Executive Committee Members Present:
President – Sally Woodin
President-Elect – John Pearse
Past President – not present
Secretary – Lou Burnett
Program Officer – Linda Walters
Treasurer – Ron Dimock
Member-at-Large – John Long
Member-at-Large – Rachel Merz
Member-at-Large – Sönke Johnsen

Divisional Chairs
DAB – Scott MacDougal-Shackleton
DCB – Robert Full
DCE – Robert Denver
DCPB – Pat Walsh
DDCB – not present
DEDB – Billie Swalla
DEE – George Bakken
DIZ – Janice Voltzow
DNB – not present
DSEB – Don Swiderski
DVM – Beth Brainerd

Editor-in-Chief, ICB – Harold Heatwole
Student Postdoctoral Affairs Committee Chair – Larry Riley
Educational Council Chair – Robin Cooper
Executive Director (ex officio) – Brett Burk (via teleconference)

Others present:
Heidi Rohland

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 a.m. by President Woodin.

Minutes of the 2006 Executive Committee were approved as distributed.

I. Meeting Refinements

• There was discussion about possible meeting refinements.
Woodin noted that we might want to extend the breaks and lunches somewhat. There is a question about whether this would impact our concern about fitting symposia into single days.

Woodin also noted that there was a concern about the posters and was curious whether they could be up longer than one day.

It was suggested that we could have the exhibit hall open during lunch if we had a poster session in there.

Poster presenters are required to stand by their posters for one hour – that is the current minimum – we could/should encourage them to be there for longer (currently, the instructions imply that it is a one hour requirement).

- There was discussion of changing 20 minute talks to 15 minutes. The following points were raised.
  - There was a discussion about changing talks from 20 minutes to 15 minutes.
  - Woodin noted that if we do this, perhaps we could lengthen our coffee breaks.
  - It was noted that in the SICB Business Meeting on January 6, 2007 a straw poll was taken and the majority felt that the 20 minute talk format should be retained.
  - Moving to a 15 minute format will cut down on the discussion.
  - There are other things going on that also eat into time – fumbling with projectors, etc.
  - Walters stated that it would be difficult to do both 15 minute and 20 minute talks because of scheduling.
  - Having a discussion session at the end of a contributed paper session is not ideal since people come and go to those.

II. Education Council Report

- The Education Council will be talking about the digital library in their meeting today.
- They are already working on the San Antonio meeting.
- Woodin thanked them for bringing the high school students to the meeting this year.

III. Budget

- Dimock gave an overview of the budget and what the different sections of the budget are.
- Dimock reminded the group that the 2007 budget is established and we are focusing on the 2008 budget.
- Dimock noted that we have over $1.5M in assets and so are not in fiscal trouble – the proposed deficit is about 5% of our assets – but this is not a long term sustainable situation.
- Dimock remarked that because we are budgeting in advance, we have the opportunity to set the budget for the next annual meeting.
- We can increase revenue via registration fees or reduce expenditures.
- One option to improve our annual meeting outlook is to get sponsorships for the coffee breaks to reduce the overall expenditures.
- Dimock noted that in 2009 we will benefit from a $50K AV credit that BAI negotiated.
- Discussion of student support at the annual meeting.
  - It was pointed out that a number of students get support from SICB many years in a row.
  - One suggestion for this is to cap the eligibility at two years.
A concern was expressed that a 2 year cap will drive away a significant number of students from the annual meeting.

Woodin suggested that another option is to set a fiscal cap – give priority to those who are the first two years and then divide up the rest among the others – their co-pay would be fluid depending on demand.

Voltzow said that she would rather have more students than some of the meeting items we currently fund such as pastries.

Walters noted that there is some concern about students canceling if they don’t receive funding – this would mess up the program if they make the decision late in the process.

Another suggestion was that we could ramp the co-pay so that they would know the amount in advance.

Woodin spoke with NSF about getting general support for students to come to the meeting – they are not likely to support this kind of expenditure.

There was a suggestion for capping the student support at three years.

There were some comments about students’ readiness to come to the meeting – there are some talks that are clearly not ready – having a cap would make them think before just coming.

It was stated that if this line item doubles, we should find other ways to fund it.

Burnett noted that we need to advertise all of the things that we do for students. We plan to have a tab for them on the revised web page.

There was a comment that with the current method of student support, we really have an open-ended commitment each year.

The discussion then moved to other areas of the budget.

- Divisional socials – Dimock noted that some are asking for $2,000 whereas the norm is around $750. This disparity and the socials in general engendered considerable discussion.
  - One of the challenges with the divisional socials is the ability to hold them given the high costs of food at the hotels.
  - It was suggested that the Finance Committee could set the base divisional social costs.
  - One option discussed was to have the funding based on a per-head basis for each of the divisions.
  - Another suggestion was to have a general social with divisional sections within it.

- There was discussion about having a set amount for divisions to be able to use for symposium sponsorships.
  - Woodin would be opposed to the symposium support being flat.

- Woodin noted that the budget is a real budget this time – we really need to think about removing things as we add new things to try to remain balanced.

- Woodin noted that the Finance Committee has suggested that we cap the student support item.
• It was suggested that BAI consider the services that the SICB might cut to reduce the management fee (top three) and suggest them back to the group.

• Student cap reconsideration
  o Woodin summarized the main options that had been proposed.
  o One suggestion was that perhaps we could give the students an idea of SICB support before the abstract deadline. This would require moving the student application deadline forward.
  o **Motion by Swalla: Cap the student support at 3 years (with the current co-pay of $75).**
    A friendly amendment was accepted to this motion to identify those students who have received 4 or more years of meeting support and to apply any budgeted funding that has not been used on those who have received funding for 3 years or less.
    **Amended motion: Cap the student support at 3 years (with the current co-pay of $75). Identify students who have received 4 or more years of meeting support and apply any budgeted funding that has not been used to those who have received funding for 3 years or less.**
    **Discussion of the motion:**
    ▪ Woodin stated that we could even set up an additional committee that would review the 4+ people for the award to be competitive.
    ▪ **The motion carried with 10 in favor, 3 opposed, and 0 abstained.**

  o **Motion: Place a cap on student support at $60,000; any student requests that increase the total costs above $60,000 would require an increase in the amount of co-pay that the students pay.**
    **Discussion of the motion:**
    ▪ We could set the cap at $70K as we transition the mechanism toward enforcing a true cap.
    ▪ **Voting on the motion: 6 in favor, 6 opposed, and 0 abstentions. President Woodin broke the tie in favor of the motion. The motion carried.**

  o **Motion by MacDougal-Shackleton: Cap the net functions line in the budget at $60,000.**
    **The motion was defeated with 4 in favor, 7 opposed and 2 abstained.**
  o **Motion by Robert Full, seconded the Rich Satterlie: Refer the issue of a cap on student support to the membership for approval.**
    **Discussion of the motion:**
    ▪ Burnett commented that this is a very bad idea – making such decisions on budgetary matters is the job the Executive Committee was elected to carry out.
    ▪ **The motion was defeated with 1 in favor, 11 opposed, and 1 abstained.**
o Burk will send out to the Executive Committee expanded and detailed budget sheets (including functions). The Executive Committee will then have two weeks to ask for additional details. A vote on the budget will then be held.

o Discussion of the change in the cost of life membership as proposed earlier in the meeting (3 Jan 2007) will be held on a conference call among the Executive Committee to be scheduled.

IV. Appreciation

- President-Elect John Pearse acknowledged outgoing President Sally Woodin for her excellent leadership and hard work, thanking her on behalf of a grateful society.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.