

DAB Business Meeting Minutes January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Kendra Sewell, DAB Chair**

Introduced new program officer Kathleen Lynch

Thanked outgoing program officer, Scott MacDougall-Shackleton

Chair thanked the many volunteer judges for their continued service to the division, as well as the many participants in the new DAB mentor/mentee program.

We talked about the new SICB allies designation, which was new this meeting. It was put in place to provide support for conference attendees and SICB members from a variety of backgrounds, including those who have historically been underrepresented in STEM. In the theme of inclusion, the quiet room and family room were also highlighted.

**The Executive Committee attended the meeting and introduced themselves to the DAB membership.**

Ten members of the executive committee introduced themselves, including the current president (Beth Brainerd), past president (Lou Burnett), president elect (Melina Hale), Program Officer (Jake Socha), Program Officer elect (Thomas Sanger), Secretary (Alice Gibb), Treasurer (Miriam Ashley-Ross), Integrative and Comparative Biology Editor (Ulrike K. Muller), Integrative Organismal Biology Editor (Adam Summers), and Executive Director (Brett Burk).

The executive committee thanked SICB members for their continued volunteer efforts, and highlighted the participation in the society's 12 divisions, 12 standing committees, and the 100 members who volunteered to be safety allies this meeting. They also mentioned that if anyone was concerned about SICB holding the annual meeting in Texas due to the California travel ban, they should contact the society president at [president@sicb.org](mailto:president@sicb.org).

**Program Officer Discussion Points**

If you have ideas for symposia topics, please talk to our new program officer Kathleen Lynch about ideas, as she will be able to help vet and structure symposia plans.

We had a large number of good proposals for symposia this year. There were so many good proposals that many of the good proposals were not able to be supported for Washington DC. If you didn't get approved for Washington, please try again! We would like to continue to see these high quality symposia proposals, as they are key components to both our annual meetings and our society journal. DAB has been successful in the past at successfully proposing interesting and integrative symposia in Animal Behavior, let's keep up the good work!

There was a brief discussion about how talks are organized into sessions for the annual meeting. The program officers from the all the divisions get together for 2 days of organizing the abstracts into sessions. The number 1 factor used to organize these sessions is what authors choose as their topics when submitting abstracts. Be very deliberate about the key topics that

are used, and if you are unhappy with where you were placed this year, it may be worth revising your topics for next year's submission.

### **Future Annual Meetings**

Washington DC (2021), Phoenix, AZ (2022), Austin, TX (2023), Seattle, WA (2024), Atlanta, GA (2025)

### **Request for feedback**

Secretary Erica Westerman made a request for feedback for the on-line DAB judging form, which was new this year.

DAB Chair Kendra Sewall made requests for more ideas for getting DAB members involved in the society and connecting society members.

Kendra also discussed the pilot DAB mentoring program, and made a request for feedback on the mentoring program. There will be a survey request coming for feedback on the mentoring program after the meeting. This request facilitated a longer discussion on the mentoring program, and a concern that the advertisements of the mentoring program did not meet all of DAB participants.

It was decided that we would send out an e-mail advertisement to the DAB membership about the mentoring program early in the fall next year, to make sure we reach a larger proportion of the community.

### **The DAB Social and Marlene Zuk Award Session**

The DAB Social will be from 8-10 out in the lobby Sunday, following the DAB Best student talk Lone Star F 1:30-3:15pm that afternoon.

### **Student-Postdoc Representative, Sydney Hope**

Sydney highlighted the Student/Postdoc booth with "how to" pamphlets for science communication and job transitions. Examples include how to submit symposium, and how to get a postdoc, among others.

She also highlighted the student and postdoc workshop during lunch on Tuesday- Transitions in science. This workshop featured a discussion of different career paths and a round table discussion about transitions. She then made a request for feedback and thoughts on how we make the student/postdoc experience at SICB better?

### **NSF Program Officer Karen Mabry, from Behavioral Systems**

There are lots of new programs and ongoing initiatives at NSF. Karen highlighted some of the programs she felt were most relevant to the DAB membership, but emphasized that there was more information available at the NSF booth, and that there were multiple program officers in attendance at SICB this year.

