DEDE Business Meeting Minutes  
SICB Annual Meeting 5 January 2017

Meeting called to order by Carol Fassbinder-Orth, DEDE Chair, at 5:45 pm.

There were 19 DEDE members in attendance.

Michelle Elekonich from the National Science Foundation gave an NSF update. She explained that program directors are still working on funding decisions from recommendations made in the October panels because NSF does not yet have a FY17 budget. She informed the attendees that SICB symposia funding will continue to be competitive and those submitting proposals should focus on the future of your science rather than those that summarize past breakthroughs in the field. NSF now has new guidelines for supplemental REU proposals. NSF also encourages submission of proposals for Mid-Career Investigator Awards. These awards are given to post-tenure, but non-retired faculty members and are specifically aimed for them to learn new skill sets in genomics and technology that may substantially improve their understanding in an existing study/system (a supplement to existing funding) or something that can be incorporated into a new full proposal as well. The Broadening Participation events at SICB are important and something to always keep in mind when writing proposals for NSF. She recommended that individuals interested in submitting CAREER grant proposals submit a regular pre-proposal and, if they are not invited to a full proposal, they will have panel feedback in time to submit the CAREER proposal in July. She also reminded attendees that pre-proposals are due on January 19, 2017.

The minutes from the 2016 business meeting were unanimously approved.

Chair Carol Fassbinder-Orth informed the attendees of the need to elect a Program Officer Elect and a Secretary Elect, and to find a Student/Post Doc representative following this meeting, noting that Jim Adelman was taking over as Secretary at the end of this meeting, and Greg Demas was taking over as Program Officer at the end of this meeting. Travis Wilcoxen will take over as Chair at the end of the 2018 San Francisco meeting.

Chair Carol Fassbinder-Orth then provided updates from the Executive Committee Meeting. This included updates about the new open access journal for the society and changes made to ICB. SICB is currently seeking an Editor-in-Chief to run the SICB open access journal.

Upcoming meeting locations were announced, including the addition of 2021 Washington, DC, 2022 TBA, and a return to Austin, TX, in 2023.

Carol also discussed SICB’s new Meeting Code of Conduct.

The SICB Executive Officers then stopped in to introduce themselves, and touch on things that Carol had not already covered in her Executive Committee overview. This included a call for symposium applications and a discussion of the addition of non-symposium papers to ICB that could potentially be used as postdoctoral scholar awards.
We discussed the addition of $5 to $10 membership dues in 2017-2018 for DEDE. The extra funds provide much flexibility in what we can do as a division, including improvement of our social, and possible branching off to have our own social in the future. As of right now, we plan to continue a joint social with DCE. Adding our own named lecture isn’t feasible at this time because each night of the conference already has one.

We discussed ways to get more people involved in division activities. There are currently 280 DEDE members, 2/3 of whom are students or postdocs. We discussed a social media hashtag, volunteer Tweeters (a Twitter takeover), continuing our Lunch with an Ecoimmunologist, and perhaps a ‘Beer and Brains’ type event (as is done in DEE) to supplement our social.

Laura Mydlarz suggested that a climate change and disease ecology symposium might be a good direction for the 2019 meeting and she was encouraged to pursue that further.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm