

SICB Executive Committee

3 January 2001

Hilton Chicago Towers

Present: Andrew Biewener, Ronald Dimock, Martin Feder, Steven Hand, Penny Hopkins, Alan Kohn, Harvey Lillywhite, Stacia M., Cathhy McFaden, Rachel Merz, Mike Moore, David Norris, Diana P., John Pearse, David Pf, John Pilger, Wendy Ryan, Kimberly Smith, Marvalee Wake, John Wingfield, Sally Woodin, and Miriam Zelditch,

BAI Staff present: Brett Burk, Richard Burk, Ann Landis, and Micah Sauntry

President Martin Feder welcomed the group to Chicago. Introductions were made.

Wake moved and Hand seconded to approve the minutes of January 2000. Motion passed unanimously.

Feder reported that SICB hosted a very large and successful meeting in Atlanta. At that meeting the Board approved a management change as of April 1st 2000. He feels that this was a very good move. Smith Bucklin was becoming very expensive, and Feder hopes that now the Board can focus on programmatic items rather than financial issues. K. Smith will review the financial implications of this move to BAI in his report.

Feder reflected back to two goals of the Society. First was to protect the American Zoologist Journal, as it is the major source of income for the society. We have undertaken a systematic program of innovation with the journal and also signed up for BioOne participation. The second major goal was to reduce the costs to members and to retain members. We have reduced registration and dues costs and there will be a further reduction of dues proposed today.

Sunday is the last meeting as President for Feder. He would like to leave this question. Should SICB have core functions in addition to providing its journal and Annual Meeting? If so, what should they be, and will they fit the Bradley Rule that has been supported by the Board? It is becoming increasingly difficult to get volunteers to carry out these initiatives. Should we pay others to do the work, as with the Public Affairs initiative that has been proposed with AIBS, or should we work to get our members more involved?

Reports

Pacific Rim Initiative (Marvalee Wake)

Wake presented the report provided in the Board Book. A number of societies/groups have adopted integrative biology as a focus, but there is little communication between these groups. We would invite leaders from like-minded organizations to come to our

meeting and discuss what they mean by integrative biology and what they are doing to support and promote it. Wake suggests that this program be implemented for the Anaheim CA meeting. We could invite them to the meeting in Toronto the year after that. Wake presented several different funding levels ranging from \$425 to \$12,425. She estimates that there would not be more than 10-12 guests because of the timing factor. Pearse and Wake have been working together on a symposium regarding integrative biology. This would engage the membership and the international colleagues as well. Pearse supports the idea, but wonders how receptive the membership would be to expanding internationally within the divisions. The ecology group has discussed expanding into Latin American. Systematics is already in collaboration with the rest of the world. Feder recommended that we talk more about this and draft some proposals.

The budget is critical to approving this initiative. Hand would like to know if this would comply with the Bradley Rule. Sally W. stated that the Program Advisory Committee has \$25K, and this initiative would be much less. Biewener wondered if this would conflict with other meetings and symposia scheduled in an already very busy schedule.

Sally W moved and Wake seconded that we proceed with exploring the Pacific Rim initiative and that it include a luncheon and a society wide symposium. Motion passed with Hand abstaining.

Evolution Resolution

President Feder attended the Berkeley conference regarding teaching evolution. From that meeting came a draft resolution that groups were encouraged to adopt. Feder would like the SICB members to vote on this resolution during the Business Meeting. He read the draft statement and asked for discussion. Discussion regarding the wording followed and it was then agreed to bring the revised version to the membership for vote at the Business Meeting.

Feder suggested that we approve this in principle and then assign a subcommittee or group to determine how to move forward. A town meeting has been organized during the week on this topic.