After thanking all the DAB members who act as panelists for NSF, Karen reminded the group that NSF is always recruiting new program officers. Karen will be rotating off of Behavioral Systems this spring, and Patrick Abbot will be the new rotating program officer for Behavioral Systems. Jodie Jawor is the permanent program officer for Behavioral Systems. Michelle Ekekonich is now the Deputy Division Director for IOS (Integrative Organismal Systems) at NSF.

In continuation of the change Biological Sciences made last year, core solicitations are on a no deadline system, and there is no limit to the number of proposals a person can be PI on. The new solicitation for 2020 is out, and there are no major changes from last year's solicitation. (A reminder to go to NSF's webpage to get the most recent solicitation. Google often has the old solicitation as a top hit.) Due to the drop in proposal submissions that followed the transition to no deadlines, success rates are up, so please do submit proposals!

Key logistics: 1) If you see the term "Waiting on new solicitation" when looking up a program, it means that there is not currently an active solicitation, and one is pending. 2) Many programs do still have deadlines, however the core solicitations in Biology do not. 3) There will be an NSF Information Session Mon 12-1:30 in lone star C.

Clarification on the Rules of Life: There are two broad programs associated with the term Rules of Life. First, there is a Rules of Life track as part of core solicitation for each division. Rules of Life submissions must cross two or more divisions. NSF would like more Rules of Life solicitations from DAB. Behavior often crosses multiple divisions, so this track may be appropriate for many proposals from DAB members. This track within the core solicitation for each division does not have a deadline.

There is also an "Understanding Rules of Life"- epigenetics and microbiome call that is across NSF. These solicitations do have deadlines, and need to cross directorates. They are different from the "Rules of Life" track within the core BIO solicitation.

There is also a new solicitation for Integration Institutes, to facilitate collaborative and integrative research in biology. There are two tracks, Integration Institute Design, and Integration Institute Implementation. Many SICB and DAB members participated in the Reintegrating Biology workshops that happened in early December. These attendees may be primed to submit to the Integration Design Track, which is for initiating, exploring, and developing ideas and integrative collaboration that will later be submitted as a design proposal. Implementation proposals for teams who have already developed an integrative research plan, and education plan, and a sustainable management plan.

The National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) also has special funding opportunities. All NEON data is free and publicly available, and may prove useful for broad scale research.

The IOS EDGE program for advancing genomic tools in non-model animals is continuing, but the solicitation is currently being revised. Deadline is usually in February. This will be both for

genomic and transgenic tool development for non-model animals, as well as for developing genomic tools for specific species of interest.

There is a new track in DEB that may be of interest to DAB members: bridging ecology and evolution! This new track is specifically for proposals that integrate ecology and evolution. Applicants must identify a program in Ecology and a program in Evolution where their proposal should be reviewed when submitting to this new integrative track in DEB.

New NSF Postdoc Solicitation (applications due in November). There is a new Rules of Life Postdoc Track, in addition to the Broadening Participation track and the Plant Genome Research Track.

Special Programs:

OPUS: midcareer- for DEB. Retraining for associate professors.

Supplements for proposals, such as REU and RUI, should be submitted with the original application, not later.

A reminder that there are Career-Life Balance Supplements, which provide up to three months of salary for parental or family leave. These can be used for postdocs on the grant as well as the PI.

Symposium awards: NSF often provides funding for symposium proposals, such as SICB symposia. Speaker diversity is important for these symposia awards.

NSF has a new harassment policy which requires institutions to report findings against PIs. There are now anonymous reporting mechanisms associated with this harassment policy. Program officers are mandatory reporters.

### **DAB Elections**

We will be holding elections this spring for a new division secretary. Please talk to Erica Westerman to learn more about being secretary. It is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about how the society and division functions, and assisting organizing the DAB student awards competitions is very rewarding.

**Meet and Greet of DAB membership-** members introduced themselves to other business meeting attendees they did not know.

Meeting adjourned.