

DEDE Business Meeting Minutes
SICB Annual Meeting, 4 January 2019
Room 23, Tampa Convention Center, Tampa, FL

Dr. Travis Wilcoxon, DEDE Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:45 pm.

The first order of business was a review of updated meeting statistics and dues. This year we had an increased number of pre-registrants (up to 2,531 from 2,300 in 2018), with 773 posters and 1,804 presentations in 134 contributed sessions and 12 symposia (out of 16 proposed symposia). Dues will increase slightly in the next year by \$5 for full members/emeritus/post docs and \$9 student increase (to \$50). In the past, there had been some subsidized child care, but this year, we put \$7,000 into child care this year, and membership has responded well with almost all care booked. This includes room for nursing mothers.

Travis also noted that we'd have no NSF reps present at this weekend, since we were in the middle of a government shutdown.

Next, we discussed changes to the DEDE Best Student Paper Procedure. We had tried a single session for BSP this year, but did not make the change officially visible on the website. Travis suggested that if we do make that change more formal, perhaps some of the issues we experienced this year would be alleviated. These included two no-shows and one entrant having already been placed in a symposium-related complementary session. Travis suggested that we might consider having an extended abstract and solicited feedback on any of this.

Dr. Cynthia Downs, who organized judges for the BSP, really appreciated the new model, which meant fewer judges and less chaos. Travis noted that he would have appreciated a longer abstract to better judge which projects and projects are likely to be highly polished and competitive. Cynthia also said that judging for posters (28 this year) was also quite easy because of the single session for talks. Dr. Jim Adelman confirmed that the BSP procedures don't need to be outlined in the bylaws, so deciding this and posting to the website is all we'll need to do. All agreed that keeping poster presentations judged as they have been, rather than requiring a special abstract for posters entered in the competition.

It was resolved that Travis would draft language for the BSP procedures to be posted on the website, based on language and rules from other divisions. He would circulate this to the divisional officers for approval. Essentially, this will be to keep the single session for oral presentations, requiring an extended abstract for that, but to allow all entrants into the poster competition to be judged, with no need for an extra abstract.

We then moved to discussions about officer turnover and elections within the division. Current changes afoot were as follows:

- Greg Demas, outgoing Program Officer
- Jim Adelman, outgoing Secretary
- Ashley Love, incoming/current Student/Postdoc Representative
- Cynthia Downs incoming Program Officer

Ken Field incoming Secretary
Laura Zimmerman, incoming Chair-Elect

This means we will hold elections for the following positions in 2018:

Secretary-Elect

Program Officer-Elect

Nominations were solicited for those positions, including Dr. Laura Mydlarz, who volunteered to run for either position, as needed. Travis noted that two nominees is ideal for each position, as running unopposed is not allowed, we need a majority to elect someone, and no one really wants a run-off.

Ashley Love gave a brief report on the status of programs she's been running as the student/postdoc rep. Ashley confirmed that she is running the division's Facebook and Twitter accounts, which have gotten some nice activity of late. Travis noted that if you need something announced to the membership of DEDE via email, contact one of the officers and they can make that happen with the monthly member updates. There are also SICB job boards you can post do. Ashley also confirmed that lunch with an ecimmunologist is going strong this year.

Travis updated the group on the status of our divisional funds, which was -\$144.76, a consequence of the really high costs of running a social last year in San Francisco. So, while we'll get our allotment this year, but we'll be sitting at ~ \$150. This raised the question again of whether we should solicit additional divisional dues. As a young division that's hoping to grow, Travis suggested this might not be ideal. Moreover, we're not sure how many core, active members there are in the division, although about 250-280 members are on the website. So, since a small amount of divisional dues won't really give a huge windfall, the idea of divisional dues was tabled for the time being.

Travis also brought up the idea of the division starting a small, named fund (as opposed to the large, named lectures). One possibility is to have a fund that could generate enough to give a single grant in aid of research, which would be named in honor of someone. No suggestions were made on specifics for such a fund.

Cynthia Downs asked for ideas for 2021 symposium applications. Even if ideas aren't solidified at first, DEDE could help put synergistic ideas together, which is how the 2019 symposium came together. NSF funding may be more available right now than in past years for some reason.

Dr. Carol Fassbinder-Orth updated the group on Integrative Organismal Biology (IOB), SICB's new, open-access journal, from her perspective as an associate editor. She has also submitted as an author. She noted several unique aspects of the journal and its submission process. First, only first initials are used rather than full name, to avoid bias against female authors. Second, reviewer lists are targeted to be as diverse as possible. Third, the journal works with redacted reviews, which means that if there are personal attacks in a review, that section will not be shown to the authors. Finally, the journal is working to get abstracts written/translated into more languages than just French or English to help make the science as broadly accessible as possible. With a cost of ~\$1,100 for an open-access article, Carol highly recommended submitting there.

The SICB executive committee visited and introduced themselves. Alice Gibbs, Secretary, asked that we encourage all members to vote in elections, including students and postdocs. Adam Summers noted that he will be talking on 1/5/2019 about specifics of the new journal. Lou Burnett asked that we look at the recent email about broadening participation in the society, including nominating qualified individuals of diverse backgrounds for officer positions and awards.

Following the visit by the executive committee and final remarks by Carol on the IOB journal, Travis adjourned the meeting at 6:20 pm.