

**SSB Annual Council Meeting**

June 16, 2007

Christchurch, New Zealand

Meeting Breakout Room 3, Christchurch Convention Centre

2:00 pm – 5:30 pm

**Minutes**

**Call to Order & Welcome** – Chris Simon, President SSB

Attending: Kelly Zamudio (Awards Chair), David Penny (President Elect), Dick Olmstead (Councilor-2009), Scott Edwards (Past President), Jack Sullivan (Editor Elect, Councilor-2008), Chris Simon (President), Keith Crandall (Executive Vice President), Pete Lockhart (Councilor-2009), Sydney Cameron (Councilor-2007), Debbie Ciszek (Managing Editor), Michael Donoghue (Councilor-2008), Rod Page (Editor and Web Manager), John Huelsenbeck (Future President-Elect)

Not Attending: Scott Steppan (Councilor-2007), Jeff Boore (Councilor-2007), Susanne Renner (Councilor-2009), Louise Lewis (Councilor-2007), Lacey Knowles (Councilor-2008), Marshall Hedin (Councilor-2008), Molly Nepokroeff (Councilor-2009), Frederik Ronquist (Councilor-2008), Michael Sorenson (Councilor-2009), Maureen O'Leary (Councilor-2007)

**Joint Council Meeting Report** – Simon (see attached Joint Council Agenda for topics)  
Meeting update – 878 delegates, more or less at break-even point. Ian Anderson raised nearly \$100,000 in sponsorships to aid in meeting finance.

NSF update – two permanent and two rotators per program. First position search is already underway. Second position will be coming up. New division director, Bob Sterner, from U of Minnesota. Donoghue suggests Simon write a letter to offer SSB input into the permanent search committees. Suggests Yates might be interested to provide such input. Important to get our message to congress that NSF budget, especially in biology, needs an increase. The perception seems to be that biology is supported by NIH. So we need to change this perception. NEON is moving on but without a significant organismal component. Donoghue says that Tree of Life funding is up for reevaluation. The perceptions seem to be that the program may be terminated at the end of its cycle. Future meetings were presented (see Program Report below). Costa Rica meeting venue proposed for 2011 would need to be in July. No strong opposition to meeting in July, except to schedule it after the NSF deadline in July. Don Waller received a proposal from Europe about organizing an International Congress of Evolution on a periodic basis. Discussion on conference planners – need to have more of an individual to work directly with local host. No decision was reached, but Simon suggests a joint business office. ESA Data Sharing workshop was discussed and presented by Michael Whitlock. Donoghue suggests we join this collaboration and work with NESCENT to develop consistent data archival procedures across journals. Rod Page is willing to serve as an SSB representative to

this databasing/archiving effort. Simon will send formal notice to Whitlock that Page would be happy to serve as a representative on this committee from SSB. Ian Anderson has banquet tickets for student award winners. We need to let him know how many we'd like to purchase for these student award winners.

**Awards Report – Zamudio**

54 graduate award applications, international awards and mini-peet applications increased. \$50,000 for awards plus \$1000 for Ernst Myer Award. Growing more difficult to get judges for awards, especially in theory and plant work. Olmstead suggested that it would be nice to have a history of award winners and perhaps publish these on the SSB website. Zamudio will work to post this information on the SSB website. Zamudio recommends a reduction in the title for the international award. Zamudio also discusses the growing applications for these awards and recommends tightening the requirements for such awards to help cut down on applications. Simon suggests putting examples of winning proposals on web site with author permission. Mindell suggests a potential working change in the “developing country” verbage. The council agreed with this suggestion and tasked the Awards Committee to come up with an alternative and appropriate name. Zamudio's term is up next year. Olmstead suggests setting up a three year committee where in your third year, you become committee chair. Simon will work on developing nominations to replace Zamudio.

Kelly R. Zamudio, Ph.D.

**Associate Professor**

**Department of Ecology and Evolutionary  
Biology**



**Cornell University**

June 16, 2007

From: Kelly Zamudio, Chair, SSB Award Committee

Re: Annual report, SSB Council Meeting

**1) Applications this Year.**

Our deadline for submissions for all awards this year was March 31 (except Ernst Mayr Competition, that deadline was delayed to April 15 to coincide with the deadline for title submissions for the evolution meetings).

Number of applications for the 2007 competition were comparable to previous years:

International Awards: 27

Mini-PEETs 21

Graduate Awards 54

Ernst Mayr 11

In 2006 we had the following applications:

International Awards: 21

Mini-PEETs 14  
Graduate Awards 62  
Ernst Mayr 11

**2) Funding for 2007.**

This year we spent \$50,000 on Graduate Student, mini-PEETs, and International Travel awards, and \$1,000 for the Mayr Award.