Pearse moved and Moffett seconded to bring the revised statement on the teaching of evolution to the membership at the Business Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Newsletter

Ruedi Birenheide distributes the newsletter electronically with a link or via hardcopy if members request it. Burk noted that each division was asked if they wanted the newsletter sent electronically, and the response seemed positive. Feder added that we could go back to regular mail, or we could mail a division newsletter to each division. In an electronic poll the respondents stated that they preferred it electronically without hard copies. Burk suggested that the table of contents be provided that is linked. Ryan agrees

this would be very effective. Feder asked that each division chair ask his/her members and we will revisit this issue on Sunday.

Society Management Change

One of the largest line items in our budget is the society management cost. This has changed drastically this past year. Feder introduced the Burk & Associates staff present (Richard Burk, Brett Burk, Micah Sauntry). Brett Burk thanked the officers and other executive committee members for helping to get BAI up to speed during this transition. Feder added that the contract with BAI states that a SICB will include a merit increase in addition to the management cost. To assist in determining this, Feder passed out an evaluation to be filled out by the executive committee.

Program Advisory Committee

Dores' committee received four proposals that totaled \$21K. The deadline for proposals for Anaheim will be March 1st and then December 1st the next year. Dores asked that the division chairs please encourage their members. Feder wondered if asking the program chairs and division chairs is most effective. Dores said anyone could submit a proposal. Feder asked if there were other ways we could obtain proposals. Dores believes that this still needs to come from the membership – it needs to be grass roots. Penny added that we need to stress to the divisions that money is available to fund programs and we need innovative ideas. Dores likes the idea of a lectureship. The problem is that we didn't get the proposals.

Finances (Kim Smith)

Treasurer Smith reported that SICB's net worth is approximately 1.5 million. Last year it was 1 million. There is 1 million in the bank - about 200K in each account. Some is in money markets and some in CDs.

Regarding meetings, Smith pointed out we lost \$180K in 2000, \$110K in Denver, and \$107 in Atlanta. Chicago will be better, as a loss of only \$50K is projected. This year, \$34K was spent on subsidizing student participation and \$40K on AV. Costs are high in Chicago due in large part to the unions. We suspect Anaheim will be even better. Also, Smith reported that the abstract fee was reduced to \$0, decreasing the meeting revenue by about \$22K.

Smith noted that everything that is blank in this budget proposal is blank because BAI is not charging for it, when Smith Bucklin had. Another change to the budget sheets is the addition of the Committee budgets.

Kohn moved and Wake seconded to approve the 2001 budget. Motion passed unanimously.

Smith reported that the Journal is our major source of revenue and that we need to diversify to decrease this dependency. It is hoped that the Annual Meetings will be profitable eventually. Also, the investments should help. Biewener hopes there are plans to increase the endowment fund. Burk will be proposing an investment plan to be discussed next year.

Feder noted that because we currently have funds available, it is a good time to build programs into the budget. He encouraged the divisions to come forward with ideas.

Dues Decrease Discussion

The Executive Committee recommended a dues decrease for certain member categories. It would bring the primary membership rate down to \$85. The decrease would reduce the 2002 revenue by \$14,000.

Sally W. moved and Kohn seconded to decrease the dues as recommended. Motion passed unanimously.

Feder moved and Moffett seconded to amend the motion so that each person would be asked to add information into a bioportal. Amendment failed with Moffett in favor.

Wake is pleased with this motion, as it keeps a promise that was made many years ago. Feder added that we should spread the word to the divisions.

American Zoologist (John Edwards)

Edwards reported that institutional subscriptions to American Zoologist continue to decline. He does not know if we can expect to maintain the current level of income. Edwards noted that young people are not pleased with the two-year wait for publication. It was suggested that the budget be increased so that we could double up for one year and catch up. B. Burk added that the costs of increasing the size of the Journal are about \$900 per issue and the mailing costs are not significantly impacted. Another alternative is to publish fewer symposia. Also being discussed and voted on this week will be a name change and a format change for the journal. This would change the cover page also.

