

Minutes of 2011 DAB Business Meeting

Our meeting opened with comments from our chair, including an update from the SICB Executive Committee Meeting. On the business docket for the spring was confirming that DAB Best Student Presentation bylaws are consistent with the society-wide bylaws. As always, the chair solicited comments and suggestions for DAB's activities at the meeting.

We were visited by two NSF representatives, who summarized the state of affairs for animal behavior at NSF. In 2010, they received 215 proposals and were able to fund 26 (approx. 12%). Of the 74 DIG applications received they were able to fund 18 (approx 24%). The 2011 budget has not been announced, but will likely be around 85% of last year's budget. For those animal behavior investigations that have a significant neuroscience component, it was mentioned that neural systems had a slightly higher funding rate (approx. 17-18%). They also discussed the state of funding at NSF in general, with no surprising news. The funding climate has been, and will continue to be, very competitive. They also informed us of two new requirements for proposals: 1. proposals need to submit a data management and sharing plan, and 2. the project outcome report due at the end of a granting period will need a layman's version for public consumption (part of NSF trying to help expand understanding of the role of basic research).

We also bid goodbye to Sarah Humfeld, our hard working Program Officer of many years, and welcomed Allison Welch to the job. As always we discussed the role of symposia in keeping DAB an actively contributing division at SICB. If you are at all interested in the process of putting together a symposium, contact our new Program Officer for more information. We wrapped up the meeting with a synopsis of the Executive Committee meeting. All indications are that the health of the society is good (although donations are always welcome). We also discussed the possibility of a slight increase in the registration fee (5\$), with that money being equally divided amongst the divisions to provide additional capital for division activities.