We funded 9 International Awards, 8 Mini-PEETs, 12 Graduate Awards, and 2 Ernst Mayr Awards:

*Graduate Awards*

Heather Shull, Boston University  
Tracy Misiewicz, Northwestern University  
Anjan Bhullar, University of Texas, Austin  
Kate Hertweck, University of Missouri, Columbia  
Josephine Rodriguez, University of Illinois  
Carl Rothfels, Duke University  
Barbara Banbury, Washington State University  
David Winter, University of Otago, New Zealand  
Amanda Cass, Cornell  
Robert Thomson, UC Davis  
Emilie Bess, Illinois Natural History Survey  
Luisa Montalvo, Universidade Los Andes, Colombia

*International Awards*

Olga Dolgova, Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia  
María Silvia Ferrer, Instituto Argentino de Investigaciones, Argentina  
Dr. Suzete Gomes, Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil  
Dr. Marcela Lareschi, Universidad de La Plata, Argentina.  
Raul Maneyro Lando, Universidad de la República, Uruguay.  
María Carolina Nieto Peñalver, National Council of Scientific Research, Argentina  
Dr. Cynthia P. de A. Prado, Universidade Estadual Paulista, Rio Claro, Brazil.  
Marcela Silvina Rodriguero, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina  
Leonardo M. Versieux, Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil.

*Mini-PEETs*

Martin Dohrmann, University of Göttingen  
Annie Lindgren, Ohio State University  
Laura Parfrey, University of Massachusetts  
Dr. Heather Proctor, University of Alberta  
Carl Rothfels, Duke University  
Erik Sperling, Yale University  
Dr. Mark Stevens, Massey University  
Dr. Peter Wimberger, University of Puget Sound

*Mayr Awards*

Matt Brandley, University of California, Berkeley  
James Haile, Oxford University

**3) Judging.**

The large number of applicants in the three award categories means I need to find 10 judges each year and it is best if those people have expertise in various fields. This year I had a particularly difficult time finding 10 judges, especially in the fields of plant systematics and theory. I would appreciate suggestions from the council for potential judges for next year.

**4) International Awards.**

A minor point, brought up by a foreign member (Mark Wilkinson, British Museum). One of our awards is entitled “**Scholarships and travel awards for scientists from developing countries to obtain systematics training in the United States**”. His question is why limited to the United States if students/scholars can get excellent systematic training outside the US and our society is International. I propose we truncate the title of the award, to “**Scholarships and travel awards for scientists from developing countries to obtain systematics training**”.

Kelly Zamudio.

**SSB Awards Chair**

**Program Report – Weiblen**

Discussion on equal versus proportional split among proceeds/risk for meeting expenses. It seems to be to our benefit to continue the equal split arrangement. [At the second Christchurch Joint Council Meeting it was decided that the split of profits should be in proportion to attendees over a five year sliding window; although the proceeds of the Christchurch meeting, if any, will be split evenly.] Discussion concerning who signs meeting contract. Resolved that SSE will sign contracts for future meetings and will pass contracts past executives in other societies. Discussion about conference planner to help in institutional memory and local organizers. There was strong sentiment that the meetings should be kept at universities. Weiblen is taking suggestions on potential conference planners and if we find an appropriate individual, he will take that recommendation to the joint council. Weiblen presents proposals for 2008 symposia. Donoghue moves to accept the two proposals, second by Sullivan. Approved unanimously. Weiblen moves to fund proposals for a total of \$8000, second by Penny. Approved unanimously.

Report from Weiblen:

**SSB Program Annual Report 2007**

**June 16, 2007**

**George Weiblen, Program Chair**

I am serving the second year of my three-year term as program chair, after acting as interim program chair with help from Kevin Johnson in 2005. My term ends in December 2008, and I would like to ask the Nominations committee to solicit names for the 2008 ballot. It is important to include this office on the ballot to ensure continuity of SSB programs. My report includes (1) general comments based on the 2006 Stony Brook experience, (2) an overview of the Evolution 2007 Christchurch program, (2) **proposals for 2008 SSB symposia**, (3) contracts for Minneapolis 2008, and (4) meetings for 2009 and beyond. I ask that the Council pay particular attention to the proposals for 2008 symposia contracts so a decision can be made at our meeting.

**(1) General comments on Evolution meetings**

During the joint council meeting in Stony Brook, we debated the relative merits of hiring a professional conference planner versus the homespun, campus-based meetings to which we have grown accustomed. Professional conference planners will inevitably steer us toward conference venues and away from university campuses because the idiosyncrasies of university administration are generally prohibitive of hosting large meetings. The decision to hire an external party to organize these meetings represents a major fork in the road for SSB, SSE and ASN. We cannot have it both ways because each university has its own way of doing business whereas conference venues are pretty much all alike.