Burk and Edwards will draft a proposal to be presented to the Committee on Sunday. Scott asked if there were other journals that we are affiliated with that we could outsource some of the symposia. Feder noted that we could simply turn down some symposia to catch up. Kohn suggested asking symposia organizers if they would like to publish in another journal. Edwards does not feel this is a good idea. More discussion will follow after review of the Sunday proposal.

Public Affairs Committee

Wake reported that the PAC has assumed many tasks. Some of these have been very successful, some not. She wondered if some of the Committee functions or projects would be better managed by the Secretariat.

Feder and Wake feel this committee needs some redefined. We need to decide what the committee should be doing and then reformulate it to accomplish these goals. Feder suggested that the committee function might be media relations. It could work with the other committee in this capacity. Wake would like to continue working with the committee during this reformulation.

During the Sunday meeting, there will be a discussion regarding the support of AIBS' public affairs office. Feder stressed that SICB needs to have a functional committee handling this important task.

Elections and Annual Cycle of Operations

Feder asked that everyone review the cycle of operations and provide suggested changes to Brett Burk. The new schedule will be printed in the handbook.

This year's ballot return was very small. Changes need to be made to the annual schedule to allow enough time for the ballot to be mailed. This may increase the return rate. Ryan felt it was awkward that the information was received electronically but that votes could not be cast electronically. Per the articles of incorporation for the state of Illinois, ballot must be on paper to be legally binding. It is believed that these state laws will be changed soon. This is also stated in SICB's Constitution.

Wake moved and ? seconded to propose a Constitutional change to the membership to allow for electronic balloting when it becomes legislatively allowable. Motion passed with one abstention and one opposed.

Meeting Planning

Pearse reported that Toronto was approved as the location for the 2003 meeting. The 2002 meeting is progressing, and has approximately the same number of symposium scheduled as the 2001 meeting, which may be a little tight.

Biewener would like to revise the way we handle posters. Perhaps a greater emphasis on posters would help reduce scheduling conflicts. Feder asked that this question be asked of the division memberships and discussed further on Sunday.

Sue Burk will make a presentation regarding the 2003 and 2004 meetings on Sunday. Pearse noted however, that the Marriott in New Orleans is one of the best options for 2004.

Agenda for Business meeting

Feder suspects that the topic of evolution will be brought up at the Business Meeting. The possible Journal name change will also be discussed. We need to ensure good attendance (at least 50 people) at this meeting.

New items

DEDB

The DEDB seems to be siphoning the DCDB membership instead of creating two strong ones. It was requested that this topic be brought up at the Business Meeting for discussion.

Co-sponsoring Societies

J. Pearse asked for clarification regarding the role of cosponsoring societies. Are we soliciting or discouraging new societies? Kohn invited many new groups at the time of the name change and nobody responded to this invitation. Cosponsoring societies pay \$250. Feder stated that a poll taken showed that the membership liked the current size of the meeting, while many stated they would prefer a more intimate one. Very few were in favor of increasing the size of the meeting. Feder noted that even though keeping the meeting small limits the income, we need to serve the interests of the membership. This will be discussed further under Wake's presidency.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15pm.

SICB Executive Committee

7 January 2001

Hilton Chicago Towers

Present: To Be Added from file

BAI Staff present: Brett Burk, Sue Burk, Micah Sauntry

Minutes

Motion to approve the Minutes of the second Executive Committee Meeting from 2000. Motion passes

Meetings

Post mortem of 2001

Martin Feder will be raising a resolution to maintain the general structure of the meeting. John Pearse has received quite a bit of complimentary information, but not much criticism and is looking for comments.

Sue Burk noted that we might have staggered breaks next year to improve the flow. S. Burk encouraged the group to submit the evaluation forms as a feedback mechanism.

Future Years

S. Burk indicated that we will put food carts in the exhibit hall next year to facilitate relatively quick and inexpensive food.

S. Burk noted that the Toronto Sheraton (2003 meeting) is connected to the underground.

John Pearse stated that some comments have centered on the allowed time for the presentations (20 minutes). Feder conducted a straw poll asking how many would like to reduce the time – with most things the same – all favored leaving it the same.

