

**Minutes of the Business Meeting, Austin, Texas 2014**  
**Division of Animal Behavior**

**I.** Meeting called to order by Divisional Chair, D. Hews

**II.** Introduction of DAB officers

**III.** Report by Division Program Officer, Allison Welch

1. The DPO discussed the meeting statistics and listed the titles of symposia that DAB is cohosting for the 2015 meeting in West Palm Beach.
2. Proposals for symposia for the 2016 meeting in Portland will be due August 2014. If you are interested in creating a symposium or having DAB sponsoring a symposium that you are creating, please speak with Allison and/or the other DAB executive officers; we will be more than happy to assist you in working through the process.
3. SICB is also looking for proposals for workshops; if you have any, please contact the DPO.
4. Finally, the DPO offered thanks to those individuals who checked the 'either' box in registration, for either an oral presentation or a poster presentation. It helps the program officers organize the meeting.

**IV.** Report by Secretary, Melissa Bowlin

1. The Secretary reported on a change in the format of the Best Student Oral Presentation Competition. Students now submit an extended abstract with their regular meeting abstract. These abstracts are reviewed by a committee that consists of the DAB Executive Officers, a member-at-large, and the DAB graduate student/post-doc representative. In future years, the winner of the competition will replace the GSPD representative. The panel of judges chose 7 finalists to present in a single session at the meeting. The finalists were announced in DAB's fall newsletter.
2. The Secretary thanked the BSP judges (both oral and poster) in attendance for their efforts on behalf of DAB.
3. The Chair asked the members present to consider placing the posters for the Best Student Poster Presentation Competition in a single session as well, since that would reduce the number of judges needed for the competition and the work they had to do. The members were generally opposed to this idea since it would potentially place posters with disparate topics in the same session. The Secretary reported that finding judges for the posters was not difficult now that changes have been made to the oral competition.
  - 1) The members also felt that if DAB were to follow through on this idea, it would be important to ask the students to stay for a longer amount of time. Many judges had trouble getting to all of the posters they had to judge in a particular session within 1 hour.
4. The Secretary then invited feedback from the membership on the new procedure for the oral competition.
  - 1) Several individuals felt the process this year lacked clarity and were not aware that the competition had changed. The Secretary noted that due to this lack of clarity, the individuals participating in the competition were given an extra week and a half to complete their extended abstracts.
  - 2) One member was concerned because the best writers may not be the best speakers, and therefore the finalists might not be the same individuals who would be chosen if all of the students were allowed to present. She suggested that advisors write letters of recommendation and that these become part of the students' applications.

- 3) Members also noted that the new system made it impossible for students to present in a companion session to a symposium.

#### **V. NSF representatives' report**

1. Michelle Elekonich and John Wingfield were both present at the meeting.
2. NSF is currently looking for a PERMANENT Program officer for Animal Behavior—if you have any suggestions, contact Michelle.
3. At the time of the meeting, the budget was still not finalized, so NSF was operating at 90% of the fiscal year budget; the sequester further reduced the operating budget.
4. As a result, support of SICB symposia will be very competitive. However, NSF is still looking to fund forward-thinking symposia and workshops at meetings; Michelle encouraged everyone to continue to apply for funding.
5. Behavioral Systems is now the only cluster in IOS to still do Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grants.
6. As a reminder, REU supplement requests should now be incorporated into the full proposal.
7. IOS is now offering mid-career investigator awards for individuals who are post-tenure but want to get new skills; if you are interested, talk to a program officer at NSF.
8. NSF has noted the efforts of SICB to broaden participation.
9. In the new IOS core solicitation, NSF is encouraging proposals that are aimed at relationships between genotype and phenotype; genome and phenomes....; opportunities for community interactions (e.g. WIKIS), etc.
10. John Wingfield's term as the Assistant Director for Biological Sciences ends in September, and NSF is currently looking for a replacement. John is trying to convince the administrators that his replacement also be an organismal biologist.

#### **VI. Discussion of DAB affairs**

1. The DPO noted that there will be a survey sent around for ideas following the meeting.
2. DAB is looking for nominations for the position of Secretary; DAB also wants to increase the number of representatives from DAB on the general SICB committees, so if you are interested in that kind of service, please notify the DAB executive officers.
3. The Chair announced that we will be using the increased discretionary funding to fund both an increased award for the Best Student Oral Presentation Competition and for improvements to the DAB/DNB social.
4. The Chair also reminded members of the Wenner award for strong inference, which DAB has not given out for many years but which is still available for students.

#### **VII. Meeting adjourned**