

SICB Business Meeting

6 January 2001

Hilton Chicago Towers

President Martin Feder chaired the meeting.

Evolution Resolution

Martin Feder read the resolution:

Nothing in biology makes sense except in the light of evolution. Insofar as the life sciences are critical to human health, well-being, and knowledge, evolutionary biology is and must be a fundamental component of an excellent science education. Moreover, awareness of current views concerning evolutionary history and mechanisms, including natural selection, is an essential part of modern literacy for all citizens. Excellence in education requires that teachers and students can explore, investigate, and criticize scientific ideas. However, learning and inquiry are inhibited when educators feel pressured to alter their teaching of fundamental concepts of science in response to demands external to the scientific disciplines. The Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology is committed to these principles and will support the teaching of fundamental concepts and ideas in science, including those related to evolution and the nature of scientific inquiry.

Motion to approve the Evolution Resolution. Motion passed.

There was some discussion about the specifics of the wording. Tom Wolcott suggested that the “nothing in biology” part could be removed. Some others agreed with this.

It was pointed out that we must consider the intended audience. We are unlikely to change minds with this statement so should not worry about offending anyone. This is a call to rally the faithful.

Martin Feder pointed out that this statement is the outgrowth of a meeting of about 50 societies. Gunter Wagner suggested that the intent of the statement is what is important and that we should not spend too much time discussing semantics.

Motion to amend the first sentence to “Biology makes sense only in the light of evolution.” Amendment fails

It was suggested that this document should appear on the web page.

Future Directions

Feder asked how we should proceed now that we have adopted the Evolution Resolution. Jackie Web proposed that we devise a way to bring high school teachers to the meeting. She further suggested that we provide mentors

It was suggested that we work with the national societies of teachers to bring them in and then bring in the 50 boards of education. Others agreed and suggested the NABT, NSTA and other higher profile groups. John E. would like to see this in American Zoologist.

It was noted that the Education Council is also working on spreading the word. A symposium discussing teaching of evolution was suggested as a standing symposium.

The DEE requested symposium ideas be sent to them for future meetings.

Journal Name Change

Feder reminded the attendees that this is a referendum that is up to the membership as a Constitutional change. Several attendees indicated that this is a favorable change in that it will help people with remembering the name of the SICB.

There was concern expressed that with declining revenue in the Journal, changing the name would result in accelerated losses due to loss of name recognition. Feder remarked that the experience of other organizations has been variable.

Some expressed that we are in fact zoologists and there is no reason to change the name. There was also some concern about the loss of name recognition with librarians. In addition to librarians, there was some concern about the loss of recognition with the public who know what zoologists are.

John Edwards spoke in favor of the name change since we are no longer solely American and not just representing zoology.

Gunter Wagner stated that successful name changes are generally accompanied by other significant structural changes.

Minutes

Motion to approve the 2000 Business Meeting minutes – approved

Election Results

Penny Hopkins pointed out that some divisions have been holding their elections in the Fall – they will probably hold them in the Spring this year.

Feder complimented the stellar cast of future Presidents.

Feder thanked Kim Smith as outgoing Treasurer and indicated that fiscal prudence, improvements in the organization and free drink tickets are his legacy.

Finances

Kim Smith noted that our net worth continues to grow. Smith stated that the 2001 budget is slated to have a surplus of about \$130,000, much of this is due to Burk & Associates – we look forward to a long relationship with them.

Smith noted that the abstract fee was removed this year and that registration costs were reduced and that we are still looking at losing only about half as much as usual on the meeting.

Smith stated that the Executive Committee has voted to reduce the 2002 dues again significantly to \$85 for full membership. This fulfills a promise that we made during our hard times in the past.

Smith observed that we still realize 50% of our revenues from the Journal.

Smith introduced Ron Dimock, the new Treasurer.

Smith stated that the last three years have been wonderful and that he has enjoyed the relationship with Martin Feder.

Feder stated that with the growing reserves, the Executive Committee is committed to determining the amount to put aside for a rainy day. They will also be examining how much to invest in our future and how much to reduce the membership and meeting costs.

Feder stressed the point that we must grow our membership if we are to succeed. This year, everyone who registers at the meeting as a non-member gets one year of membership.

Marvalee Wake was introduced as the new President. She gave great credit to Martin Feder for his wonderful work and tireless efforts over the last couple of years.

Student Support Committee

David Borst stated that the Committee has supported over 160 students for a total cost of about \$32,000. The Committee had a difficult time this year judging the awards. Borst noted that much of these costs are supported by the Mangum fund and that any donations are welcome and beneficial.

Other Business

There was some discussion about the setup and the flow of the meeting. The majority liked the setup and requested that the meeting remain similar. Feder welcomed suggestions for improvements.

Motion to adjourn. Motion passed.