Feder then asked what if we decreased the presentation time and then gave the time to give the posters more primacy. Five were for shortening and slightly more favored leaving it the same.

Motion of resolution for appreciation for John Pearse and the convention staff for the fantastic job at this meeting. Unanimously approved.

Webmaster

Ruedinger Birenheide was introduced as the webmaster.

Membership

Al Bennett made a presentation of the membership information from the last two years. Bennett stated that the first goal is to send letters to those who have dropped off the membership roles. Bennett is seeking input and advice for the Committee

Smith was curious about the size of the group that left during the troubles. Feder believes that this number is about 1000 people. Marvalee Wake wondered whether we can woo them back or not, it is nice to be able to say that we kept the promise of reduced membership costs. It was noted that we should emphasize that the costs of the meeting, etc. have been coming down.

Feder stated that we did some telemarketing at one point to determine why people were leaving. Feder observed that the reduction of the membership dues will help increase the membership numbers.

Bennett will be writing a letter to those who joined the SICB by virtue of attending the meeting as non-members inviting them to continue. Feder pointed out that this committee has one of the most critical functions and asked the committee report to the president on a quarterly basis. Bennett agreed.

AIBS Public Affairs Initiative

Feder gave an overview of the concerns with our lack of representation in this area and how AIBS might be able to help. Feder stated that if we are going to participate in this type of activity, we need a mechanism and AIBS has offered to create a pub affairs office supported by the AIBS member societies. They have requested financial support based on the level of dues.

Feder introduced Richard O'Grady, AIBS Executive Director, and Ellen Paul, AIBS Legislative Manager. O'Grady stated that this project is primarily designed to help those organizations that do not have a public office representative in Washington. O'Grady explained that this got underway during the November '99 Presidents' Summit – where 57 presidents, including SICB, were in attendance.

O'Grady stated that if this fund drive is successful, they will add another person – full time to the public policy office. O'Grady reported that 21 societies have responded – 8 have stated that they are strongly considering funding this. The goal is to have a 3 year commitment to this program since the funds are going to the salary of the public policy office.

Feder commented that we obviously would not be able to dictate the agenda, but if we have a policy issue of particular concern, how would it be coordinated. Paul stated that the core issues, such as evolution, funding, etc. will always be the highest priority – for other items, the priorities will be determined by a council that is appointed by the member society presidents, including SICB.

Feder reminded the Executive Committee of the Bradley Rule – we should spend only \$1K on worthy causes and then the remainder should only be spent on items that impact at least 1/3 of the membership.

Motion to confirm the AIBS Public Policy line item for a three year period. Motion passed unanimously.

Wake pointed out that she is also a member of the AIBS Board of Directors. Wake has discussed this with the SICB Public Affairs Committee and they have expressed a preference to focus on the media aspect and have the AIBS as the mechanism for dealing with governmental affairs.

Bio One

O'Grady gave an overview of this program. Feder stated that this program provides for electronification of the SICB Journal. O'Grady mentioned that there is a sole paid employee of BioOne named Heather Joseph.

Feder asked what are the prospects of making the journals available to individual members. O'Grady stated that the sgml coding is available for this for re-purposing by the individual societies. O'Grady further stated that there is no indication of when this would be, but there is a possibility that the societies could subscribe on behalf of their membership.

O'Grady explained that this was developed as a subscription product for libraries and that the participation is non-exclusive.

PAC/PIF

Feder explained that there was a \$25K approval for 2001, we would like to do that again for 2002.

Motion to approve \$25K for PIF for 2002. Passed unanimously

Penny Hopkins pointed out that there will be renewed efforts to advertise this program. Wake stated that they would like to see a three year experiment on this program with Chicago being the first year.

Wake has spoken with the Committee and they will be distributing a note to the full membership each of the next three months.

Feder pointed out that they don't feel compelled to spend out all of the money if it is not warranted.

