

Minutes of the DCPB Business Meeting, Jan. 4, 2009, Boston, MA

Divisional Chair Joe Williams called the meeting to order at 5:19 PM.

Joe called for approval of the changes in the bylaws, which the executive committee had sent to the membership for review. A motion was made and seconded, and then passed by acclamation.

Joe announced that the executive committee has decided that this year's Best Student Paper award would be named in honor of C. Ladd Prosser.

Joe announced that Jim Hicks would be leaving as Editor at PBZ, and expressed appreciation to Jim for his leadership at the journal. Jim Hicks then gave a brief summary of statistics regarding PBZ. The journal is in good shape, with recent impact factors of 2.23 to 2.3, a significant increase. Subscriptions are up, and the special focus issues have attracted submissions and interest, including some media attention. He suggested that anyone interested in serving as editor should talk to him at the meeting. The position does require a significant commitment of time, but an effective Managing Editor makes the job much easier. He praised Andrea Canfield for her performance in that role during his editorship. The University of Chicago Press has suggested moving all the Managing Editors to their main offices, but Jim feels it is better for the Managing Editors to remain at the Editors' institutions. Applications for Editor are being accepted now, and the new Editor should be in place by July, 2009.

Mary Chamberlin gave a brief presentation regarding two "Dear Colleague" letters that are now on the NSF web site. These letters introduce two new initiatives: Life in Transition (LIT) and Microbial Systems in the Biosphere (MSB). Proposals should be submitted through the regular divisions, but preface the title with LIT or MSB to indicate inclusion in these initiatives. The target dates are the same as for regular proposals.

Mary also mentioned that NSF is looking for program officers, both rotating and permanent. Current openings for permanent POs are in neurobiology and physiology.

Joe related matters Bill Zamer raised at the Executive Council meeting regarding a request by NSF that SICB develop three or four "large mandate" ideas focusing on the question, *Where is organismal biology headed?* They would like this within the next three or four weeks. The Obama administration is reviewing Bush policies at NSF, and it is important that organismal biology present a coherent vision of future directions. Peter deFur commented that this is very important. He emphasized that changes in administrations often bring about major shifts in emphasis, including at NSF, and that now is the time to act if we are going to have an influence on this change in direction. He feels that organismal biology has not been very vocal recently, whereas other fields, such as geology, have presented unified visions of their fields.

Peter then announced that the COPUS/AIBS Year of Science would be rolling out their new web site (<http://www.yearofscience2009.org/home/>) on January 5. He encouraged everyone to visit the site, and especially to watch for regional media training and other workshops that would be held during the coming year. He suggested it is important that we learn to talk to the public and the media, in part to get the ideas of integrative and organismal biology into the public consciousness.

Joe adjourned the meeting at 5:45 PM.

Note: Because of issues regarding building renovations that significantly impacted my lab, I was unable to attend the business meeting. David Tapley took notes in my place. Thanks, David!