

## **Minutes of the DIVISION OF SYSTEMATIC AND EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY business meeting 2011**

Wed Jan 5, 2011, Salt Lake City, UT.

Present – Patrick O’connor (President); Todd Oakley (Secretary); Graham Slater representing Michael Alfaro (Program Officer) plus 7 delegates.

Richard Zimmer, program officer for NSF encouraged people to consider submitting RCN (Research Coordination Network) grants. He then answered questions regarding symposium and other funding at NSF.

1. Patrick O’Connor urged people to send in ideas for nominating committees to elect a Secretary-Elect and Program Officer Elect.
2. Patrick indicated that SICB will institute a new \$5 dues fee, which will be distributed to the different divisions based on proportion of membership. The divisions can use the funds at their discretion.
3. People discussed the possibility of changing the name Division of Systematic and Evolutionary Biology. One suggestion is to change to “Phylogenetic and Comparative Biology”. Ideas include getting feedback from all members, perhaps through a survey. A ballot and vote would be required, and perhaps multiple choices of name could be offered.
4. People discussed the possibility of a new 5-minute format option for presentations at future meetings. Some concerns were raised – “why not just give a poster instead?” Another concern is that these talks could be mainly by students and the presentations could get less attention. A positive is that it could be less intimidating for some students. One possibility would be to use this venue to propose collaborative ideas.
5. We discussed the newsletter for the division. Ideas for making the newsletter better include contributing news releases from divisional affiliates, a focus on student experiences, announcement of other relevant meetings, and photos.
6. We still do not have many people in the researchers database; all members are encouraged to contribute their information.
7. An idea for increasing attendance at the business meeting was to tack a small invitation to good posters relevant to the division.