

## **Minutes of the DIVISION OF EVOLUTIONARY DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY BUSINESS MEETING, January 4, 2011, Salt Lake City, UT**

Opening of the meeting by DEDB Chair, Mark Martindale

Mark Martindale opened the meeting by stating that the SICB meeting is the natural home for the field of evolution and development.

Mark Martindale brought up the possibility of the division of DDCB merging with DEDB. Scott Gilbert, Program Officer for DDCB, briefly discussed the history of the two divisions and brought up the fact that most developmental biologists who attend SICB have evolutionary interests and thus have a strong fit with the DEDB division. Mark Martindale asked for input from the group regarding the issue. The group agreed with the proposal to merge the two divisions. This recommendation will be forwarded to the SICB Executive Committee, which will act on the issue at its next meeting on January 7, 2011.

Program Officer Patricia Hernandez asked the membership to encourage SDB members to attend the SICB meetings as a way to bolster DEDB membership. Hernandez highlighted the substantial difference in cost for students between the two societies, and that it was much more affordable for students to attend the SICB meetings.

Mark Martindale encouraged the division to come up with ideas for symposia for upcoming SICB meetings. Billie Swalla reported on planned symposia for the 2012 meeting that would be of particular interest to DEDB members.

Mark Martindale reported that the society's journal, *Integrative and Comparative Biology*, has applied to be listed in PubMed.

Secretary Elaine Seaver encouraged membership to utilize the SICB website and submit content to the researchers database. Seaver noted that postdoctoral researchers are eligible to serve as best student poster judges and that this represents a professional opportunity for postdocs.

Mark Martindale announced that the student DEDB representative was no longer eligible to hold the position since she had begun a faculty position in Fall 2010. Martindale stated that was looking for students interested in the vacated position. Lou Burnett clarified that the position is a three-year term.

**Visit from Gert de Couet, Program Officer for Mechanisms of Development/Evolution of Developmental Mechanisms at the National Science Foundation.** De Couet emphasized importance of quality ad hoc reviews in the process of evaluating grant proposals and stated the number of proposals received and funded in 2010 by the program. The process of proposal evaluation was explained, including meeting funding portfolio requirements. De Couet made the point that integrative proposals often do worse in the review process.

Jim Hanken asked de Couet about the extended turnaround time (greater than 6 months) for some proposals and de Couet confirmed that each Program Officer has the discretion of whether or not to communicate to the applicant that their proposal may get funded if additional monies come through. Gunter Wagner mentioned the close correlation between the January NSF proposal deadline and the dates of the SICB meeting, highlighting the fact that since the proposal deadline has become a hard deadline, many folks had to choose

between participating in the SICB meeting or writing a grant proposal. Wagner asked if the NSF deadline could somehow be changed.

**Visit from SICB Executive Committee.** Introduction of current and elect executive committee members. Attendance at the general SICB business meeting was encouraged.

Continuation of discussion with NSF program officer Gert de Couet. Inclusion of a data management plan was brought up as an upcoming requirement for proposals. Several additional questions were fielded by de Couet.

The time and location of the multi-divisional dessert social was mentioned and members encouraged to attend.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Secretary Elaine C. Seaver