

Minutes from the Division of Ecology and Evolution Business Meeting 4 January 2013

The meeting was called to order at 5:21pm with 23 members in attendance.

Outgoing Chair Woods began by introducing the outgoing and incoming officers:

Outgoing Officers – Art Woods (Chair); Aaron Krochmal (Secretary)

Incoming Officers – Michael J. Angilletta, Jr. (Chair); Donald Miles (Program Officer – elect); Aaron Krochmal (Secretary)

Outgoing Chair Woods then announced that the division would be conducting elections for the positions of Chair-Elect and Secretary-Elect in the spring and asked representatives of the nominating committee to discuss the status of nominations.

The nominating committee reported the following slate of individuals willing to run for divisional offices for the spring 2013 elections:

Chair-Elect – Robert Cox (University of Virginia); Michael Sears (Clemson University)

Secretary-Elect – Justin Boyles (Southern Illinois University); Michael Dillion (University of Wyoming); Ryan L. Earley (University of Alabama); Chris Tracey (California State University, Fullerton)

Representatives from the National Science Foundation then visited with a brief status report on funding and forthcoming proposals. These representatives mentioned that NSF is currently under a continuing resolution and thus have no current budget. Functionally, they reported working under an 80% TFN. At the time of the meeting, NSF was still funding new proposals, but at a reduced rate. These representatives made it clear that there is currently no intention to decrease funding to current awards / projects that are already funded.

Despite the lack of a current budget and the likelihood of decreased available funds, the NSF representatives reiterated the desire to continue to support symposia at SICB meetings and voiced particular interest in funding forward-looking, integrative symposia that would unite people from disparate disciplines who would ordinarily not attend SICB meetings.

The NSF representatives then departed the DEE business meeting.

Outgoing Chair Woods then delivered a short overview of the major changes to DEE over the past year, including the development of the DEE Email News Blasts and the establishment of the Raymond B. Huey Award for Best Student Presentations.

Members in attendance generally had positive attitudes towards the email news blasts, citing convenience, ease, and timeliness of the information they contain. As in 2012, many in the room (12 out of 23) stated that they do not read the newsletter, and suggested that it be abandoned in favor of solely using email news blasts. Several in attendance (7 out of 23) complained of never receiving any news blasts. Secretary Krochmal pointed out that

news blasts are sent out by the SICB Secretary and sent to the email addresses on file for all current (i.e. – dues-paying) members of the division. He encouraged those not receiving email news blasts to 1) check their spam/junk folders, 2) make sure they have their current email address on file with SICB, and 3) make sure their dues are paid and up-to-date.

Members present voiced great approval for the revised DEE Best Student Presentation Competition – the Raymond B. Huey Award. Members were impressed with the quality of talks (*editor's note – the poster session had not occurred at the time of the meeting*) and praised the review panel for the selection process. Several in attendance voiced concern about the scheduling of the Huey Award session and complained of substantial conflicts with other "important" sessions. Program Officer Dalhoff and Incoming Chair Angilletta both agreed to implement a refined scheduling paradigm (one linked to the registration process) to avoid conflicting with DEE-sponsored symposia, but noted that completely avoiding scheduling conflicts would not be possible.

Outgoing Chair Woods then gave a brief overview of divisional finances. He announced that as of 4 January 2013, the DEE had accumulated \$1900 (from dues, etc.) to use or roll over to the following year. He then stated that the DEE had received 12 requests for partial support for symposia for the 2014 meeting in Austin, and that the DEE had agreed to support 2 – one on stress, condition, and ornamentation (\$1000) and one on epigenetics (\$500).

While on the topic of symposia, Outgoing Chair Woods polled the members in attendance for suggestions for topics for symposia for the 2015 meeting in Palm Beach, FL. There was much interest in a symposium on ocean acidification, and after some discussion about logistics and practicality, it was agreed that there would be deliberate action by select members to solicit participants for and gauge interest in participation in such a symposium. Other topics included stress, particularly as it impacts plant-animal interactions, and a botanical topic – loosely defined; both of these topics were aimed to draw new people and new disciplines to SICB. Program Officer Dalhoff stated she would make a broad appeal for symposia in her note in the spring 2013 DEE newsletter.

The Society-Wide officers then made a brief appearance. After a quick introduction, the officers summarized the meeting attendance (2100 pre-registrants) and participation (1651 abstracts). They followed up with a discussion of the locations of forthcoming meetings – Austin (2014) and Palm Beach (2015) – and discussed the proposed locations for the 2016 meeting (Portland, OR; Phoenix, AZ; San Diego, CA). The Society-Wide officers then appealed for participation in a post-meeting survey (to be done online). Information from this survey will be used to plan future meetings, and to revamp and meeting structure (*e.g.* length of talks, number of concurrent sessions, evaluation of submitted abstracts) in light of continued growth in membership and attendance at meetings. Finally, the Society-Wide officers had high praise for the Raymond B. Huey Award for the Best Student Presentations, citing logistics, ease of scoring, and most of all, honor to the elite students of the division. They voiced hope that other divisions would adopt similar models for their student competitions.

After the Society-Wide officers departed the meeting, Chair-Elect Angilletta began a discussion of a new program for student support. Tentatively titled "Beer and Brains," this new program centers on a series of mixers for DEE students and postdocs to interact with symposium speakers to gain insight not only into their work, but more importantly, into the nature of their career paths, training, etc. Participation in "Beer and Brains" would be required of presenters speaking in DEE-sponsored symposia. Chair-Elect Angilletta noted that he had already sought input from and the approval of the Society-Wide officers. Members in attendance were overwhelmingly in support of this initiative, but many cited alcohol as a potential deterrent to graduate students, and requested that the emphasis on alcohol be removed or that the event be made alcohol-free. Chair-Elect Angilletta and Secretary Krochmal agreed to consider suggestions, revise the program, and provide an update *via* email in the spring.

Outgoing Chair Woods then opened discussion on the nature and amount of forthcoming Huey awards. He stated that the current award is \$150 (in addition to a journal subscription) but voiced that in the name of making the award elite and this drawing members to the DEE, that we might consider increasing the award to \$500-\$1000. Though the draw of making membership in the DEE special and elite for students was universally accepted, there was much concern voiced over raising the award level into the \$500-\$1000 range, citing logistics / sustainability, and overall fairness (relative to students of other divisions), and a heated discussion on the topic ensued. In the end, it was agreed that students would participate for the honor (being showcased in an elite, DEE-students only session), and that the monetary award of \$150 and commemorative plaque would be more than enough for an award.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 pm.