

Centre for Gene Research

12 December 2002

Notes from the Committee Meeting

Present: Theresa Wilson, Jo-Ann Stanton, James Kalmakoff, Andy Mercer, Clive Ronson, Chris Brown, Brian Monk

Apologies: Craig Marshall, Anthony Reeve, Kevin Farnden, Paul Hessian

In attendance: David Jones for item 5

1. Business Plan for the CEQ8000 – Documents previously circulated were discussed. The business plan submitted to Ian Smith contained a depreciation of \$50,000/year added to the cost of the sequencing. This would bring the cost of sequencing to \$30, the charges currently being paid for the ABI sequencing. The CEQ8000 uses less costly reagents and does not carry a \$18,000/year service contract. When the ABI sequencer finally falls over, we can continue to offer sequencing at the current \$30 and accumulate some depreciation.

The business plan for the CEQ8000 was begrudgingly accepted by Ian Smith but he pointed out that any request for replacement would need "to include full details of the resources that have been accumulated toward depreciation".

It was agreed that any further increases to our sequencing charges would price us out of the market.

2. The CGR Bank Account -- The VC had earlier (June) called for staff to disclose any "unusual business arrangements for conducting University activities". In our case (feeling the usual paranoia about the Registry) I disclosed the BNZ cheque account for small items of purchase (petty cash) and for the social events and student poster prizes. John Patrick replied (21/11/02) that the disclosure was accepted provided that the "invoices for social events were not in the name of the University or on University stationery". Upon seeking further clarification he advised that we act independently from the University as a Social Club "because a Social Club is not a University activity".

I am not entirely sure where this leaves us in regards to hosting events like the CGR Mid-Winter evening, but if asked, we can claim to be a "Social Club".

3. Current operating budget -- The operating budget for the period ending 31 October 2002 was tabled (without equipment depreciation costs) with a projected zero balance carry forward. When the CEQ8000 comes into full usage, we should begin to make a "profit".

4. Activities for 2003 -- Jo-Ann gave a verbal report on the Mid-Winter Evening (June 20th). There was sponsorship from the Research Themes: Functional genomics... and Oral microbiology and from Beckman-Coulter -- the CGR picked up the deficit of about \$800. One of the disappointing aspects of the event was the poor student participation (7 student posters). Since this was run as an all inclusive event, the \$25 fee could have been a factor.

Jo-Ann has agreed to organise a similar event for 2003 with potentially a greater level of participation from the other 'Themes'.

5. Future of the CGR -- David Jones addressed the Meeting with his views on other similar service units like the genomics and protein-microchemistry facilities. He will be undertaking a review of these units and the current Director (term ends 31/12/02) has agreed to act until the outcome of this review is completed sometime in 2003. The introduction of new technology such as the 'protein-chip' will be part of this review.

The CGR Newsletter was not considered as a high priority although people enjoyed reading it. An annual report/Newsletter will be timed for early 2003.

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