Meeting Format

Motion of Resolution that the Executive Committee would like to keep the general structure the same.

Motion approved unanimously

Feder noted that there were many discussions about the possible changes to the structure of the program and that this resolution does not preclude tweaking of the program.

Newsletter

Feder asked for Divisional Comments on the Newsletter. Feder noted that we will send an email to all of the members with a hotlink to the Newsletter. We will also send a version of the divisional reports to the divisional members.

American Zoologist

Format Change

Feder stated that this will cost about \$900 per issue.

Motion to approve \$6,00 to cover the format change in principle with final approval of the format by the Executive Committee. Approved with 5 abstentions

This would change the cover and the trim size.

Backlog

Feder stated that they are working to reduce the time lag.

Motion to approve \$20K for reducing the backlog. Unanimously approved.

John Edwards stated that once we have the backlog taken care of, we could actually begin seeing the symposia in June of the year they were presented.

Electronic Membership Directory

Feder noted that we have limited the output of this to keep spammers from using it for their “nefarious purposes.” Feder noted that we have had a request from NSF to be able to look at the divisional lists. Feder noted that the fact that NSF asked us for this is good news.

Motion to approve this access. Approved unanimously

Increasing Minority Recruitment

Motion of Resolution: SICB should commit to an ongoing program of progress in minority involvement. The entire membership should be invited to participate in this program. The president should be responsible for appointing a committee, task force or working group with a three point charge:

Prioritize the recommendations of the report of the workshop on minority involvement and add others

Implement those recommendations for which implementation is feasible for 2002 meeting

According to the priorities that are established, develop an action plan and budget for beyond the 2002 meeting

Unanimously approved

Feder stated that we supported a workshop on this last year and this is a list of the recommendations that came out of it. Dianna Padilla was the chair of this workshop and received funding for it and is bringing these recommendations forward. This was brought up at the DEE meeting and they were unanimously in favor of it. This was brought up in other division and they were concerned about putting this with a sole division. Feder stated that if we are going to do this it needs to be on a continuing basis and needs to be at the society wide level. DIZ and DAB felt the same way.

Electronic Projection Straw Poll

Feder asked about electronic projection – is it worth the trouble? The vast majority believe that it is worth the trouble.

International Participation Initiative

This began as a Pac Rim Initiative. Wake was delighted by the response at the last meeting and has expanded the scope as a result. There would probably be a maximum of 25 participants with a total grant of \$500 each. Due to trouble with Euro travel, this will be held late in the meeting.

Motion to approve \$12.5K for the IPI. Passed.

There was some reluctance about this initiative if it is intended to be a closed meeting. Wake stated that this is to include a symposium and bring in participation in a discussion. We are also encouraging them to participate in the divisional business meeting.

Passing of the Gavel

The gavel was passed. All members rotating off were thanked and those coming on were welcomed.

Motion of Resolution of appreciation for those rotating off the committee and those rotating on. Passed unanimously.

Feder conducted the ceremonial passing of the name tag. Wake complimented the fantastic effort of Feder.

Wake noted that Kim Smith has been a great officer as well as providing a sorely needed sense of humor at trying times.

Deans and Chairs

Wake noted that this project has been periodically done in the past. The goal is to network the deans and chairs.

Motion to approve this with no cost to the SICB. Unanimously approved.

Student Support

The GIAR awards were doubled to \$12K last year and the endowment amount is about \$5K per annum.

Motion to fund this at \$24,000 for 2002. Passed with 19 in favor, two opposed 1 abstain

Feder spoke against this on the basis of the Bradley Rule – the number of impacted people is below 1/3. Feder commented that perhaps we should increase the size of the endowment instead of paying this out of unrestricted funds.

It was noted that the ripple effect of this action brings it into compliance with the Bradley Rule.

Congressional Science Fellowship

The expense is not trivial for this program – about \$40-50,000. Wake asked for a written proposal for this including a budget.

The meeting was adjourned at 0935.