

SOCIETY FOR INTEGRATIVE & COMPARATIVE BIOLOGY
Executive Committee Meeting
4 January 2005
Town & Country Hotel
San Diego, CA

Council Members Present: John Wingfield, Sarah Woodin, David Borst, Sunny Boyd, Louis Burnett, Mary-Alice Coffroth, Ron Dimock, John Edwards, Robert Full, Ken Halanych, Henry John-Alder, William Kier, Catherine Loudon, Scott MacDougall-Shackleton, John Pearse, Eduardo Rosa-Molinar, Marvalee Wake, Donna Wolcott, Thomas Wolcott

Others Present: Tim Beardsley, Brett Burk, Sue Burk, Stephanie Cross, Patricia Morse

I. CALL TO ORDER; APPROVAL OF MINUTES; INTRODUCTIONS (Wingfield)

- The Meeting was called to order at 09:12 a.m.
- *Borst motioned to approve the minutes, Wake seconded the motion, unanimously approved.*
- Introductions were made.

II. PROPOSED FUTURE VENUES

- S Burk listed the possible venues for the 2007 meeting. She explained that Tucson, AZ had a guaranteed rate of \$129 at the Westin La Paloma, as an incentive the hotel was willing to sponsor a reception, and would also provide shuttle to go to surrounding areas within ½ mile for \$10 round trip. Sue commented that she researched the possibility of Puerto Rico, however it was too expensive at \$165 a night. Rosa-Molinar interjected that he is willing to intercede for SICB to go to Puerto Rico, it may be a great site for 2009. S Burk explained that the back-up plan for 2007 would be Phoenix.

III. STRATEGIC PLAN

- Wingfield explained that last year we agreed to post the Strategic Plan on the website and receive feedback from members. It was agreed by all that any references to the 21st century be stricken. Woodin and Borst pointed out two changes that needed to be made. Woodin commented that there are two things to do, figure out if we're sufficiently happy with the Strategic Plan and figure out how to implement it. Woodin requested that Wolcott and Burnett go through the Strategic Plan and update the tenses, etc.

Halanych motioned to move 5.5 to the end of 5.3, Loudon seconded, passed with three opposed (BF, TW, DW)

- Final vote on the Strategic Plan was decided to be held Saturday, January 8. .

IV. MEMBERSHIP

- Borst suggested a longitudinal study of grad students for their memberships

V. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- Kier (chair of Nominating Committee) commented that it would be useful to have a list of those who have accepted nomination in the past so that it can be updated each year

VI. DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

- Wingfield would like to make the Diversity Committee a standing committee via vote this spring.

VII. PROGRAM PLANNING

- Loudon explained that the numbers for this meeting were quite high

VIII. BEST STUDENT PAPER DISCUSSIONS

- Loudon commented that there is some discussion about having this centralized, she gave an overview of the process for these awards, she added that currently we have 9 best student paper items.
- Loudon stated that there are some problems with identifying which division students may be in as they have not always pre-registered for the meeting. The DPO's unanimously support this idea. Loudon explained that 50 % of the DIZ student applicants were ineligible. She explained that students will still have to pick a division in which to compete, but will not have to prove divisional affiliation. Borst commented that this is a great idea and should be discussed at the Divisional Business Meetings.
- Burnett stated that we would have to have the bylaws changes for the three divisions in questions, Burk commented that we could have these on the ballots this Summer and will vote on them.
- Burnett explained that in general bylaws changes should engender more discussion, perhaps bulletin boards for this type of thing.

IX. ELECTIONS REPORT

- Boyd referred the group to the results of the election this past Spring.
- Borst commented that future vote results should include the total number of votes, Boyd will send a letter to the chair that includes the numbers and the results.

