

# **SICB Division of Ecology and Evolution (DEE)**

## ***Meeting Minutes***

### **Division of Ecology and Evolution Business Meeting Minutes, 2007 Annual Meeting in Phoenix**

The meeting was called to order (15-20 attendees)

The officers were introduced: Fred Janzen (Chair), George Bakken (Chair-Elect), Jennifer Elwood (Program Officer), and Tony Steyermark (Secretary).

The minutes from last year were approved

To get back on track we will need to choose a new DEE chair-elect and DEE secretary starting in 2008, and to get back on track for rotating officers, choose the next president-elect starting in 2009.

To make the nominations process more open and orderly, DEE needs to establish a nominating committee that will be responsible for sending a blanket email inviting nominations and arranging for the candidate's vita and statements needed for the election process. At the moment, this committee consists of the DEE officers, and we would appreciate suggestions on how to establish a more inclusive nominations committee.

The division by-laws need to be amended to bring them in line with the rest of the society. The officers will work out the revisions and submit them to the members of DEE.

The program officer reported that DEE co-sponsored or sponsored 3 symposia at the Phoenix meeting. These were: 1) Integrative biology of pelagic invertebrates, 2) Ecological dimorphisms in vertebrates: Proximate and ultimate causes, 3) Ecology and evolution of disease dynamics. She also reported that DEE had received requests for funding from 6 symposia for the 2008 San Antonio meeting. Which symposia would receive funding would be determined sometime in the spring once the budget is approved by SICB.

The secretary reported a very successful turnout (58 entries) for the student paper/poster competitions.

We discussed ways to increase the visibility and honor associated with the awards, and use it as an educational tool for students preparing a poster for the first time. Many suggestions such as publishing the abstract or mounting the poster on the web site may create future problems for the winner in publishing their results, and were rejected. It did seem possible for us to have the winner of the "Best Poster" award save their poster so that it could be featured at the end of the meeting and at the next meeting. Possible locations might be the hall outside the poster room or a prominent position in the poster sessions. The winning poster would then become a teaching aid that would help others improve their poster presentations. Other suggestions would be welcome.

We also discussed why attendance at the business meeting was low, given that DEE is the largest single division in the society. Our best guess was that, given the nature of the society, DEE was everyone's second choice because they pursued a specialty within ecology and evolution, and had greater affinity for their specialty than the overall ecological and evolutionary context. We wondered if the meeting could be scheduled so that it was opposite fewer specialty division meetings, or against divisions with less overlapping membership.

Your insights and suggestions about both business meetings and how we could make the division more relevant to your interests would be particularly helpful to your officers.

George Bakken, DEE Chair