

## **Minutes from the 2021 SICB DEE Members Meeting**

This meeting was held digitally viz Zoom on January 8, 2021.

Meeting start time: 12:01pm EST.

Cam Ghalambor (CG): It's great to see so many participants here. It's harder to get attendance for these meetings, but we might have even more people here today than usual, which is awesome. Welcome to the 2021 DEE Member Meeting! I like this change in name from the Business meeting to the Member meeting, as it emphasizes that we get together as members to discuss the division. We're obviously in a different venue. I'm on the other side of the Atlantic in Norway, and sad that I don't have the opportunity to interface with all of you. Hopefully you're all in a good place. We have several topics of general discussion today such as member updates, our upcoming votes, our state of finances, and statement of award winners. We have our SICB leadership here, including Beth Brainerd and Jake Socha. We also have NSF program officers from both DEB and IOS here with us. In the remaining time, we have the opportunity to interface with one another and catch up.

CG: Congratulations to Fran Bonier, who is taking over for me. Congrats to Tonia Schwartz, who is our new Chair-Elect! Congratulations to both of them. Martha Muñoz is the program officer elect and leaves the Secretary position at the end of this cycle. Christine Miller takes over as secretary, which means we have a gap in secretary-elect!

CG: OK, that takes us to soliciting nominations. Martha and Christine, could you explain the position?

Martha Muñoz (MM): Thanks, Cam. The position of Secretary entails three primary roles. First, the secretary coordinates the bi-annual newsletters that each division publishes. It's a straightforward and fun task. The secretary also takes notes at each business meeting, so if you see my face down furiously scribbling, that's why. Lastly, the secretary and the chair coordinate any elections that might be happening. For example, this spring we're running an election for secretary-elect. Christine (currently secretary-elect), Cam, Fran, and I will therefore be working together to find candidates for the position and the secretary works with the candidates to get their statements into the spring newsletter. It's a straightforward position, and a very fun way to give back to the division and to interact with folks.

CG: OK, this takes us to finances. Currently, we do not have a fee associated with the division. At the last meeting, via a show of hands, we polled interest in adding a fee. Our reasoning is that our division social, Beers and Brains (an event that gives an opportunity for graduate students and early career researchers to meet with more established scientists casually over beverages and food) was constrained in size due to finances. We couldn't accommodate all the people we wanted to and it was starting to feel like an overly exclusive event. By adding a nominal fee, we can increase the size of the tent. We're putting forth a fee increase of either five dollars or three dollars. Maybe I can open it up if anyone has any comments, if they'd like to add to that.

Alex Gunderson (AG): Is it possible that the fee not be for students? Perhaps the fee could only be for people further along in their careers.

CG: This came up earlier. Our understanding is that it has to be a single fee for everyone, and there isn't an easy way to split the fee up. Is that your understanding, Brett?

Brett Burk (BB): That is correct.

CG: Any other comments? Otherwise we're taking silence as endorsement for added fee. We're getting some thumbs up. Related to that – because we're having a virtual meeting this year, we had some cost savings due to not hosting the social. Craig Marshall, our student rep, is hosting a student social at the end of the month.

Craig Marshall (CM): Yes, that's right. On January 29<sup>th</sup>. We will be sending out details.

CG: That's the bulk of the business. At this point, Fran, would it be better to hand off the announcement of the winners, or should I do it?

Fran Bonier (FB): You can do it, but mention that I coordinated the talks due to your conflict of interest.

(NB: Cam Ghalambor recused himself from judging the competition because his graduate student, Alex Mauro, was one of the participating finalists).

CG: OK, I'm happy to announce that Alex Mauro was the winner of the Huey award for best student talk this year. Our winner for the best student poster was Jameel Moore from Benedict College. Jameel gave a talk on gonadal gene expression in the American alligator, and did a really good job. As in most years, we had really excellent participation across the society. We remain one of the largest primary and secondary divisions in the society. As others have pointed out, DEE is the glue that holds many of the other divisions in the society together. You may be a behaviorist, a biomechanist, or an endocrinologist and be connected through DEE. The breadth of our work is represented by the divisional representatives of the NSF that are here, as they span both IOS (Integrative Organismal Systems) and DEB (Division of Environmental Biology). I'll hand it off to them to learn what's new within the NSF.