X. FINANCES

- Dimock explained that we are very much solvent, on the surface we are very much in good shape, but we have some financial challenges in the near future. We need to continue to be conservative so that we do not end up in financial trouble over the near future. If we fund a negative budget, that money needs to come from somewhere. We have an erosion of institutional subscriptions like many journals and that is going to continue and will be an impact. He continued to explain that a large amount of our overall income comes from institutional subscriptions. Another late breaking item is the changing funding situation at NSF, we have experienced some pulling back of funding from NSF. Dimock stated that the annual meeting has been a great success story, we have been in the positive since Anaheim, which is attributable to the efficiency of BAI and our revised programs. We spent nearly \$50,000 last year on student support at the annual meeting and this year we will approach that again.
- Wolcott commented that it would be useful to determine retention. Dimock explained that our investments were originally to be up to \$1 million, we have about \$800,000 that has been apportioned and the rest is about to be moved, right now our investments are looking good.

- Halanych questioned if we have a model for what we should do with the gains and the investments. Dimock answered that a plan for that does not yet exist. Dimock continued to explain that Matt T. is leaving his firm and he has been our advisor all along, Matt T. has suggested that we consider a new team from his company, this would minimize the transitional difficulties. Dimock explained that the situation at the Journal is serious. Institutional subscriptions constitute about 90% of our journal revenue. We need to keep the journal revenue in mind when we move forward.
- Dimock questioned if, about NSF funding, are the changes a policy change? Burk answered that as far as we know, it's not a policy change but we are monitoring. Wingfield added that he has asked 9 directorates and eventually Mary Clutter about international funding. Rosa-Molinar suggested that we join DC Principles to follow these issues. Wake and Burk added that we are participating through AIBS. Woodin went to CSSP where they discussed this issue also. Woodin commented that we are using journal income to fund the SICB and rely on that funding as do many other societies. Wingfield added that he asked BAI to go out to several publishers.

John-Alder motioned to accept the Treasurer's report, Rosa-Molinar seconded, unanimously approved.

XI. 2005 BUDGET

- Dimock commented that we often have amendments during the second meeting. Dimock thanked the division chairs for their responses to the budget requests. Dimock commented that a means of getting more money might be to increase dues, we should consider our journal future before making any changes to this.
- Woodin suggested that we consider a \$5 increase in the annual meeting registration to support the AV costs. *Education Council to propose a budget on Saturday, January 8.* Dimock stated that divisional budgets are up due to two \$10K requests for participation in non SICB meetings.
- DCPB-D Wolcott stated that the goal of IUPS funding at \$10K was intended to support Comparative. Terwilliger will give further details at the meeting on Saturday.
- DCE-Borst stated that their request for \$10K is to support grad students at the ICCE meeting. He continued by saying that there is likely to be a mix of US and international students for support on this.
- Halanych commented that he would like to see this discussed at the business meeting. Woodin stated that this is a realization that we are experiencing what we predicted would happen once we funded such an item. Burnett noted that this is the type of thing that we should be funding over time. Rosa-Molinar commented that they are requesting support for funding international travel towards SICB symposia. Wake stated that we will be getting another proposal for the support of the IUBS and their upcoming international meeting in 2007. D. Wolcott commented that it is clear that we cannot fund these types of things out of our operations, we will need to determine what to do with our investment dividends. She continued to say that we should consider a central line item to fund these types of requests. Rosa-Molinar added that we need to develop a corporate support mechanism. Wingfield stated that as NSF funding declines and the Journal income continues to fall we need to discuss some financial mechanisms.

XII. DIGITAL LIBRARY (Morse presented)

- Morse stated that we need to be able to transmit our vast data out to the practitioners. This all ends up being connected through meta data. She continued by saying that the advisory group consists of the editors and there is no organizational chart. A brief overview will be given at each of the divisional meetings. Morse stated that Ruedi has created the electronic infrastructure for this.
- John-Alder added that this has a tremendous potential. John-Alder encouraged the group to visit the BEN website. John-Alder questioned if we need approval from the Exec Comm on this. Wingfield answered that this is in keeping with the goals and mission of SICB. Borst stated that there was a comment that contributions must be kept up to date, we might want to archive things instead of removing them as future people might be interested.

