Editorial Board of the International Journal of Systematic Bacteriology

Minutes of Meeting, 2 September 1974

Tokyo, Japan

1. Call to order. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, V. B. D. Skerman.

2. Record of attendance. Present were members R. A. Day, J. G. Holt, E. F. Lessel, H. P. R. Seeliger, and V. B. D. Skerman. Also present were K. Øvre, S. P. Lapage, and R. H. W. Schubert.

3. Title of Journal. H. Phaff had requested, by letter to the Chairman, that the title of the journal be changed to the “International Journal of Systematic Microbiology.” After lengthy discussion, it was unanimously agreed to retain the present title, for the meantime.

4. Scope of Journal. The question of whether the Journal should be broadened to include papers on microbial groups other than bacteria and yeasts was discussed. It was moved and seconded that until the next Congress for Bacteriology the Editorial Board has the right to accept manuscripts on systematics in related fields. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Format of descriptions of species. It was agreed that the notations of tests used in the description of species be clear, unambiguous, and devoid of jargon.

6. Inclusion of data in papers. It was unanimously agreed to alter the instructions to authors to require from 1 January 1975 that all data used in a taxonomic study be included in the paper, thus disallowing the option of sending the data to the World Data Center, Brisbane. A model paper will be prepared for publication.

7. Policy on color plates. The question of the inclusion of color plates was discussed, and it was agreed to retain the policy discouraging the inclusion of color plates in papers in the Journal.

8. Inclusion of review articles. The question whether the IJSB should solicit review articles was discussed. It was agreed that the present policy of acceptance of review articles with submission to referees be maintained.

9. Responsibilities of editors. There was discussion and agreement on the disposition of manuscripts among members of the Editorial Board.

10. Inclusion of abstracts in IJSB. The question of whether the IJSB should include a section listing and abstracting papers of taxonomic interest published in other journals was discussed. It was unanimously agreed not to include such a section.

11. Publication of minimal standards and approved lists in the IJSB. The Editorial Board recognized the need for communication of proposed minimal standards for tests used in the description of taxa and lists of bacterial names suggested for approval. The IJSB will serve as the forum for this discussion, and the pages are to be opened for publication of tentative proposals. It was agreed that all proposed lists of names will be edited and published by the Ad Hoc Committee appointed for the purpose (Minute 22, meeting of 29 August 1973, Judicial Commission, IJSB, 24:380), full credit being given in the title of the paper to the origin of the recommendation. Papers dealing with minimal standards will be handled through the Chairman. It will be stressed in all these publications that they are tentative until given final approval by ICSB.

12. Report of Managing Editor. The Managing Editor reported on the finances and circulation of the IJSB and made suggestions on ways to improve the financial condition of the Journal. After discussion, it was agreed to raise the individual subscription rate to $12 US/yr, effective January 1976. It was also agreed to discontinue the preferred rate subscriptions and to provide the Editorial Panel and the officers of the ICSB and Judicial Commission with complimentary copies. It was further agreed that the Managing Editor will send 100 reprints of each set of minutes of the meetings of ICSB subcommittees to the respective Chairmen for distribution to the subcommittee members.

13. Publication of symposium papers. There was discussion of the policy governing the publication of papers given at organized symposia. It was agreed that the policy of not submitting these papers to review will be maintained.

14. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting will be in Munich, Germany, in 1978.

John G. Holt, Editorial Secretary