

Minutes from the Division of Invertebrate Zoology Business Meeting: 5 January 2013, San Francisco, California

DIZ Chair Jim McClintock called the meeting to order. We approved the minutes from last year.

Bill Zamer, of NSF, introduced Sophie George, who is the Rotating Officer for NSF. Sophie reported that NSF is on 80% of last year's budget now until the new budget is passed (might be as late as late March). NSF is interested in continuing to support forward-thinking, prospective (not retrospective), SICB symposia. They are also interested in providing Research Coordination Network grants to gather groups together that would not typically associate with each other. The idea of these grants is to stimulate progress in science by creating collaborating groups that focus on one or a single group of organisms or focus on one question that needs a new approach. It seems many people are not aware of/not taking advantage of these grants. There is no pre-proposal for these grants, a full proposal is submitted by the deadline specific to the particular Division within which it falls. Also, Sophie alerted us to an upcoming change in how REU supplements will work: soon the PI will need to put the supplements into the original, full NSF proposal, not apply for supplements after the initial award was granted.

Bob Podolsky pointed out that our Division has a home on the digital library, and Bob, Jan Pechenik, and Jon Allen have great student-generated focus boxes created there. Check them out and submit your own material. The editor of our web page will be Karen Chan, so send things to her (kchan@whoi.edu). You can send any appropriate information, including links to material on other web sites.

Outgoing DIZ Secretary Erika Iyengar reminded the group that the Libbie Hyman auction was coming up and should be a great event, all should attend and spend freely. Additionally, Erika encouraged people to send in any photos or stories/research blurbs they would like to have in the newsletter to the new Secretary (Jon Allen) as such information makes the newsletter more fun reading for all. Finally, Erika stated that at the Secretaries' meeting it was mentioned that other divisions have a program where faculty volunteer, well in advance of the meeting, to take a student out to lunch or dinner during the meeting. Then a general call goes out to students of the division that they can sign up for this mentoring meal on a first sign up, first choice of mentor basis. Erika was wondering if this sort of a program would appeal to DIZ and there seemed to be general support for trying this sort of a program.

John Zardus, the DIZ Program Officer, said that the current meeting was the largest ever for SICB, with 1684 abstracts (250 more than Charleston) and 2100 pre-registrants. There were 15 concurrent sessions, 11 symposia, and DIZ sponsored 6 of those. DIZ has \$2000 each meeting to allocate across symposia, so when people are in charge of symposia, be sure to ask the Division to co-sponsor and help provide money for it. Next year the annual meeting will be in Austin. There were 31 symposia proposals submitted for San Francisco, but only 12 for Austin. Ten of those symposia proposals were accepted, and DIZ will be co-sponsoring four. If you are thinking of a symposium for West Palm Beach, talk with John now. Even if you have an idea but don't want to organize the symposium yourself, let John know your idea and he can work on finding someone interested in running it. His goal is to have 15 symposia proposals, and the deadline will be in late August.

The SICB Executive Officers reported that the next annual meeting will be in Austin, and then in Palm Beach, Florida. There is a post-meeting survey, please be sure to fill it out because it helps the Board know what is working and what is not. This year, the student funds were a bit down, so please donate to that fund if you can. For the price of one Starbucks coffee a month for the year, that provides a good donation to SICB student support! There was a discussion as to what was going on with the amount of student support because some of the students suddenly found themselves assigned to four students per room, with two double beds, and the four students did not know each other. The Board reported that in the past, \$45,000 was allocated to student support, and this year \$60,000 was allocated (plus reduced student registration costs). That support amount was maxed out even with putting four students in each room. Each of those students supported is required to present a paper or poster, which promotes fantastic student participation. 397 students were supported through student support: SICB has not had to turn down a student yet who asked for support. There is now a 3-year cap on the number of times a student can receive student support. There was a discussion as to how the financial issue can be approached, and one suggestion was to allow students to scale the amount of support received depending on the number of students in the room. It was agreed that the number of students that might be assigned to a room should be more transparent.

Other issues that came up with the Executive Board was that starting talk sessions at 7:40 AM is too early, the maximum poster size needs to be stated more clearly and obviously on the web site before the meeting, and there should be guidelines posted about the fact that talks should have results in them and posters are the correct place to present proposed future work.

Karen Chan, the Student-Post doc Representative, reported that there was a booth in the exhibition hall where students can drop off their c.v.s for feedback. Various workshops were also occurring during the meeting, such as how to give an elevator talk, etc. Notes Aboveground is also an important local resource for students during the meeting.

Beth Davis Berg, our outgoing Student Awards Coordinator, said that Anne Boettger will replace her next year. This year there were 59 talks and posters, which is 20 more than last year. There were 40 judges, so there were at least 2 judges for every poster and talk. There is a poster of past Student Award winners in the exhibit hall.

Jennifer Burnaford reported on the Libbie Hyman award that there were 14 applicants, 9 of which were for classes, and 8 of which were to take place at Friday Harbor Laboratories. The winner was Sonia Singhal, who used her award to support her attendance at the summer 'Ecology of Infectious Marine Disease' course at Friday Harbor Laboratories. This year (and for the future) the application was moved to two weeks earlier, to February 15. The award was \$1,311 this past year and the purpose of this award is to allow a student a transformative field station experience, so a first significant experience at a field station. So, please encourage appropriate students to apply! The Libbie Hyman Committee is a 3-member committee and each year someone should be rotating off. If you would like to be considered for a three-year appointment to this committee please let Jim McClintock (DIZ Chair) know of your interest.

Jim McClintock, Chair of DIZ, reported on the SICB Executive Committee meeting. He said that there has been a proposal that each Division should submit one review

paper a year in their respective fields to the journal *Integrative and Comparative Biology*. Jim proposed that perhaps the person who is currently the Division's representative to the journal (currently Bob Thacker) should author this paper, or should be responsible for finding an author. If you would be interested in writing such a review, please contact Jim McClintock and/or Bob Thacker. Papers would be due in January of the year it would be published. Also discussed was the fact that SICB is planning to condense emails across all divisions such that members would receive a single email once a month from SICB with links for all the Divisions. In terms of the budget, there is a new discretionary fund (only a few years old) for the Divisions, and DIZ previously passed a resolution that extra money goes into the principal for the Libbie Hyman award. But if you know of appropriate ways to spend that discretionary money, please let the DIZ Chair know. There was a motion to spend money to ship and digitize old DIZ records, and that vote passed. Jim also mentioned that the plan is to have the Libbie Hyman auction be held every three years (and it is being held this year, 2013). The principal for the Hyman award is now at \$28,250.

In terms of other announcements, DIZ member Mega Rock is a biological illustrator and has offered to do illustrations for graduate students and post docs for \$30. She is also willing to be commissioned to illustrate for professors and professionals, but at a higher rate. Contact her if you are interested: meghan.omeara.rock@gmail.com.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Erika Iyengar, Outgoing DIZ Secretary