

*Secretary's Notes from the DEE Business Meeting from the 2020 annual SICB Meeting, held in Austin Texas.*

**Location:**

The Business Meeting was held in room 205 on Saturday January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Cam called the meeting to order at 5:45pm.

**NSF announcements:**

Leslie Rissler (program officer in DEB): We want to update you on a few things. Monday January 6<sup>th</sup> at 12pm we have a one-hour session that you should consider attending.

Leslie introduced Ted Morgan and Chris Balakrishnan, who are program officers.

Leslie: We have no deadlines and no limit. Some programs do have deadlines, like the CAREER awards. Our success rates are really high right now. They're up to 25% or even higher than that. Previously, success rates were from 5-8%. Make sure you look at the IOS and DEB blogs. There are two rules of life tracks. Understanding rules of life has two topics: Epigenetics and Microbiomes. These programs have deadlines. If your research crosses two fields of biology, you can apply to the Biology Rules of Life. Feel free to reach out. In biology we're interested in integrating biology or re-integrating biology. You'll see a lot of things coming out about that, like the Integration Institute. We also fund NEON, and there are a lot of data products that are being contributed from the NEON sites. We also have macrosystems biology, which is a separate solicitation. Dimensions has been ongoing for 10 years, but right now it's strictly international. There is a new EDGE focused in IOS. DEB is also participating in that. In DEB we also have bridging ecology and evolution. We're breaking down barriers and that's one way to do that. Look for some changes in the BEE solicitation. There's also OPUS. We added a mid-career track for that a few years ago. NSF has a sexual harassment policy and it's a new term and condition. If a PI is placed on administrative leave, the institution must contact NSF to report it. Program officers are mandatory reporters. Supplemental requests are due on March 1<sup>st</sup>. There is an NSF booth in the conference hall.

**RCN Updates**

Dianna Padilla: I've got a research coordination network to provide a platform for people who are interested in organismal biology and want to integrate with other types of researchers to look at organisms as systems, for example through collaboration with engineers and mathematicians. We're offering our first workshop, targeting early career researchers, with a great lineup of instructors. It costs nothing. We're trying to build a community of people who look at organisms as systems. We want you to join the network. You can join the email list and keep on top of other opportunities.

Cam: I also have this information if someone needs it.

**Secretary Report:**

Martha Muñoz: We held elections for Secretary-Elect last spring. Dr. Kimberly Sheldon and Dr. Christine Miller ran for the position. Dr. Miller won. We're holding elections for Program

Officer this spring. The nominating committee consists of Nish and Cam. If you want to nominate someone (including yourself), please reach out to Nish, Cam, or me (Martha). One initiative we've started is student profiles, which we are including in our spring and fall newsletters. Please reach out to us if you want to be profiled. Our goal is to increase the visibility of our student members. Please check out the newsletter to see what the profiles look like.

### **Program Officer Report**

Nish: I've been the PO for the past two years. I will be stepping down and handing the reins to Sarah Diamond. We had about 2,000 abstracts. I hope you like the hotel, but please give us feedback. We take that information back to the executive committee. Please, if you have a symposium, send them to me, Cam, or Sarah. We do a lot of review and then we vote on the upcoming symposia. We are always looking for topics. If you need info on how to write a proposal or get funding, please contact us. I want to also talk about the Broadening Participation Committee. We're working on an NSF proposal to get funding for BP. It only takes a few minutes. Feedback for the meeting is important. It helps us make decisions on what to do next.

### **Chair Report**

Cam: I am your Chair. Fran Bonier is Chair-Elect. Martha Muñoz is your Secretary, and Christine Miller is your Secretary-Elect. Michele Nishiguchi is your Program Officer, and Sarah Diamond is your Program Officer-Elect. Craig Marshall is your Student Rep. We want DEE to be your community here at SICB. Our long-term goal is to have you have lots of interactions with us. We want this to become your home. Just a few notes. In Austin, 245 presenters selected DEE as their primary SICB divisional affiliation. These submissions break down to 168 oral presentations, 77 posters, and 14 symposium presentations given by 98 grad students, 23 undergrads, and 124 non-student members or faculty.

We sponsored seven symposia, which is more than any other division within the society. It's very easy for DEE to be the hub division because it cuts across disciplines. Please visit one of these different symposia during the meeting and support your fellow DEE members.