Stony Brook is a case in point. The Stony Brook faculty put an unprecedented level of responsibility on themselves and they succeeded in hosting only because a number of individuals worked overtime to solve problems for which they were neither qualified nor

compensated. Jim Rolhf designed a website that looked great externally but internally caused such problems that everything had to be triple-checked by hand by graduate students some of whom quit because the situation was so unbearable. In the end, the meeting came together wonderfully as it usually does. The question is whether we want to live with such uncertainty and risk catastrophe year after year by accepting conference bids from academics ill-prepared to deal with the complexities of hosting a large meeting. The abortive Brown proposal is another case in point. Clearly, Brown was not prepared to host the 2009 meeting and they would have simply passed it on to the Providence Convention Center.

Every year, we reinvent the website and meeting registration, which seems very inefficient. So I investigated whether the University of Minnesota web conference registration package could be used in the future only to learn why it is necessary to reinvent the wheel each year. My university like every other will not share the software because it wasn't designed to serve anyone other than the University of Minnesota. Each university has its own proprietary procedures that make it impossible to design a one-size-fits-all website for future evolution meetings. This is another reason to hire a meeting planner and say goodbye to the good, old days of small meetings on campus.

I have two other general concerns about meeting finances. First, there seems to be a widely held opinion that the meetings should generate revenue for the societies. This is not a healthy expectation. It is based on the fact that registration is set high enough to cover costs in the event that attendance falls below expectations but it is not fair to members who attend meetings regularly to subsidize the societies operating budget in this way. Membership dues should be raised if funds are needed to support other activities. As we saw with Fairbanks 2005, a meeting may not necessarily result in revenue. The New Zealand meeting is likely to lose money. It would be safer to regard meeting revenue as extra gravy that occasionally help to balance the society budget. This leads me to my last general point concerning the three-way split of revenue between SSB, SSE and ASN.

A split of revenue between SSB, SSE and ASN in thirds is simpler than trying to account for the representation of society members each year at meetings. How do we keep track of individuals who belong to more than one society, as many of us do? Further, when a meeting generates revenue, then SSE complains that SSB and ASN are getting more than their share. On the other hand, as soon as a meeting loses money (as I expect in New Zealand), SSE will be pleased that they owe a disproportionately small amount in comparison to their representation at the meeting. The split is fair in the sense that all three parties share equally in risk and reward. In the aftermath of the Fairbanks debacle, the joint councils debated whether all three societies should sign future meeting contracts. I have learned from university lawyers why a single society has represented the interests of all three in past contracts. Universities resist multi-party agreements where there is financial risk. If we stay with the current model for organizing these meetings, then SSE should remain the sole signatory on contracts, but SSB should insist that draft contracts be reviewed prior to signing. This could be formalized by drawing up a separate contract

between SSE and SSB. On the other hand, perhaps professional conference planners could accommodate multi-party contracts.

## **(2) *Evolution 2007***

\$8,000 was approved at the mid-year meeting 15 March 2007 for Evolution 2007 programs, to be divided evenly between the “cultural phylogenetics” and “phylogenetic diversity” symposia. The schedule of events is:

### **SSB events for SSE/SSB/ASN meeting, June 16–20, 2007**

#### **Christchurch Convention Centre, Christchurch, New Zealand**

Saturday June 16

Joint Council meeting      1100 – 1400

SSB Council meeting      1400 – 1700

Opening reception and ceremony 1830 – 2130

Sunday June 17      0830-1200

#### ***SSB symposium: Cultural phylogenetics: dispatches from the frontier***

Fiona Jordan, University College London

##### ***“Cultural phylogenetics”***

Mark Pagel, University of Reading

*“Spoken word frequency predicts rates of lexical evolution throughout Indo-European language history”*

Russell Gray, University of Auckland

*“Tongues and trees: phylogenetic tests of agricultural dispersals in the Americas”*

Simon Greenhill, University of Auckland,

*“Pacific settlement and the evolution of Austronesian languages”*

Michael Dunn, Max Planck Institut

*“Coevolution of structural features of language”*

Fiona Jordan & Ruth Mace, University College London

*“Matriliny and male absence: natural selection or nice story?”*

Quentin Atkinson & Mark Pagel, University College London

*“The mode and tempo of linguistic evolution”*

Sunday June 17

SSB Associate Editor’s Luncheon 1200-1300

SSB Presidential address    1700 – 1800

SSB business meeting      1800 – 1900

Monday June 18

Ernst Mayr Award Symposium      1330-1700

Wednesday June 20 0830-1200

SSB symposium: Phylogenetic diversity: towards a synthesis of concepts and applications for biodiversity conservation.

