Meeting called to order by John Zardus, chair, at 5:45 pm

The minutes of the 2016 meeting were approved without objection

Announcements:

- We need to elect a chair-elect this spring
- We were asked to consider a new idea from the executive committee – an annual post-doc paper award, for a paper to be published in ICB (after peer-review). This should be a forward-looking synthesis of some sort. Each division would bring forward one or more candidates.
  - The rationale includes:
    - Providing a venue for rising stars
    - Assisting in careers
    - Diversifying publications in ICB
    - Helping to fill ICB
    - Raising the impact factor of ICB
  - Possible types of papers include:
    - Perspective articles
    - Synthetic papers
    - Meta-analyses
    - Methods
  - Divisions are charged with devising a method for selecting candidates
  - A discussion will be initiated online via the DIZ Discussion board
  - Discussion:
    - Karen Wong – will this be limited to just post-docs, or perhaps other early-career scientists?
    - Bob Podolsky – are there any papers in ICB that are not symposia?
      - Molly Jacobs – yes, there have been papers submitted as if from a symposium but not from a symposium
      - Dianna Padilla – a series of TREE-style papers are in the works, synthetic, cross-cutting, forward-thinking papers – need to propose a paper to the editor who will run it by the board. First one coming out soon.

At this point the executive committee joined us and made the following announcements:

- The 2018 mtg will be in San Francisco
- The 2021 mtg will be in Washington DC
- The 2023 mtg will be in Austin TX
- SICB is creating a new open access journal – a search for the founding editor in chief is underway. This person should be a SICB member. Interested persons should talk to the search committee – Marty Martin, Beth Brainerd, Ken Halanych, or Rich Satterlie
- Members are encouraged to submit symposium applications.
• Research and Education Resources Library (formerly Digital Library) – DIZ is one of 5 divisions being targeted, because we already have resources up. They are looking for teaching materials and research materials. There will be a peer review process. The education council wants division officers to help in soliciting material and funneling them to the Ed Council

Secretary report (Sarah Berke)
Please give me materials for the digital library, pictures, blurbs for research focus in the newsletter

Program Officer report (Linda Walters)
• DIZ sponsored 5 Symposia this year
• 2018 symposia are decided and in the works, we are now looking for 2019 symposia ideas. We have had a decline in topics, few are coming in, so definitely think about symposia!

Student Presentation Awards (Zardus standing in for Boettger)
We had 61 judges this year, please keep up the outstanding service!

Libbie Hyman Committee (Will Jaeckle standing in for Jen Burnaford)
• Reminder – this scholarship is for the FIRST field experience for advanced undergrad or early grad students
• We had 35 applications in 2016, of which 12 were incomplete with no letters in support. Of the remaining 23, 11 were deemed ineligible because the applicant had previous experience at a field station, or were vague about prior experience, or had no intention to work at a field station. Of the 12 remaining, we funded 3.
  o $1700 for Curtis Vim – he was unable to attend due to a conflict and returned the money. He is eligible to reapply.
  o Rachel Shu, $1000
  o Eric Wors $1000
• Jared Symmons – contribution allows us to provide multiple awards
• Dawn Vaugn, Will and Jen are the Libbie Hyman committee
• Closing award this year is on Feb 6 (which will have passed when the minutes are publicized)

SPDAC report (Jenna Moore)
• SPDAC has new chair
• SPDAC gave a workshop on power struggles and power structure in academia, looking for ideas for a workshop for next year
• Facebook page exists, please post job opportunities, student opportunities, anything else that seems appropriate.
• Incoming student rep is Samantha Smoot.
• Is it possible for students to get some registration fee support for serving on SPDAC? It is hard for some students to serve without travel funding.

NSF report, Emily Carrington
• Dr. Carrington is a new IOS rotator
• Bill Zamer has rotated up to the Science Advisor position and is retiring this year
• Budget is not set, awards will be delayed for this year, unknown when
• NSF is still considering symposia and workshop proposals, contact most relevant PO
  • NSF takes diversity really seriously, so need to get a diverse speaker list – gender, career stage, geography, topics.
• REU and RET grants are still happening, but better off to fold them into a research proposal, as opposed to being stand-alone grants. Due date is March 1 for stand-alone REUs.
• IOS 17-508 solicitation – pre-proposal due date Jan 19
• DEB – different solicitation, different deadlines, FYI
• SDS – symbiosis, defense, and self-recognition, now exclusively deals with animals. Plant symbiosis should go to Plant Biotic Interactions.
• Data management plans – the bar is getting higher, NSF now provides guidance as to what is expected. Some SICB divisions have run workshops on best practices.
• CAREER pre-proposal – submit for January, get feedback. This is the only group allowed to submit 2 proposals on the same topic in one year.
• Thank you to NSF reviewers and panelists.

Finance Report (John Zardus)
• The Libbie Hyman fund made about 20k this year (2015-2016 FY), 17k donated, 4k gained, 2k spent
• Discretionary fund began the year with $5017, ended it with $6140. This could be used to digitize divisional records, ideas for how to use it are welcome.
• Non-discretionary funds - $2000 for socials, symposia, etc. We spent it all (as every year).

Changing the bylaws on amending the bylaws
John Zardus and Sarah Berke gave an overview of the current bylaws (which allow amendment only by in-person vote at the annual meeting) and the proposed new bylaws (which would allow amendment by electronic ballot at any time). There was some discussion – Bob Podolsky expressed support for the change, but wondered whether opening voting to more members would dilute the efforts of members who go to the time and effort of attending the business meetings. Molly Jacobs countered that we should be encouraging participation by as many people as possible, even those who might be unable to attend the meeting. Meghan Rock expressed a similar sentiment. With no further comments, a vote was held by show of hands. By the unanimous approval of those present, the proposed changes were adopted.
Discussion of proposed changes to the BSP program – Bob Podolsky

Bob has crafted a proposal to change the DIZ best student paper (BSP) program, making it a mentoring program along with more selective BSP program. His goal is to make the program in some ways more similar to what other divisions are doing, but with a greater focus on student mentoring. The proposal is posted on the DIZ discussion board (linked from the DIZ page on the SICB website), members are asked to please read and discuss online. Depending on how the discussion plays out, proposed changes to the bylaws could be put to a vote in the upcoming Spring elections.

Other business

- Meghan Rock – Scientific Illustration – specialty in inverts, offering up her services
- Thank you Bruno Pernet (outgoing PO) and Linda Walters (incoming PO)
- Thank you Jenna Moore (outgoing SPDAC rep) and Sami Smoot (incoming)
- Nominating Committee is being assembled for chair-elect

With no other business, the meeting was adjuorned at 6:32pm