Sam Scheiner (SS): Hi, I'm Sam Scheiner and I'm a permanent program officer in DEB Evolutionary Processes.

Ted Morgan (TM): I'm a permanent program officer from IOS. First off, thank you to this community. You serve us and you submit proposals to us and without you, we couldn't do all the work we do. We're always looking for rotating program officers. Do get in touch with us if you're interested in serving. On Tuesday 1/19, from 3-4:30pm EST we're going to hold a special session to go over the programs in IOS and DEB that we cover. Integration is a big theme at NSF

right now. Some new solicitations have come out. Integrative research in biology, a stand-alone solicitation, has a deadline (3/16/2021) and replaces the Rules of Life program.

SS: In that program, we're looking for something greater and more integrative than the sum of the parts.

Matt Herron (MH): DEB's open office hours this upcoming Monday (1/11) covers this solicitation. All the divisions are doing office hours.

Diane Okamuro (DO): I'm a program officer in IOS and plant genomes. Ours is on 1/21 (third Thursday of every month).

TM: The IMAGINE FG just came out two weeks ago, and is on functional genomics. These are Dear Colleague Letters, not solicitations, so you just put IMAGINE 2021 at the front of your proposal and submit to one of our core programs. I think Kathy Dickson sent some of this information around, but if not, Cam, I'll send some to you. The NSF-wide Rules of Life activities are continuing. This year, the focus is on microbe interactions. The deadline for that is the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February. Enabling Discovery through Genomic Tools has expanded from just being focused on tool development to incorporate a research arm centered in the genotype-phenotype space. We have a deadline of 3/16 for this program and there is an informational session this month, available via the NSF IOS blog. The mid-career advancement (which is cross-directorate) is intended for folks at the associate professor level.

SS: EEID (ecology, evolution of infectious diseases) has been going for 20 years. The deadline is always the third Wednesday in November. Contact me if you're interested.

TM: So, IOS has had a track record of supporting SICB symposia. When proposing symposia, it's critical, when you reach out, that these proposals are for forward-looking symposia, not retrospectives. Pulling together communities that don't usually interact is a plus. Diversity of identity, career stage, and scientific topic is critical. The IOS website illustrates guidelines. Supplement requests, RETs, and REUs are being accepted, with guidance on the IOS website. We can take some questions.

Robert Cox (RC): IOS or DEB question. Since you've gone away from deadlines, what has the normal workflow of reviewing been like?

SS: The time between submission and notification is still 5-6 months, although there's a bit more variance. All of the programs – we hold multiple panels throughout the year. We're doing more, smaller panels so that there's always a panel coming up.

TM: The same is true for IOS.

CG: Thanks so much for your input on that. I mention this to the early career people every year. If you're thinking about submitting to NSF, contact your appropriate Program Officer. They're

nice people, like to hear your ideas, and are happy to give you advice. Right on cue, I'd like to introduce the SICB leadership. I'll hand off to Beth Brainerd.

Beth Brainerd (BBR): I'll reiterate that about NSF. They are wonderful and their workshops are valuable. I highly recommend attending. Wonderful to be here with you and nice to see such a high turnout. I'm the president until the end of the meeting. I'll call on the officers to introduce themselves.

Melina Hale (MH): Hi everyone, I'm Melina Hale, and I'm the president-elect. I'm super excited about the next few years in SICB. Everything that has been going on with respect to diversity and equity has been strong, and it's important that we continue to support it. Keeping principles of access and inclusion in mind, it will be great to enhance digital engagement in years to come. Please fill out the survey when it comes out. We read them very carefully. We often think about SICB as the annual meeting, but it's so much more than that, with the journals, the advocacy, and student engagement. We're planning member forums throughout the year. Keep an eye out for those.

BB: Hi, I'm Brett Burk. I'm the SICB executive director. I'm really glad to be here, especially since a few months ago it was hard to see how we were going to pull this off. It's so great to see so many people involved.

Jake Socha (JS): I'm Jake Socha, and I'm the Program Officer. I just wanted to say thank you to everyone because this conference happened from the ground up. Thank you to everyone.

Miriam Ashley-Ross (MAR): I'm the society treasurer and I want to say thanks for being here and embracing the digital format so enthusiastically.

