttee	8,000	Supply at lower cost without on line connections

* Note: the SABC aims to provide major equipment items of general use for researchers: it does not provide all minor equipment. Research groups are expected to provide their own specialist equipment. All equipment in the SABC is for general use, and items must not be taken out of the SABC without permission. Equipment allocated to labs must not be removed between labs in the SABC without agreement.