

Bioc Technical Advisory Board Minutes

7 July 2022

Attending: Charlotte Soneson, Wolfgang Huber, Vince Carey, Rafael Irizarry, Aedin Culhane, Levi Waldron, Jennifer Wokaty, Michael Love (until :20), Alexandru Mahmoud, Lori Shepherd, Stephanie Hicks, Kasper Hansen

Regrets: Laurent Gatto, Shila Ghazanfar, Robert Gentleman, Aaron Lun, Hector Corrada Bravo

:03 - :06 Previous [minutes](#) approved.

:06 - :07 [M1 builds](#) now available (kjohnson builder).

- M1 mac mini at macstudio.
- Only build/install binaries, no check for platform-specific errors.
- Thanks Jen Wokaty!

:07 - :10 TAB election results.

- 11 nominees, 5 vacant seats.
- Re-elected: Stephanie Hicks, Laurent Gatto, Charlotte Soneson.
- New members: Davide Riso, Sean Davis.
- Leaving the board: Hector Corrada Bravo, Aaron Lun.

:10 - :15 CAB minutes quick overview. [CAB 6-9 Minutes](#). Highlights:

- Reviewed activities and presentation for BioC2022.
- Concerns over high cost of BioC2022 in-person attendance. Reasons include increased costs, decreased in-person attendance (due partly to venue restrictions), lower student registration fee. The goal is to break even.
- Community Manager position interviews on Tues 12th July.
- Please consider adding posts to the Bioconductor blog:
 - [biocblog GitHub](#)
 - [biocblog](#)
- Kozo translation-a-thon this Saturday.

:15 - :25 Ad hoc presentation by Lori

- Some hiccups when trying to get the Single Package Builder to run on the new mac and Windows with the new toolchain. Move towards a different approach for build reports for new packages - GitHub Actions?
 - SPB is "just what you want" as a user - immediate feedback.
 - How close can we make it (containers) to the build system? Can we execute the GitHub Actions on our system? Containerize the BBS? Linux yes, harder for mac/Windows.
 - Idea: Set up a template workflow that prospective developers would bring into their package - would get built on systems that are "close" to the build system (not identical).

- Short term - fine if the SPB only works on Linux. May need to have package acceptance a bit further in advance to the release (to deal with the issues appearing when it's brought into the BBS and tested across all platforms).

:25 - :35 Software engineering considerations: Rafa.

- [Ad](#) is out for a software engineer (not funded by Bioconductor).
- How to reduce non-software engineering related workload for software engineers?
 - Do we have too many packages? Lots of time spent on review and 'keeping things going'. Would be useful to have a summary of how time is spent.
 - Within the next six months, the goal is for all package reviews to be community-based. Also reaching out to authors of packages where the builds are failing.
 - Debian keeps a list of 'orphaned' packages not being maintained - can be taken over by other community members, help figure out packages that can be deprecated.
 - Bioconductor covers many different fields - some packages have few downloads but are still impactful. Hard to determine whether a package is 'highly used'.
 - Many packages have little maintenance burden for the core team.
 - Prioritization - where do we need to do more engineering to be able to do more data science, software/algorithmic development?
 - Get a list of 'core' packages - priorities are enhancing/maintaining those, since they are the basis for many other packages.
 - There's a big community doing scientific development, but often not focused on software development.

:35 - :40 Meet the TAB session at BioC2022 - scheduled for Friday July 29, either 9-9:30 or 9:30-10 Pacific time (the other slot is the core team). Who will be there/what do we do?

- Talk about binary production (incl. M1) - containers.
- Branch renaming?
- Working groups - expose the concept, encourage people to sign up.
- Open wishlist request (deadline before the meeting), active sli.do during the meeting as well.

:40 - :60 Governance

- Vote/adopt changes to the governance document (working group representatives, expected attendance).
- Vote to allow up to 20 members this year to allow working group representation.
- Identify priority working groups for addition at the next TAB meeting.
- Vote postponed until next meeting - need to clarify the working group concept and criteria for obtaining voting rights, as well as the long-term vision.