Michele Johnson (MJO): I'm the Secretary-Elect. Because DEE is one of my home divisions, it's so nice to visit. The current secretary, Alice Gibb, is unable to be here. Elections will be held in April, and if you are at this meeting, you are definitely eligible to vote in April.

Molly Jacobs (MJA): Part of my responsible as Communications officer is to help with the website revision. Feel free to reach out if your division has communications needs or have something to work through.

BBR: Patricia Hernandez is our president-elect. Lou Burnett is our past president, with 15 years of service. Thom Sanger is our Program Officer elect. Ulrike Muller is our editor of Integrative and Comparative Biology whereas Adam Summers is the editor of Integrative Organismal Biology. We just wanted to come by to give these messages. Thank you for giving up time in your meeting.

CG: The rest of our meeting has a fairly open format. One topic that was brought up by Ted Morgan is one that we try to emphasize is the solicitation for symposia. The meeting time is usually when you're talking to people and the creative inspiration is coming to you from these

conversations and the talks you attend. This is often the time for symposia inspiration. I have a few ideas just from watching the online talks. Maybe Sarah Diamond can talk a little about the symposium process. The years with the best symposia are those with lots of diversity to pick from. If you're a graduate student or a postdoc, you should not feel that this is something other people do. You can totally put together a dream team and propose an idea.

Sarah Diamond (SD): Thanks, Cam. It's a multi-staged process. We encourage those with zygotes of ideas to get in touch with program officers. That's me until February, and then it'll be Martha. Eventually you'll have to submit a complete proposal, but we're happy to provide input at earlier stages. We can provide insights into potential gaps, for example in topics or diversity of speakers. We can provide feedback. I was really amazed by how strong the complement of proposals was, especially given everything that was going on. We want to continue that. It might be awkward in this larger group format to do this, so contact us if you want a smaller group setting to discuss symposium ideas.

CG: That's all the business I have! The only other thing I wanted to mention is that, in talking with Martha, and I'm sure Fran, Sarah, Christine, and Tonia agree, too: Our goal is to have DEE be your home when you come to SICB. We want you to identify with us. A lot of came to these meetings as students or postdocs, and developed friendships and collaborators. This is the goal of what we want DEE to be, especially you, the younger career members. You can come every year and count on seeing your friends, and seeing the research you're interested in. If you have ideas on how that can be better done, then please pass them on to Fran, Christine, Sarah, Martha, and Tonia. That's all I can say. It's been a pleasure to serve.

MM: If we were meeting in person, this might be a moment to thank Cam for his exceptional work as the leader of our division. So, please unmute yourselves, to give Cam a well-deserved thank you.

*\*Everyone unmuted to give Cam a very well-deserved round of applause\**

CG: How is everyone doing, given all the recent events? It's surreal to think that we could be in DC right now, amid these unusual circumstances.

FB: I want to say we're looking for a new student/postdoc rep, so do get in contact with me if you're interested in that job.

Anusha Shankar (AS): When will that start?

FB: Not until the end of this meeting?

Craig Marshall (CM): I can speak a little bit to this. So my position is ending at the end of February. Your position has two parts. First and foremost you are the DEE rep who plans the beer and brains event. You don't really start thinking about it until the summer before the meeting. You are also a member of SPDAC, all of the representatives from all the divisions. We

have about three meetings leading up to SICB. You get together with those division chairs and come up with ways, together, that we can encourage more unity across the divisions. We run a booth to answer questions about the divisions and the meeting. It's not a lot of time at all. If you have any questions, reach out to me. I'll put my email into the chat. Should you take this role, I can help you along.

CG: Normally I'd be thanking Craig at this point for his hard work on the social, but we didn't have one this year. But we can thank him for last year's social. It's not an academic task, unfortunately, but it is important. At the same time, we have so much fun at the social that it's one of the most satisfying jobs you can do because you see how much people enjoy it.

CM: It's also, as a grad student, a great opportunity to network with faculty. I definitely recommend the position.

AS: I would like to nominate myself for this position.

CG: Excellent! At this point, the business portion of this meeting has concluded. So, let's stick around and enjoy some time to more casual chit chat.

The business meeting concluded at 12:48pm. Members continued to chat until 1:05pm, when the meeting was concluded.

Respectfully submitted by Martha Muñoz  
January 8, 2021