

Minutes of the Division of Ecology and Evolution 2012 Business Meeting Wednesday 4 January 2012

The meeting was called to order at 5:23pm.

After an introduction of current DEE officers, Chair Art Woods began with a discussion of new divisional funding stemming from an increase in dues. These additional funds will be pooled across the society and then allocated based on divisional membership and affiliation; the use of these forthcoming funds will be unrestricted.

A discussion then ensued over how to best use these funds. Suggestions included supporting summer research fellowships for students (similar to the DIZ's Libbie H. Hyman Memorial Scholarship), supporting students presenting in sessions that are complementary to DEE-sponsored symposia, and supporting an international symposium speakers. These suggestions hinge on banking these annual funds for several years to first amass a more substantial pool of money, a notion that received general support among those in attendance.

Chair Woods announced that the symposia for the 2013 San Francisco are set and that the DEE will be sponsoring or co-sponsoring 7 symposia at this meeting. He then mentioned the forthcoming call for DEE symposia for the 2014 meeting in Austin, and asked that we encourage our colleagues and fellow DEE members to consider developing broad, integrative symposia for this meeting.

Chair Woods then mentioned the forthcoming spring elections – Chair, Program Officer and Secretary – and asked those in attendance to solicit interest in running for office from divisional members.

Chair Woods went on to mention recent improvements to the newsletter, including expanded content and the new "Researcher in Focus" feature, and commented on how the improved newsletter might enhance communication within the division. Many in attendance were quick to mention that they do not even read the newsletter, and that they were of the opinion that readership among divisional members was likely decidedly low.

A discussion then ensued about how to improve communication within the division in light of the apparent low readership of the newsletter. The notion of discontinuing the newsletter was briefly considered, but it was quickly pointed out that divisional newsletters are required per SICB by-laws. Several people then suggested shorter, more frequent news updates sent *via* email to all divisional members, under the pretense that divisional members would be more likely to read short news snippets. Secretary Krochmal agreed to implement quarterly email news updates, which would be linked to regular updates of the divisional website, beginning in the spring of 2012.

Discussion then turned to raising the division's profile within the society. The members present lamented that despite the substantial membership in DEE, participation in divisional activities and business is decidedly low, and that the DEE is not a prominent force at the society level. Suggestions for improving participation in and the profile of the DEE included updating and expanding the content of the divisional website, updating, expanding and organizing the DEE researcher database, deliver more DEE-specific programming at meetings (especially for students and postdocs), sponsoring a DEE-themed high-profile lecture at annual meetings, improving our advertising to student members, recruiting from other societies (perhaps in conjunction with broad, integrative symposia) and aligning the

divisional business meeting with those of other divisions (to avoid time conflicts and encourage attendance). Divisional officers agreed to discuss these options during the upcoming year and to solicit input from divisional members in the quarterly newsletters and forthcoming divisional email news updates.

Outgoing Program Officer Sears then summarized relevant portions of the Societal Business Meeting. He noted the substantial increase in the number of symposia submitted in 2011, and that symposia that were highly integrative, covered a broad range of systems, and represented a broad demographic of researchers were generally favored; these will also be the general criteria for judging symposia and selection of future / forthcoming symposia. Finally, Outgoing Program Officer Sears noted that the Journal *Integrative and Comparative Biology* has a current impact factor of 2.6 (up from 1.8) and is now featured on Medline.

The Executive Officers of the Society then entered the meeting to highlight important societal news. They announced that the 2015 meeting will be held in West Palm Beach, FL, and commented on the excellent rates the society received for the location. They then reiterated the forthcoming call for symposia for the 2014 meeting in Austin, TX, and announced a deadline of August 2012 for submission of proposals. Finally, the Executive Officers discussed possible changes to future meetings, including the possibility of limiting the number of presentations and/or attendees at meetings, and the possibility of changing the format and/or length of talks (from 20 to 15 minutes).

The meeting was adjourned at 6:19pm.