

DIZ minutes 2023 Austin

1/5/23 5:45pm

Welcome by chair Jon Allen

There will be visit from NSF and executive committee

DIZ leadership

Karen Chan – Adam Reitzel is taking over. Huge round of applause for Karen.

Kelly Dorgan – secretary

Abby Cahill – Libby Hyman award chair

Will Ballentine – student and postdoctoral affairs rep, saying goodbye to Rebecca Varney

Karen – report – back to pre-pandemic level, a few society-wide symposia. Tomorrow -making field work inclusive and safe.

Kelly – send me photos for newsletter

Abby – last year we had many more applications, thanks to application evaluators; Selected 3 students but one unable to accept. Read about them in the newsletter. Deadline coming up Feb. 6. Application is online. Encourage students to apply for first time field station experience.

Comment – Uzuki was in embryology class and was amazing.

Jon – good news – 2 major gifts to Hyman fund, goal was \$200K, currently have \$234K, then got a bequest from Margaret Simpson, a professor of invertebrate biology from Sweetbriar, in stock, valued approx. \$64K. Then the fund received a bequest from Mary Rice for \$167K. Discuss what to do with that fund. 3.5% payout from SICB per year. An option is to boost payout for Hyman awards. Division should think about fundraising in general, what would actions support?

This year funded \$5-6K total for 2 students, less than tuition on FHL course. John Pearce fund - \$1000 each year to a student through GIAR program. Last year we put \$1000 division funds to Pearce fund and \$1000 to Hyman fund.

Jon - Don't have details on divisional finances.

Ken suggests opportunity to support underrepresented groups through Hyman fund, PUI schools.

We have succeeded in funding Hyman fund, should we focus fundraising toward another fund?

Executive committee:

Melina Hale – President

Patricia Hernandez – Pres elect

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Molly Jacobs – communications coordinator

Ulrike Muller - Need symposia! Please organize symposia, think about 10-15 people you want to get in a room together.

Integrative Organismal biology – now has an impact factor of 3.2; the process is supportive and constructive. The journal promotes papers through outreach editors who produce pieces about papers to reach wider audience. The journal encourages abstracts to be translated into multiple languages. Karen Chan is a new representative on editorial board – hopefully will increase submissions from DIZ.

Michele – 3 society-wide elections coming up.

Plug for SICB+, about 50% of people at in-person meeting committed to uploading presentations; can use SICB+ for education

Venue selection – SICB 2026 – Oregon; California is prohibitively expensive, but SICB 2028 in LA is an option, need to decide by the end of the meeting.

NSF – Susan Renn – stop by booths and talk to program officers; funding opportunities for people at all career stages; BRC Bio – for people starting out at PUIs; other career stage specific options. New PAPPG as of Jan. 30. Need to have a program for safety and inclusivity in the field, needed for home institution. NSF supports researchers as well as research. Strategic plan – empowerment, discovery, impact, excellence. Can apply for supplements to increase inclusivity and diversity, add undergrads, post-bac program (REP) – being phased into RAMP, like an REU for post-bacs. Lots of programs on climate change, get on NSF mailing list to hear about new solicitations or dear colleague letters that outline what NSF is interested in. Virtual office hours – good way to hear about things going on.

Jon - Logistics of Libbie Hyman auction – Anna – happening tomorrow at DIZ social, at 8:00 or 8:30, silent auction and live auction. Need help moving stuff down to auction.

Election – nominating committee for DIZ chair, looking for suggestions. Somewhat urgent.

Best student presentations – Karen – 1) currently have all student oral presentations in one session; some divisions want fewer people competing but can speak for longer (20 min not 15 min). 2) Currently select from abstracts, some other divisions have longer abstracts and/or figures. Want to encourage everyone to participate. 3) currently do not have student posters in a single session, now in the program where they fit, do we want to put them all together?

We did away with 20 min talks for student awards (rather than 15) to make it easier to circulate, match schedules of other sessions. Don't want to be less inclusive, have smaller groups of students, should give everyone the opportunity to participate. People like integration of posters. Asking for additional abstract might discourage some students from participating. If we do expand student applications, maybe ask for lay abstract. Could do a prize for public-oriented abstract. Student talks were great. Thanks to everyone who is judging posters. Check the box at SICB registration to judge – need more judges.

Bob – division voted 5 years ago for changes to best student presentation awards, voted to initiate a mentoring program but we haven't done this. How to identify potential mentees? This was more challenging than anticipated. Need to coordinate with central, but now other divisions have mentoring programs so maybe solved. Program officer can send an email invite to all students.

People need to be willing to do the mentoring program, it's not that much work/time and is meaningful to students.

In executive committee, discussion about how dues are paid and discretionary funds. TBD.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Dorgan