XIII. AIBS BIOSCIENCE (Tim Beardsley, AIBS, presented)

- Beardsley thanked SICB for allowing him to be at the meeting.
- Beardsley explained that AIBS is publishing monthly in various categories. The peer review articles are primarily review articles, and they are edited for the general biologist. He added that there are also forums and a broad range of subjects. Beardsley and the Board of AIBS are trying to broaden the range of subjects, more integrative and evolutionary biology. Beardsley asked the help of SICB to address a broader audience of biologists.

XIII. ICB REPORT (John Edwards presented)

- Edwards distributed a copy of the ICB report.
- Edwards commented that we are essentially caught up at this point.
- Full asked if we knew who's dropping the institutional subscriptions. Burk answered that there believes to be some overlap with online, we believe some institutions are going through a budgetary crunch; because we don't have a structure where our online & print sales are coordinated, we are extremely vulnerable to institutions picking online instead of print.
- PUBLISHERS DISCUSSION-Burk explained that Allen Press is more of a printing arrangement than a publication arrangement. We went out to 5 publishers and 4 of which said they were very interested. They represent 4 different kinds of publishers: Elsevier, Oxford University Press, California University Press, and Blackwell.

XV. BAI EVALUATION

- Dimock presented the BAI Evaluation and explained that it would be collected on Saturday. He asked that everyone please evaluate this year's relationship and explained that the summary of last years evaluation was on the last 4 pages.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

Adjournment

SOCIETY FOR INTEGRATIVE & COMPARATIVE BIOLOGY
Executive Committee Meeting
8 January 2005
Town & Country Hotel
San Diego, CA

Council Members Present: John Wingfield, Sarah Woodin, David Borst, Sunny Boyd, Louis Burnett, Mary-Alice Coffroth, Ron Dimock, John Edwards, Frank Fish, Robert Full, Ken Halanych, Henry John-Alder, William Kier, Catherine Loudon, Scott MacDougall-Shackleton, Marvalee Wake, Donna Wolcott, Thomas Wolcott

Others Present: Brett Burk, Sue Burk, Robin Cooper, Stephanie Cross, Robert Espinoza, Brian Hall, Patricia Morse, John Pearse, Nora Terwilliger

I. BUDGET MODIFICATIONS AND APPROVAL

- Dimock handed out some budget replacement pages
- Dimock explained that our current budget as fully proposed is at (\$91,000). Wolcott commented that the money from last year was well spent and appreciated and they would like to drop their request by \$9,500. Borst commented that they would like to drop their request for \$10,000. Wake added that the AIBS dues will drop significantly this year also.
- Dimock added that we will need to dip into our reserves but we need to be cautious not to go this far in the red in the future. Borst asked if it would be reasonable to reduce the level of student support for future years. Wingfield answered that if we increase the registration fee for full members by about \$50 and ask for a co-pay for supported students of about \$50 this would bring in over \$50,000 for the next meeting. He continued by saying that there is also some indication that NSF would fund some of the student support.
- Full commented that we could stop printing the abstract portion of the book. Dimock added that the student lunches cost about \$18,000. Borst explained that we need to keep this as it fosters a sense of community, perhaps increasing the co-pay would be the best approach
- John-Alder commented that the Education Council is requesting a \$3,000 addition for the Digital Library. Wake commented that the Education Council could apply for a multi-year grant to NSF. Woodin suggested that we put our rate at \$250 for the meeting for full members.
- Woodin then suggested we put our full member meeting rate at \$225-**consensus**.
- Borst suggested a \$75 on the co-payment for student who receive support-**consensus**.
- The group then agreed that there should not be a cap on the number of times one can access student support. A suggestion was also made that we not do the abstract volume, just the program parts. Perhaps have a cd or cd downloadable on the web.
- Borst commented that he would like to retain the abstract book. Wingfield asked if we could publish in advance of the meeting, Burk answered that we could but it would change the abstract submission deadline.

Woodin motioned to increase the adult meeting costs by \$30, Borst seconded. Unanimously approved.

Woodin motioned to create a student co-pay for those supported to be set with a cap of \$75, Dimock seconded. Motion passed with one opposed (Robert Full)

Fish motioned to have the program and abstracts produced separately, Full seconded. Unanimously approved.

