Minutes from the Division of Invertebrate Zoology Business Meeting:
5 January 2014, West Palm Beach, Florida

DIZ Chair Jim McClintock called the meeting to order. The meeting began with unanimous approval of the minutes from last year.

The DIZ secretary, Jon Allen, gave a brief report asking for photographic contributions to the spring newsletter.

Bruno Pernet then gave the Program Officer’s report, noting that there were more than 1500 abstracts for the 2015 meeting but also a larger than normal number of cancellations. Bruno also noted that the DIZ was sponsoring six symposia in 2015 and would be supporting another six in 2016. These sponsorships mean that DIZ is supporting 50% of the society’s symposia.

The Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Representative, Jenna Moore, provided a brief report, noting that there is now a Divisional Facebook account (https://www.facebook.com/SICBDIZ). Jenna is currently the sole administrator of this account, but Beth Davis-Berg noted that we may want multiple administrators to make the account more active and perhaps more visible to the membership.

The SICB Executive Committee visited the business meeting and reported on the progress of the current meeting and looked forward to future meetings. Billie Swalla thanked DIZ for the contributions to symposia and encouraged future submissions. The society overall is in great health, with $2 million in the treasury, and DIZ is a vibrant part of it. In particular, the Executive Committee cited the goal of getting all named funds up to $25,000. A recent donation to the Moore fund ($27k) was cited as a successful example. It was also mentioned that a Editor of Integrative and Comparative Biology: Lynn 'Marty' Martin was selected. Dr. Martin will shadow Hal Heatwole for one year and then take over leadership of the journal in January 2016.

Anne Bottger gave a report on the Best Student Presentation Awards. There was excellent recruitment of judges again this year, with 4 judges per presentation. Overall there were 34 presentations being judged, 19 oral and 15 poster. A concern was raised by Dianna Padilla that the Executive Committee may be pushing the divisions toward uniformity across the Society. The Chair, Jim McClintock, stressed that Lou Burnett (SICB Secretary and incoming president-elect) has told him that individual divisions have autonomy about their processes for selecting student award winners.

Jennifer Burnaford gave a report from the Libbie Hyman Award Committee. There were only 15 applications in 2014 and, of those, only 7 met the criteria of having had little prior exposure to research/field stations. However, an excellent candidate was still selected for 2014, to take a course at the University of Washington’s Friday Harbor Laboratories. Jen also reported that Jarid Simons generously made contributions to the Libbie Hyman fund that raised the principal up to $70,000. This means that there is $3000-$4000 per year available for student support. Jim McClintock made a motion to change the award description to state that 'up to two awards' will be given in any year. Jen Burnaford noted that awards typically range from $1100-$1500. The motion was passed.
The Libbie Hyman auction is scheduled for 2016 at the Portland meeting, to coincide with the every three years schedule. Bob Podolsky asked whether we should consider holding the auction every 4 years so that it was not always on the West Coast. Dianna Padilla noted that the West Coast tends to yield more items donated to the auction. Linda Walters mentioned that the previous auction was very successful, but also a great deal of work to set up.

Jim McClintock discussed options for how to spend the discretionary funds in the DIZ budget. Some of this will be used to digitize records from old divisional meetings. Dianna Padilla suggested using the money to top off Libbie Hyman awards, or simply place it into the fund’s principal. Bob Podolsky suggested using the money to support students who need support beyond the 3 years of eligibility for support from the Mangum fund. Jennifer Burnaford suggested using the money to support the Hyman award winner’s attendance at the next meeting.

Steve Ellis, from NSF, gave a presentation on the status of the NSF budget. He noted they are using a 90% budget model since they are still waiting on the final numbers. He also said that NSF is much more interested in funding forward thinking symposia rather than those that are retrospective in nature. He reminded the members that the DDIG program is only offered through the behavioral systems cluster and that REU activities are now included in the original proposal, rather than being submitted as a supplement to successful proposals. He also reminded the members that there are mid-career awards to be used to train researchers in a new area. These are available to anyone between tenure and retirement.

The meeting ended with a discussion of whether to change the procedures of our Best Student Presentation Awards. Bruno Pernet gave a brief slideshow highlighting the discussions that were held on the DIZ award wiki (http://dizstudentawards.wmwikis.net). There was an extended discussion of whether to change the procedures, but the consensus was that there was no compelling reason to change our current process. Instead, the members present agreed to remain vigilant to make sure that students are given sufficient feedback on their presentations and that each presentation is given adequate judging.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Jonathan Allen, DIZ Secretary