

DEDB divisional meeting Minutes: SICB 2014

(~30 members in attendance – up from previous years)

Chair: Chris Lowe

Program Officer: Louise Page

Chris: asks for feedback on Orlando meeting plan for 2018. Attending members are split, no resolution.

Chris solicits input regarding increasing number of symposium proposals moving forward. Proposes that we may want to form a committee to help ID areas of interest outside of current member areas of focus.

Suggestion is made to let students/post-docs drive areas of interest without a committee.

Members agree that it will be key to involve post-docs and provide the with faculty support. Suggestion is put forward to form committee to help match students/post-docs with faculty sponsors.

Questions about how to facilitate these interactions and make post-docs feel confident in submitting proposals.

Louise offers to email details regarding basic requirements for symposium proposals.

Current symposium organizers Deirdre Lyons, Mansi Srivastava, and Mark Martindale discuss pros and cons. Mansi is grateful for guidance from previous organizers and offers to help future organizers. Deirdre promotes opportunity to meet leaders in your field and help establish new research interests/directions. Mark emphasizes window of opportunity to grow society membership by attracting researchers focuses on established model system. Mark also mentions that there will be pressure to bring in outside funding and a need for support to help find funding and also mentions need to re-evaluate pre-condition for submission of articles to the society journal as this puts off many potential speakers.

Chris responds to comments regarding journal, mention that new editor will promote more flexibility in regards to these requirements but that the bottom line is that contributions by speakers are essential for the journal revenue stream. May be possible to have other contributors from outside of symposium instead. Question regarding possibility of open access articles.

Chris discusses possibility of sending a statement to NSF regarding current grant format. Points out that DEDB members were not included in a feedback survey on this topic. Important to make a divisional statement as NSF may not respond to individual feedback. Discussion of who would be appropriate to receive this statement/survey at the NSF, possibly Jane Silverthorne. Suggestion is made to request change to have two submission deadlines/year. Suggestion is made to partner with SDB on this survey. Suggestion is made to alter length of pre-proposal. Chris asked for help and members volunteer including Brad Davidson, Bob Zeller, Athula Wikramanayake and Marcus Davis.

Suggestion is made to publish open letter from the division.

Update from NSF:

Budget is not finalized, operating at 90% vs. last year (decrease of 8%)

Still supporting symposium but application is competitive, focus on new directions in your field.

Contact program officer to find out about supplemental requests to support mid-career investigators, Post-tenure, looking for funding to support development of genomics/bioinformatics skill sets.

Travel support available for under-represented minorities.

Genotypes and phenotypes in new theme.

Wiki for input? post information about opportunities or complaints about impediments.