Dan Faith, Australian Museum

### **"Toward a phylogenetic diversity synthesis: problems and prospects"**

Arne Mooers, Biological Sciences, Simon Fraser University, David W. Redding, Klaas Hartmann, Mike Steel, Wayne Maddison

*"Links between phylogenetic diversity and evolutionary distinctiveness"*

Sandrine Pavoine, Universite Claude Bernard, Lyon

*"Measuring phylogenetic diversity and originality with quadratic entropy"*

Mike Steel, Allan Wilson Centre, Biomathematics, University of Canterbury

*"Phylogenetic diversity theory and computational challenges"*

Dan Rosauer & Shawn Laffan, University of New South Wales

*"Towards practical phylogenetic diversity analyses for conservation biologists"*

Vincent Savolainen, Jodrell Laboratory, Kew Gardens

*"Phylogenetic diversity at the mesoscale in South Africa"*

Susan E. Cameron, University of California, Davis

*"Conservation prioritization and climate change impacts on the phylogenetic diversity of endemic rainforest flora and fauna"*

Michael Donoghue, Peabody Museum, Yale University

### **"Phylogenetic diversity at the community level: some results and prospects"**

Wednesday June 20

Joint Council exit meeting 1200 – 1300

Awards Banquet 1830 – 2330

#### **(2) 2008 SSB symposia**

The following call for symposia was issued on the SSB website, the evoldir listserv, and printed in *Systematic Biology*.

#### **Call for 2008 Symposia**



The Society for Systematic Biologists invites proposals for symposia at the 2008 SSB meeting to be held at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, Minnesota 20-24 June 2008. The meeting will be held jointly with the American Society of Naturalists and the Society for the Study of Evolution. Proposals should include (1) a descriptive title, (2) one or two paragraphs explaining the purpose of the symposium and its relevance to systematics, (3) a list of presentations including proposed speakers, their institutions or affiliations, and their presentation titles, (4) an indication of whether the speakers have been invited and whether they have agreed to participate, and (5) the proposed length of each talk. Symposia are restricted to half-day sessions. The society is particularly interested in symposia whose topics do not overlap with those from previous meetings, that introduce new ideas or synthesize important concepts, or those that are particularly good examples of the analysis of empirical data. Proposals that unite systematics with other fields are also desirable. We encourage participation from young investigators and others typically under-represented in symposia. Limited funding is available. Proposals will be discussed and two will be selected at the SSB Council meeting during the 2007 annual meeting in Christchurch, New Zealand. Soon after, organizers will be notified of the status of their proposals. Proposals should be sent by email to the Program Chairperson, George D. Weiblen, [gweiblen@umn.edu](mailto:gweiblen@umn.edu) (Department of Plant Biology, University of Minnesota, 1445 Gortner Avenue, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55108 USA).

A second round of posts on Evoldir after our mid-year meeting did not bear fruit. Nor did proposals on phyloinformatics (Mike Sanderson) and consequences of coevolution from genomes to communities (Scott Nuismer & Mark Dybdahl) take shape. A last minute plea resulted in two proposals.

**Symposium Proposal: Merging phylogenetic biology and spatial ecology**  
**Organizer: Kenneth H. Kozak, University of Minnesota, kozak016@umn.edu**

Synopsis and purpose:

Spatial and temporal patterns of environmental variation influence myriad aspects of a lineage's evolutionary history. The recent availability of GIS-based maps of environmental variation permits phylogenetic hypotheses on the timing and pattern of speciation, character evolution, and historical biogeography to be tested with increasing rigor. Yet, the incorporation of these new spatial data into these areas of research is still in its infancy. The purpose of the symposium is to demonstrate how integrating phylogenies and spatial information can provide phylogenetic biologists with new insights and revolutionize the way they study speciation, character evolution, historical biogeography, community assembly, and global patterns of species richness.

Potential speakers and topics:

Due to the last-minute call for additional SSB symposium proposals, not all potential speakers have been contacted, nor have they been able to submit titles. Below is a list of potential speakers and topics that they will be asked to speak about based on their current research programs. The targeted talk length will be 20-30 minutes depending on the number of speakers that can participate.

David Ackerly, University of California, Berkeley: Spatial variation in climate and the assembly of regional and local communities  
Christopher Raxworthy, American Museum of Natural History: Using species distribution modeling to delimit species  
John Wiens, Stony Brook University: Combining GIS and phylogenetics to study the origins of large-scale gradients of species richness  
David Kidd, NESCent, Evoviz: New software for integrating GIS, phylogenetics, and phylogeography.

