

# **SICB Division of Comparative Biomechanics (DCB)**

## ***Meeting Minutes***

### **Minutes of the 2007 Business Meeting in Phoenix**

DCB held its first Business Meeting on January 4, 2007, at the SICB Annual Meeting in Phoenix, AZ.

Bob Full, the interim Chair, called the meeting to order. The first order of business was the Introduction of the interim officers: Bob Full, Chair; Frank Fish, Program Officer; Miriam Ashley-Ross, Secretary; Monica Daley, Student representative. Bob briefly discussed the rationale for creating the Division of Comparative Biomechanics: it should cut across disciplines and taxa of study, thereby integrating the strengths of the other divisions. He highlighted Mimi Koehl's plenary lecture and the Not-So-Mini Symposium honoring Steve Vogel as examples of the appeal of comparative biomechanics.

Adopting the Bylaws for the division was the first official item on the Agenda. Proposed bylaws were passed out for examination by the attendees. A vote was taken, and the Bylaws were adopted unanimously. The DCB would like to create a worldwide list of folks interested in biomechanics. If you know of anyone, particularly foreign biomechanists who would be interested in the DCB, please send names of people who should be on the list to Bob Full. The goal of this effort is to increase membership of DCB, and also to have a list of potential speakers who could be invited to participate in symposia. The next topic of discussion was awards (student papers, etc) - currently DCB doesn't have any on the books. We need to establish criteria for student paper/poster awards. Also, if we are to offer any more substantial awards, we need sponsors, or suggestions of sponsors.

Frank Fish discussed symposia for upcoming meetings. We need symposia for the Boston meeting (the 2009 Annual Meeting) - think especially about local people. Frank made several suggestions for subjects of symposia in the Fall Newsletter. Funding, or attempts to procure it, is necessary to get a symposium approved. The funding can come from a Division within SICB, NSF, a book publisher, etc. If you are considering organizing a symposium, please consult with Frank regarding ideas. There are also two other ways to have symposia:

(1) Mini-symposium - contributed papers that are designated as their own mini-symposium, with their own keyword. This has the advantage that it doesn't cost much, and doesn't require outside funding. Papers from mini-symposia may be published in the ICB journal. The only downside to a mini-symposium is that speakers wouldn't get registration fees waived.

(2) "Flash" symposium - half day event, could be proposed after deadline date. As with a mini-symposium, this option wouldn't require outside funding. Papers could be published in ICB. For any type of symposium that is being proposed, Frank emphasized that it is important to reach out to speakers who don't normally attend. The diversity of symposium contributors is important, especially for NSF. Diversity also includes the professional/career level of contributors - having graduate students and post-docs as well as established professors is a plus. SICB President Woodin announced that there is now a new fund to support symposia - SICB has seeded it with \$100K, more contributions are requested.

Dianna Padilla talked about NSF reorganization - Integrative Organismal Biology is now going to be Integrative Organismal Systems. Information on the new structure should be up on the NSF website by now. Dianna opined that Comparative Biomechanics will fit well within the new NSF organizational structure.

Miriam Ashley-Ross discussed the upcoming elections for DCB officers (biographical information on the candidates should be up by the time you read this), and listed upcoming meetings of interest to biomechanists:

(1) American Society of Biomechanics Annual Meeting. The 2007 ASB Meeting will be held on the campus of the Leland Stanford Junior University on August 23-25, 2007.

(2) International Society of Biomechanics. The next biennial ISB Congress, the 21st, will be held in Taipei Taiwan from July 1 to 5, 2007. Visit the [www.isb2007.org](http://www.isb2007.org) for more info. Deadline for Abstract Submission: January 15, 2007

(3) Annual Scientific Meeting - SEBatGlasgow2007. 31st March - 4th April 2007. Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre  
Abstract Submission Deadline: 12th January 2007

Malcolm Gordon announced next meeting of IUPS in Kyoto, Japan, August, 2009, and challenged the DCB to come up with a satellite symposium to coincide with the meeting.

Rachel Merz talked about the SICB digital library. The rationale behind having it focus on Biomechanics initially is because biomechanics isn't well integrated into many curricula. The digital library is intended to be a useful resource for teaching. Submissions are peer-reviewed - can be teaching methods, lab exercises, snippets on fascinating animals. To view the material, go to the SICB homepage, click on the link there. Submissions are handled through the website; text documents should be in RTF format. Copyright protection is the author's responsibility.

New Business:

(1) Journals - should DCB sponsor a journal? If so, which one? Where will the funds to do so come from? This issue was raised, without resolution.

(2) Society budget - meetings have run at a slight deficit. Bob Full asked for suggestions about what might be given up, or how to solve this problem. Andy Biewener suggested that we might raise the meeting registration fees (for regular members, not students) to solve the budget shortfall. John Bertram suggested that he'd be willing to pay more for registration if we had a wireless access point. Margaret Rubega suggested regular members could give up their free drink tickets.

The meeting was adjourned with the directive to attendees to spread the word of the DCB! Consider organizing symposia! Any other suggestions should be directed to the interim Chair.