DCE Business Meeting Minutes
SICB Annual Meeting Austin 5 January 2014

Meeting was led by Steve McCormick, DCE Chair, called to order at 5:45 pm.

NSF Update:
Steve Ellis stopped by to provide us with updates on budget issues and funding opportunities. He mentioned that NSF is still operating under a continuing resolution and this has resulted in a “slow trickle” of awards for IOS. NSF is still interested in funding workshops and symposia, and is particularly interested in funding those that are forward thinking and hands-on. He reminded us that DDIGs are not available in IOS, but are still funded in DEB. For those hoping to include undergraduates in research, IOS would like faculty to build REU support costs into the grant budget, rather than having separate solicitations. A new initiative from IOS, Beyond the Genome, is meant to support mid-career faculty that are interested in training on new techniques (a Dear Colleague letter is available with additional information). As in previous years, NSF provided support for the Broadening Participation Social, and he reminded the group that there would be an update on the pre-proposal process at 7 pm on 6 January. Steve alerted the group that the pre-proposal process was different for IOS and DEB, including having different conflict of interest forms. Also, he mentioned that faculty that are CAREER award eligible could still submit pre-proposals and get feedback on their ideas, but that if the pre-proposal was accepted, they would have to choose between submitting as a regular grant or as a CAREER award. Steve let us know that IOS would be seeking feedback on their grand challenges program, particularly on the genome to phenome focus. They anticipate having a wiki set up for feedback. Finally, he reminded us that RCN proposals are due in August and that they do not require a pre-proposal.

SICB Executive Committee Update:
The SICB Executive Committee (Present Billie Swalla, President-Elect Peter Wainwright, Past-President Ken Sebens, Program Officer Jon Harrison, Treasurer Karen Martin, Secretary Lou Burnett, and Executive Director Brett Burk) stopped by to provide us with some society-wide information. They told us that SICB membership is strong with 3500 members. The Austin meeting was the second largest with over 2000 registrants and 1585 presentations. The society’s journal ICB currently has an impact factor of 3.023, and they are in the process of forming a search committee to find a new editor. They reminded us that the next three annual meetings are scheduled to be held in West Palm Beach, Portland, and New Orleans and that symposium ideas for Portland are needed. They reported that the 15-minute talk format was getting mostly positive feedback, but that there were concerns over the short amount of time for questions. The costs of going back to 20-minute presentations would be either more concurrent sessions, or an increase in the number of posters with a limit on the number of available talk times.

Steve McCormick, Chair, made several announcements:
He introduced the DCE divisional officers: Mary Mendonça Incoming Chair, Rosemary Knapp Program Officer, Ignacio Moore Past Program Officer, Rachel Bowden Secretary. Molly Dickens (Student/Postdoctoral Rep) was not able to attend the meeting this year.

Steve congratulated the newly elected officers, Michael Romero Chair-Elect and Sarah Woodley Secretary-Elect.

Steve reminded everyone that the 2014 Bern Lecture, given by Lou Guillette, would be held at 7 pm and the DCE social would follow. Once again, free drink tickets were given out to all
DCE business meeting attendees (thanks again to Ignacio Moore for coordinating this), and Steve told us that the second DCE Data Blitz (organized by Rebecca Calisi-Rodríguez) would be held at the social.

Rachel Bowden gave the Secretary’s Report:
Minutes from the 2013 Business Meeting were unanimously approved.

There are several upcoming SICB-wide elections including President-Elect, Program Officer-Elect, Treasurer-Elect, Chair of the Educational Council, and Member-at-Large. DCE will also be holding an election for Program Officer-Elect. Rachel then requested that DCE members consider contributing to the DCE researcher’s database. DCE has very limited representation on the database and it only requires a short paragraph and image. She then reminded the membership about upcoming meetings that might be of interest to DCE members (details can be found in the fall newsletter).

Rachel provided an update on DCE membership, with 2013 membership at 327. This is down slightly from a high of 362 in 2011. Of all declared divisional affiliations in 2013, 6% of the SICB membership currently declares DCE as one of their affiliations, down from 10% in 2011. The issue was raised as to whether DCE membership has slightly declined because of the recently implemented fees. Although to early to tell, we will watch membership trends.

