

Minutes of the DIVISION OF EVOLUTIONARY DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY BUSINESS MEETING, January 4, 2011, Charleston, SC

The meeting was opened by Mark Martindale, Chair of DEDB. Mark noted that this was the first business meeting of the merged membership of DEDB and the former Division of Developmental and Cell Biology (DDCB). He then acknowledged the DEDB officers-elect – Chris Lowe (Chair-elect), Brad Davidson (Secretary-elect), and Louise Page (Program Officer-elect) – and noted that Chris Lowe would assume his role as Chair immediately following the 2012 Annual Meeting.

2012 meeting highlights

Mark Martindale mentioned that DEDB sponsored or co-sponsored five symposia at this year's meeting. He also thanked the volunteers who judged student talks and posters this year but lamented that the transition to an electronic judging system was not as smooth as he had hoped. Problems included students registering as judges, and confusion over who was supposed to judge particular presentations. A brief discussion followed about how to remedy these problems in the future.

Annual dues increase

Mark Martindale announced that the SICB Executive Committee will increase annual membership dues by \$5 next year (2012), and this increase will help add to the discretionary funds available to each division. He encouraged all DEDB members to ensure that their memberships are up-to-date, and to encourage colleagues to join DEDB to maximize our discretionary funds.

EvoDevo journal

Mark Martindale encouraged DEDB members to submit manuscripts to the journal *EvoDevo*. He added that *EvoDevo* is an open-access journal with no page charges, and the journal makes it easy to post multimedia files that accompany published papers.

DEDB dinner dates

Mark Martindale acknowledged the success of the DEDB "dinner dates" pilot program, organized by Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee representative Jake Musser and Secretary Mike Shapiro. Mark noted that the program was an effective way to stimulate interactions between faculty and students in an informal setting. This year, the program paired 20 full SICB members and approximately 40 students. Jake Musser said that he informally polled several participants at the meeting and received positive feedback. Paul Maderson also voiced appreciation for the program and noted that a similar society-wide program existed many years ago.

ICVM-10 Barcelona 2013

Marvalee Wake announced that the next International Congress of Vertebrate Morphology (ICVM) would be held in Barcelona, Spain, in July 2013. She noted that the conference will be of great interest to many DEDB members, and that the deadline for symposia proposals is April 13, 2012. She urged members who want feedback on their symposia proposals to contact her directly. She anticipates that the meeting will feature 15-20 symposia. Plans are underway to honor Pere Alberch, an important figure in the field of evo-devo.

Visit by NSF program officers

NSF Program Officers Anna Maglia and Vicky Martin visited the business meeting and referred members to the NSF IOS and DEB websites for information on the new pre-proposal system. They also distributed thumb drives with information about the pre-proposals and new funding opportunities. They noted that a 1.7% increase in the NSF

budget is expected this year, but that additional funds likely will not go directly to funding programs, so funding levels will probably stay flat. They also encouraged applications to the PULSE program, which funds faculty from all levels of undergraduate education to revise their approach to undergraduate teaching. Finally, they reminded attendees to apply for Research Coordination Network (RCN) grants.

Visit from society-wide officers

Current SICB executive committee officers and officers-elect stopped by the meeting to introduce themselves, make announcements, and field questions. They announced that the 2015 annual meeting will be held in Palm Beach, FL. They advised members submitting symposium proposals to consider NSF broadening participation guidelines in their proposals. More symposia proposals are submitted than can be accepted, so proposers need to find a way to set themselves apart. Finally, they noted that the society is considering shorter talks at the 2013 San Francisco meeting to accommodate the rapidly expanding annual meeting program.

Concurrent sessions

The DEDB membership discussed the growing problem of concurrent sessions that increasingly put talks of DEDB interest head-to-head. Program Officer Patricia Hernandez emphasized the tremendous challenges involved in putting together such a large and varied program for the annual meeting, and noted that the issue of concurrent sessions is a problem that all divisions encounter. Suggestions from members to help reduce the strain on the annual meeting program included shorter talks, asking faculty to defer to students and postdocs to give talks, and society-wide implementation of 5-minute talks for certain presentations. Several meeting attendees voiced support for the continuation of 20-minute talks for the benefit of students, postdocs, and young faculty.

Outgoing chair

Mark Martindale's contributions to the Division as Chair were gratefully acknowledged at the close of the meeting to rousing applause.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Michael D. Shapiro