Leslie Rissler, University of Alabama, Mapping phylogenetic hotspots for conservation.  
Christina Ruegg, University of California, Berkeley: Integrating population-level phylogenetics and spatial ecology to study phenotypic divergence (bird song evolution).  
Lucia Lohmann, University of Sao Paulo: Phylogenetics, GIS , and morphological diversification.  
Margaret Evans, Yale University: Ecological niche modeling, phylogeny, rates of climatic niche evolution, and global climate change  
Michael Turelli, University of California, Davis: Development of metrics to study the role of climatic niche conservatism and divergence in speciation.  
Marjorie Matocq, Incorporating landscape-level variation to study population-level phylogeny in Rocky Mountain mammals.  
Bryan Carstens, Integrating coalescent and ecological niche modeling in comparative phylogeography  
Kenneth Kozak, Spatial ecology and speciation mechanisms

**Symposium Proposal: Estimating species trees from their contained gene trees: concepts, methods, and empirical applications**

Organisers: L. Lacey Knowles (University of Michigan) and Scott Edwards (Harvard University)

Summary: The vast majority of phylogenetic methods focus on estimation of gene trees, even though it is species trees – trees of populations and species in which gene trees are embedded - that are of primary interest in many of the fields impacted by phylogenetics. Several methods for directly estimating species trees have been proposed in recent years, and initial results suggest superiority to standard methods for building phylogenetic trees, particularly when there is heterogeneity among gene trees and when speciation in the clade of interest has been rapid. Although estimation of species trees and their population genetic underpinnings presents a number of methodological, conceptual and computational challenges, it is likely that a direct focus on species trees will eventually supercede traditional approaches, because it focuses attention on the parameters of relevance and directly models causes of discordance in topology and branch lengths among gene trees, even when such discordance is minor or nonexistent.

Potential Participants :

Knowles (confirmed)

Edwards /Liu/Pearl (confirmed)

Laura Kubatko (confirmed)

Bruce Rannala

Dick Hudson

Wayne Maddison

Tandy Warnow

Noah Rosenberg

Bret Larget

Lars Arvestad

Mark Pagel

**(3) Evolution 2008 contracts**

Draft contracts, budgets, and other planning information for Evolution 2008 in Minneapolis are now available. I am serving as the lead contact for hosting of this meeting. **Please let me know if you would like to review this information or have any concerns about the draft contracts.**

**(4) Update on future Evolution meetings**

A tentative proposal from Brown University to hold the Evolution 2009 meeting in Providence, Rhode Island was rejected by SSB on the grounds that the proposal was not sound. The societies entertained additional proposals from the University of Idaho and the University of Ottawa. Both proposals were strong but the societies ultimately chose Idaho for 2009.

Evolution 2009: University of Idaho, Moscow Idaho. Contact: Olle Pellmyr, (pellmyr@uidaho.edu).

Evolution 2010: Portland State University, Portland, Oregon, Contact: Mitch Cruzan, Portland State U. ([Cruzan@pdx.edu](mailto:Cruzan@pdx.edu))

Evolution 2011: University of San Jose, Costa Rica has been proposed but they cannot accommodate the meeting during June 2011 as classes are in session. ASN has asked whether we could hold a winter meeting that would suit Costa Rica and further would not interfere with June fieldwork, a perpetual problem for some members. In my opinion the combination of an international meeting and a new meeting time would risk catastrophe. **I propose that SSB (1) reject the San Jose proposal, (2) accept the bid from the University of Ottawa for 2011 and (3) work toward identifying a professional meeting planner who will help us starting with the 2012 meeting.** This position will be put forward at the second Christchurch Joint Council Meeting. [The joint council agreed that the Costa Rica meeting should be postponed until 2012.]

**Election Results – Crandall**

President Elect – John Huelsenbeck; Executive Vice President – David Hibbett;  
Councilors through 2010 – John Gatesy, Rebecca Kimball, Laura Kubatko, Heidi Meudt,  
and Link Olsen.

Discussion on Link Olsen request to defer position because he can't make next two meetings. Donoghue moves that we thank Olsen for his candor and replace him with Andy Anderson (the next highest vote getter) to fill this council slot. All votes were close. Cameron seconds. Unanimously approved.

**Long-Range Planning Committee Report – Donoghue**

Discussion points – 1) Internationalization – on a regular rotation include a meeting in another country. Donoghue suggests that instead of holding meetings in other countries, we can help sponsor other meetings in other countries. He further suggests that we set aside a portion of the budget to support such activities. Simon will charge Soltis and the long-range planning committee to develop such funding proposals. Simon suggests we could also add international members to the long-range planning committee. 2) SSB should take ownership of TreeBase. Different options for doing this for example through NESCENT via a partial support of an FTE.