Amendment to have a check-off box for people who want a printed version of the abstracts at cost-amendment accepted.

Dimock motioned to approve the budget as amended, John-Alder seconded. Unanimously approved.

II. JOURNAL PUBLISHER DISCUSSION

Edwards motioned to have the core officers proceed to seek final bids and create an ad hoc negotiation committee, Borst seconded. Unanimously approved.

- Hall commented that we need a mechanism to determine who to approach. Hall suggested that we could approach everyone who has advertised in the journal over the past 5 years. Wake commented that Academia is a good approach.
- Woodin asked what items we want in the proposals. Wake: Color pages charges, Halanych: how manuscript process.
- John-Alder asked if there would be some benefit to the consolidation of journals. Edwards commented that we should remember that the symposia are heavily used as an educational tool. Halanych commented that we should get a read on flexibility of the journal format. Woodin requested a summary of the comments from the divisional meetings so that we can know what is going on.
- Woodin stated that we can have a global email that discusses the things we are looking for and asks for additional input
- Final approval is to be by the Executive Committee via email

III. FUTURE MEETINGS

John-Alder motioned to disapprove Tucson for 2007, withdrawn.

- John-Alder commented that Tucson would not be student friendly. Borst commented that in his poll people seemed in favor of Tucson. Halanych & T. Wolcott agreed that the people they had spoken to did not seem in favor of Tucson. Boyd commented that taking over a resort is good and that we would not be isolated.

Halanych motioned to approve Tucson as the default unless a better option came along before the deadline, and that one of the core officers be authorized to act. Woodin seconded. Motion approved with one abstention (D. Wolcott)

- Burk asked for any suggestion for a site for 2007. Answers: Seattle, Reno, Portland, Long Beach, Philadelphia, Denver, Vancouver, Montreal, Baltimore, Anchorage

IV. IUPS FOLLOW-UP REPORT

- Terwilliger reported that part of the \$5,000 went to support a specific symposium and part went to support student travel, especially minority groups.

V. DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

- Espinoza commented that the meetings onsite went very well. He added that it has been an issue to determine success and also difficult to address definitions of race. Having the membership survey as part of the newsletter would drive a low response rate. Burk commented that many organizations use an optional item that ties to the membership records. Halanych asked about physical handicaps as a category.

VI. EDUCATION COUNCIL

- John-Alder commented that the Education Council had lost its focus over the past many years. He added that lately their work has been quite productive. He explained that the Digital Library was introduced to each of the divisional meetings. The \$3,000 for the division was to go to the Digital Library. John-Alder continued by saying that we are proceeding and will see if such a site is needed and will be used.
- Hall suggested that we should see if we can/should coordinate with NESCENT on their efforts. Wake added that this could be a major good thing for SICB as it works with AIBS.

VII. BEST STUDENT PAPERS AND ELSEVIER

- Loudon commented that they will make sure that each student can only specify one division. She added that the divisions will look into their bylaws changes needed. She continued by saying that we will have one lifetime opportunity per student per division for first place for oral and one for poster. The winners should be encouraged to be judges in future years.
- Wingfield explained that they are making a donation to the society for best student paper award, Elsevier is paying for two awards each year for five years so that each division is covered over the five years.

VIII. STRATEGIC PLAN

Woodin motioned to approve the Strategic Plan as amended, Edwards seconded. Unanimously approved.

- Wingfield commented that our code of ethics needs to be updated and we will be looking at this in the future.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

- D. Wolcott commented that there are many organizations that have large endowments that are not used- we are not in that position, but should consider how and when we should begin using our endowment.
- Woodin explained that some organizations use 4.5% of the averaged balance of the trailing seven years
- Dimock added that we need to be cautious due to the symposium and the journal funding in the future.
- Finance Committee to be charged with creating a reasonable policy, also to look into the timing of the fiscal year or approving multiple budgets.

X. THANK YOU'S

- Wingfield thanked everyone
- Wingfield handed the gavel over to Woodin
- Resolution of appreciation for Wingfield

Adjournment at 9:49 a.m.