### **Executive Committee Visit.**

Beth Brainerd: We like to come by all the business meeting so you can seek us out. Beth Brainerd (President), Ulrike Mueller (Editor, ICB), Alice Gibb (Secretary), Melina Hale (President Elect), Susan Williams (PO), Jake Socha (PO Elect), Lou Burnett (Past President), Adam Summers (IOB EIC), Brett Burk (Executive Director), Miriam Ashley-Ross (Treasurer) introduced themselves.

Adam Summers: Send me your manuscripts for IOB!

Jake Socha: Send me your symposia ideas, and send Susan your complaints.

Beth Brainerd: The society-wide business meeting happens Monday evening.

### **Budget – Division Fees and the DEE Social**

Cam: The budget has been stable over the past few years. Bob Cox handed off the division in good fiscal condition. Our budget comes from membership fees and the executive board. Most of

our funds are used for the Beers and Brains event, which was started by Mike Sears. The event has grown into a high-demand event that has been highly successful. With increased demand, it puts a limitation on what we can provide. We had about 100 requests and because of financial constraints we have a hard limit of 45 students that we can accommodate. I propose we have a division-wide email to vote on whether to have a \$5 fee for DEE. There are other divisions that do that. We've never charged that before. We have discussed in the past whether that was a good use of funds. We can't accommodate more people without more funds. With more funds we could rent out a larger space and have our own community social that could be more inclusive. Let's open this up for discussion.

Chris Tracy: My first thought or question – would that provide enough funding so that all interested students could go if interested. If not, then some are paying to be members and then get left off that list, which seems unfair.

Cam: That's a fair comment. A lot of students and faculty that wouldn't attend.

Chris Tracy: More established professionals support through sliding scales.

Cam: The executive committee said that there wasn't a mechanism by which we could do that.

Member: It wouldn't be so bad for graduate students to pay \$5.

Member: Are other societies limited in attendance?

Cam: I don't know. The big difference is, if we want to do something offsite, then it's easy to make it open. But, if we go offsite, then it requires renting a certain amount of space, and that's where we run into those issues.

Member: it's also the difference in format. B&B is more of a speed dating event. There's more structure involved for the DEE event.

Cam: One of the real benefits is that it's a more intimate event that allows students and faculty to interact. As we get bigger, we may have to subdivide into more groups. There are ways we can do that.

Bob Cox: We've pooled our resources with other divisions. It's less unique. The B&B was a value-added event that wasn't synonymous with the social.

Ray Huey: What if the brains ponied up \$15?

Cam: We could do that. Costs vary from city to city. This year we're looking at about \$2,700 for rental of space, food, and drinks. It's more than 15 dollars per person for participating faculty.

Chris Tracy: Along those lines, what if we use the brains to cover the excess to make sure that all the students can go.

Bob Cox: The number is pretty high.

Member: What if students contributed towards that only if they want to go?

Cam: There wasn't an easy mechanism for doing that. We wanted to not make it a financial barrier for some people. I guess the big question – with a show of hands. How many people would be supportive of paying an additional \$5 as part of DEE?

\*Most people raised their hand\*

Cam: The email vote will decide the outcome.

Chris Tracy: I'm a past PO and I wanted to point out that the budget we get from the society is very small. That's why we end up with the general socials. It's the only way to provide anything more than popcorn. A DEE-specific pot of money is a good idea.

Cam: I know I hesitate when I see extra charges. But, the way I think about it is that we can make our division our community.

Member: When you're looking to recruit new students who don't know about this and they just register for divisions that match their interests, you might lose members.

Cam: One of the things I've learned is how to query the web master. As we get to that time, we'll try to communicate as best we can to the students.

Cam: I just want to make one more plug for symposia ideas. I wanted to break up into groups to come up with symposia ideas. One of the hallmarks that make SICB unique are the symposia. If you're a grad student or a postdoc and you're passionate about an idea, and the idea is timely, come tell us. Please contact someone in DEE to share your idea. Consider co-sponsoring a symposium. It's a great way to get your name out and play a leadership role.

### **Huey Award Winners**

The best student talk winner is Nick Barts from Kansas State University. The title of his talk was "Repeated mitochondrial evolution underlies adaptation to extreme environments." The best student poster winner was Isaac Miller-Crews, from the University of Texas, Austin, for the poster entitled, "2bRAD-seq paternity testing pipeline for complex and mixed DNA samples."

Gift card winners were then chosen by selecting three tickets.

Cam then handed out Beer and Brains tickets to the students attending the event. The meeting concluded at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Martha Muñoz (Secretary) on January 4, 2020.