19 March 2007

Dear Long Range Planning Committee,

Thanks very much for your excellent suggestions. Below is the executive council feedback from our discussion at the mid-year meeting. We ask a few more questions.

Let us know how to proceed from here.

Best,

Chris

The Long Range Planning Committee (staggered terms):

Pam Soltis (Chair) 2007, 2008, 2009  
Michael Donoghue 2007, 2008, 2009  
John Wiens 2007, 2008, 2009

Scott Steppan 2004, 2007, 2008  
Anne Yoder 2004, 2007, 2008

In 2008, the president, David Penny, will have to appoint two new members to replace Yoder and Steppan for 2009.

In 2009, the president, John Huelsenbeck, will have to appoint a new committee chair to replace Pam Soltis for 2010.

15 March 2007

Hi All,

Attached is the report of the Long-Range Planning Committee (Michael Donoghue, Scott Steppan, John Wiens, Anne Yoder, and myself) for your meeting. It is a summary of items for further discussion by the Execs and/or Council. A few particular items of note:

1. We recommend that SSB not rely on the proceeds of meetings to fund its initiatives. The amounts are unpredictable, and it is therefore difficult to maintain existing programs or start new ones. Funds should be raised through other means. Further, we recommend that meeting registration fees should be kept to a minimum to encourage greater participation in the meetings and the Society.

Reply from CS: We do set the cost to a minimum to break even. It's just that we usually get more than the minimum number of attendees. We try to be conservative about the minimum because if attendance falls below the minimum, then the three societies have to pay to make up the difference. We agree that we do not want to make money off the members and we always give back the extra money in the form of student awards.

2. Currently, SSB has 2 main "products": the journal and the meetings, plus student awards. Does the membership want more than this?

CS Reply: We suspect not but Keith can send this question to the membership through the mail list when he sends out the reminder of the upcoming late registration deadline for the SSB meetings in NZ. He may have one or two other questions for the membership as well. Keith could also encourage SSB regular members to strongly encourage all of their students to join and maybe even give them a paid subscription for one year. Does this sound like a good plan? When I became president I also reappointed a membership committee. Do you wish for me to send you the recommendations of the membership committee for your review?

If not, then the status quo is fine, although funding for student grants is erratic because of our reliance on meeting proceeds; if so (and there are many things SSB could do if the membership so desires), then funding sources need to be identified. One such source is the interest on the endowment. We encourage the Execs to work with the Trustees to identify this more-or-less regular source of income and use it to fund SSB programs on a regular basis.

CS: We [SSB executives] agree. We asked for a recommendation on this, the trustees sent the recommendation and it was summarized by David Mindell in an email message dated 18 Mar 07 as follows, "we would only request transfer of funds from the trustees to balance a shortfall between estimated expenses and revenues, not to exceed 5% of the funds. Such a shortfall is to be avoided for basic operations (e.g., journal costs), but can provide an opportunity for SSB to fund a new initiative (along the lines of items mentioned in the SSB Long-range Planning report) or increase amounts for current grad student research awards.

## SSB Annual Council Meeting Minutes 2007

And I surmise from Joel's and Terry's email that Council's approval is needed and has already been given." To calculate the amount of the money to be removed the trustees recommended: **Calculating the maximum of 5% of the value of the Fund on a three- or four-year moving average (31 December of each year).**

Michael Donoghue will be attending your meeting, so please let me know if you have any questions, and if you have a further assignment for us prior to the annual meeting.

Thanks very much for your help. A few more comments are interspersed below....

Best to all,

Pam

### SSB Long-Range Planning Committee Report

Michael Donoghue, Scott Steppan, John Wiens, Pam Soltis, Anne Yoder

- Question: money, how to optimize it, and what to with it?
- Where do we want to go as a Society? Business as usual or go for bigger vision?
  - Business defined as journal & meetings, and that's it
  - Big Bang: international outreach, lobbying the Hill, political impact; being a real resource and voice for the community

CS Reply: We do this through AIBS because we are too small to lobby ourselves. This is why we voted to join AIBS at the Knoxville Council meeting,

- Graduate student support for international meetings
- One-off meetings for focused subjects, consistent with SSB vision- We suggest that our members apply to NESCENT- we need more of a presence at NESCENT
  - International outreach
  - Permitting issues
  - Journal/publication issues
- Reduce registration costs of meetings: spread the wealth; increase participation, but reduce ability to do "big things"
- Beef up the web site; do something special with it
- We sent some ideas to Rod. If you have any specific ideas send them to us.
- Continuity: right now, there is too much "reinventing the wheel" --- perhaps a "continuity committee" of 5 or 6 people to record and transmit lessons learned from journal issues, meeting issues, other committee activities "The continuity" is supposed to be provided by having 3 presidents at all times (past, present, and future) and a staggered long range planning committee (you), and by having experienced people nominated for office.
-

- Information management: be the leaders across all of systematics; be identified with a data type
  - E.g., why doesn't the SSB web site have something like the list that Joe Felsenstein maintains?
  - Hub for managing domain-specific information (i.e., systematics); augment and support existing data bases (HerpNet; Manis; etc.)

