

## **Minutes of the DSEB Business Meeting, 4 January 2009**

The really bad news with the DSEB business meeting this year meeting was that almost nobody showed up. Admittedly, it was at an odd time, and that couldn't be helped because of conflicts with other meetings and our own Phylogenetics for Dummies sessions. Please try to come to this meeting next year!

The first people to come were the Society-wide officers, but there were at that point fewer DSEB people than there were officers... They reported on issues as discussed by Anne above. The typically unread status of the newsletter is another continuous contentious issue; no solutions on that at this point, but if you have any, let me know and I will pass them on!

The program officer's report was given by Rachel Collin. Among others, the division will be supporting the Strathmann-Fest and the Cnidarian Tree of Life symposia in Salt Lake City. It's time to start thinking about symposia for 2011, so get your ideas to Mika Alfaro. Many thanks to Rachel for her service for the past two years!

Another problem issue – we continuously lack enough judges to handle the student presentation and poster awards. Ruedi Birenheide conjured up a neat new way to get judges assigned this year, but it didn't really work for us – we only had three judges sign up (for 17 presentations)! Part of this is probably because judges didn't sign up to judge particular divisions, but were assigned according to their primary divisional affiliation – and DSEB is a secondary division for most people. But hopefully this can be remedied for next year. On the subject of student awards, kudos to Wiley-Blackwell, who financed this year's student awards and gave winners a one year subscription to a journal – in our case Evolution. A very nice prize!

Finally, owing to our small divisional meeting turnout, the enormous difficulty of scheduling all the meetings and presentations, and continuing frustration with trying to see talks that are inevitably in competing sessions, the suggestion was made that SICB should go back to having a full fourth meeting day. For many of us, the only option to get home is to leave in the morning anyway, so we stay the entire last day. An issue to consider for next year?