Ignacio Moore, Past-Program Officer (filling in for R. Knapp), made several announcements:
DCE co-sponsored 3 symposia at the Austin meeting (Stress, condition and ornamentation; Adaptation or developmental constraint? Uniting evolutionary theory and empirical studies; Methods and mechanisms in ecoimmunology). DCE also sponsored a special session (State-of-the-art and future directions in environmental endocrinology: a tribute to John Wingfield). He mentioned that DCE contributed approximately 140 talks and 70 posters to the 2014 meeting. He reminded everyone about the changes to the student competitions for the division with the goal of making it easier to judge and to highlight our students. Looking ahead to the 2015 meeting, several symposia that might be of interest to DCE members include: Physiology in changing landscapes: an integrative perspective for conservation biology; Neurohormones, Brain & Behavior: a Comparative Approach to Rapid Neuroendocrine Function; Integrative Biology of the Crocodilia; Linking Insects and Crustaceans: Comparative Physiology of the Pancrustacea; Thinking about change: an integrative approach for examining cognition in a changing world. For future meetings, the goal is to have one primary symposium for DCE, and reminded the group that the deadline for symposium ideas is in August. The PO can help with putting a proposal together if needed. It is also possible to suggest special sessions and DCE has funds to help with support. Given that special sessions do not require the submission of a grant, these can be put together on a shorter timeline. If anyone has ideas for a special session for West Palm Beach, this would need to be proposed by this summer.

Journal Updates:
Bob Dores, Editor of GCE, was not able to attend the meeting this year, so Steve McCormick gave the journal report. As of December 20, 2013 there were 577 manuscript submissions, which is a great number of submissions. There are several special issues planned including NASCE, ICCE, cichlid reproduction, g-coupled protein receptors, and endocrine disruptors. If you have any suggestions for special issue topics, please contact Bob Dores.

Henry John-Alder, representative for ICB, was not able to attend the meeting this year, so Steve McCormick gave the journal report. The impact factor for ICB is over 3, and ICB is now listed in PubMed. As a reminder, ICB has right of first refusal for any articles related to
symposia. They really want to see the symposium articles published in ICB. The journal is trying to increase its international focus. Finally, Hal Heatwole, current editor of ICB, is retiring and the journal is looking for a new editor.

Financial Report:
DCE has $12,437 in available funds. This money comes from the membership fee that DCE instituted a few years back as well as funds that are given to each division by SICB (based upon divisional membership). Steve was recently notified that DCE needs to pay dues to the International Federation of Comparative Endocrinology Societies (IFCES). As part of being a affiliated with the IFCES, the chair of DCE is automatically a member of the IFCES board.

The Bern Lecture endowment is currently at $9388 and Steve requested approval to move $3000 from the DCE general fund to the Bern fund. This received unanimous approval by voice vote (0 nay, 0 abstentions).

After IFCES dues are paid and money is moved to the Bern fund, DCE would have $5729 available to support symposia, workshops, special sessions, etc.

Upcoming SICB meetings:
Steve mentioned that the SICB Executive Committee was considering that SICB hold the 2018 meeting in Orlando, FL. They believe that the suggested venue would be less isolated than the last meeting in Orlando and that the property is offering a generous discount to get us there. Guaranteeing $145/night room rate.

Some issues that were raised are that attendance may be hurt because of the venue, last time food was very expensive in Orlando and that there seems to be a general bias towards holding meetings in the eastern part of the country.

A brief discussion of the merits of holding the meeting in New Orleans followed. In particular, there was discussion of whether schools in New Orleans were still teaching creationism and not teaching evolution. There was mention that, at least in New Orleans, evolution was being taught again.

Update on Student Presentation Competitions:
Steve thanked Mark Haussmann for coordinating the judging for student presentations this year. All of the posters were grouped, unlike in previous years, and this seemed to work out well for judging. There were some growing pains with the new format for the oral presentations, with only three presentations (down from about 20 in previous years). This may have been due to the request for longer abstracts, or it might have been due to confusion on the student’s part about whether or not they had actually signed up for the competition.

It was suggested that we check our wording in the announcement to be sure we are not limiting participation. There was a question as to whether the competition was limited to students with DCE affiliation, followed by several minutes of discussion on the merits of having both undergraduate and graduate students competing against one another.

Thank you:
The DCE divisional officers thanked Steve McCormick and Ignacio Moore for their service as both completed their terms.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.