CS: Sent suggestion to Rod to add such things and to link to Joe's website. No need to reinvent the wheel.

- Archival functions of the SSB web site are very poor

Maybe, but now all authors are required to use TreeBase and GenBank. NESCENT has a databasing initiative and they said that we are way ahead of all other evolution-related journals.

- We need a web guru

CS: Rod has agreed to continue.

- Membership: what does it do for us as a Society? How does it benefit the individual?
  - Promote systematics
  - Link more meaningfully with other societies? Education, outreach, etc. More bang for the buck

CS: The job of the program director is to interface with the three societies, George Weiblen is doing an excellent job. Also, the joint steering committee meets twice at each annual meeting. What do you recommend in addition to this?

- Concern that SSB should be more international; journal submissions reflect international participation, but how about membership and meeting attendance?

Only 30% of our members are from outside the US but 60% of our submissions are from outside the US. We are having the meeting in NZ to attract more international participation, meeting registration is much higher for non-members so we hope to get more NZ and Australian members. The executive committee suggests having other meetings abroad every four or so years. We don't want to have them too often because of the financial burden on our North American members.

- Travel fund for people from Biodiverse countries
- How does SSB organize such that we are a real international entity? Organization; realizing our niche. How do we speak with one voice? Become more internationally effective?
  - Take some money and contribute to activities of European, Asian societies (EDIT; SNTHESES)

CS: Can you be more explicit about what societies, possible contacts, spell out acronyms and give contact information.

- Need to fundraise; build endowment; raise participation in life-time memberships How about some suggestions on how to do this? T-shirts and mugs didn't work to raise money (but are good publicity- walking bill boards).
- Who are the people, what is the mechanism for vetting funding requests? Should this be formalized?

CS: Funding requests should be sent to the President.



## **Membership Committee Report – Nepokroeff**

### **Report from Membership Committee, Society for Systematic Biologists**

June 14, 2007

Molly Nepokroeff, Chair	University of South Dakota
Vicki Funk, Member	Smithsonian Institution
David Hillis, Member	University of Texas-Austin

**The Membership Committee seeks to increase and maintain membership in SSB. We are also soliciting ideas from the council and members on ways to increase membership. Any feedback from the council on the following activities/ideas would be welcome. Please feel free to contact Molly Nepokroeff at [mnepokro@usd.edu](mailto:mnepokro@usd.edu) with your comments.**

1) Implementation of on-line membership renewal was perceived as a high priority to maintain current membership in the Mar. 2007 report. As of 4/16/07, SSB members have had access to the online joining and renewal system, provided by Burk and Associates. An email was sent out to all past 2006 and current 2007 members together with information on the election and electronic ballot on April 16, (although that message did not explicitly say anything about the new online server). According to Heide Rohland, this strategy has worked well in identifying lapsed memberships for other clients (when lapsed members go to vote, they get a message telling them they need to renew their membership and instructions for how to do so online).

It wasn't until May 9 2007 that a message was sent out, coupled with other information, to the general membership (current and lapsed members from 2006) letting folks know about the online renewal. Content of that message was as follows:

“Dear SSB Members,

Systematic Biology has instituted a number of changes to make our lives easier. These include: 1) secure on-line membership services

<https://ssl4.westserver.net/birenheide.com/secure/ssb/membership/join.php3>

2) improvements to the constitution (on which you are now voting),

3) a new and improved website (thanks to webmaster Rod Page) which includes access to journal contents, application guidelines for SSB research awards, hot links to recent articles of interest from Systematic Biology and other systematics journals and information sources, important historical/governance SSB documents (e.g., the constitution, incorporation documents, and tax free status documents), lists of past officers and councils, meeting notices, announcements, job opportunities and more. Check out [www.systematicbiology.org](http://www.systematicbiology.org).

If your subscription has lapsed or you know of a colleague whose membership has lapsed, please take advantage of our new on-line link and re-join. Benefits of membership include print and electronic access to Systematic Biology, the most highly cited primary research journal (impact factor 10.327) in the fields of Ecology, Evolution, and Systematics (Electronic PDF's may be downloaded and exchanged freely), annual meetings for exchange of ideas and networking with the top scientists in systematics and evolution (reduced meeting fees for members), access to Travel Awards, Research Awards, and Research Funds in systematic biology and phylogenetics (see "Awards" on the SSB site), the opportunity to be an integral part of the present and future of Systematic Biology and to help promote phylogenetic research.

I look forward to seeing you all at the annual meeting in Christchurch, NZ (2007) and St. Paul Minnesota (2008).

Best wishes,

Chris Simon  
President, SSB"

Since the join/renew online site was started 66 new/renewal members have used the system.

Following is a breakdown of the membership categories received through the online system since April 16 when the secure online server went up (although note that it wasn't until May 9 that an actual message went out to the membership with information on online renewal, so may be safer to assume that this has occurred in a little over a month's time):

1 Emeritus w/o Journal  
42 Regular members (1 additional family)  
22 Students  
1 Sustaining Member

I asked Heide to send out another, separate email reminder targeted only to lapsed members with no other content (a stand alone message with no other information). That message will be sent out next week (Tuesday, June 19, 2007) to lapsed members from 2005 and 2006. This will be followed up by another reminder email to members who still have not renewed membership next month (July 2007).

2) Advertising: A component of the marketing should be covered by our pending contract with the publisher. The current RFP and pending contract (with OUP) have language to the effect that publisher will provide marketing services to the journal a *minimum* of

\$12,000 in first two accounting years of the agreement and \$10,000 per year thereafter to “maintain and increase subscription to the Society and Systematic Biology, maximize dissemination of the journal. And to attract readers and the best authors, paying particular attention to the profile for growth outside the US.” Marketing will include electronic and direct mail campaigns, conference promotions. (See #13 in the OUP RFP).

Currently, although Taylor and Francis were contracted for membership services, their efforts were deemed unsatisfactory and an outside consulting firm, Burk and Associates Incorporated (BAI) were hired in May 2005. BAI will provide Membership Data Reports on SSB on a quarterly basis, will maintain a roster of members, process applications, provide new member mailings, correspondence with members, billing services, membership information changes, create lists for email, etc., provide updates to web based member directory. No direct marketing is contracted through BAI.

Here is a non-comprehensive list of BAI’s membership services:

- a) mailing invoices for membership
  - b) processing new and renewal members including notification
  - c) changes of address
  - d) correspondence with the members concerning their membership and/or Journal
  - e) providing labels to T&F for the Journal
  - f) distributing emails or mailings to the membership
  - g) updating the website directory
  - h) providing membership lists and reports when requested
- etc.

3) We would like to exchange mailing lists with other societies that would be relevant to the membership of SSB (e.g. SSE, SMBE, ASPT (American Society of Plant Taxonomists) and others. We could then send emails to those members asking them to consider joining SSB. **I would like some feedback from the council on a list of potentially relevant societies. Please send me your ideas for societies we should contact!**

4) Increasing student membership is perceived as a high priority by the membership committee. Student membership has not increased significantly in the past five years. One way to potentially increase student membership is that we could consider giving one or even several years free membership/subscription to new student members (who have never joined before). Several grad students who were consulted this spring suggested that they joined the societies they currently belong to because the societies were important for their field, but also because they gave free one or two year subscriptions to new grad student members. We could ask for “departmental nomination” (e.g. get their major professor and departmental chair’s nomination/signature on the application) and perhaps just fund a subset if it was deemed too “cost ineffective” to give it to all new grad student members. **I would like feedback from the council on this idea, particularly from the treasurer as to whether this would be economically feasible.**

Vicki Funk suggested giving awards for student posters, such as gift certificate for books for the top 8-10 posters. Also, some grad students reported getting free society banquet tickets (given to new grad student members who were presenters at the meeting). Alternatively, we could give a highly reduced banquet fee for graduate students. I would appreciate feedback on these ideas.

5) Lastly, we have been asked to think of ways to increase membership from underrepresented places (this is particularly relevant because we plan to meet in three years in Costa Rica and have only one person who lives in Costa Rica who is a member from the membership list). The cost of membership could be prohibitively high for potential members living in these countries as well competition for more taxon-based journals (but does need for biodiversity assessment far outweigh any other need in such countries?). Ability to afford membership in a scientific society is very limited for many people living in those countries and while we already offer reduced institutional membership, I think again the best way to increase membership in underrepresented areas is to offer a significantly reduced individual membership rate as well.

#### **Selected Membership Data Trends:**

##### Regular members:

2000	1500
2003	1228
2004	1054
2005	907
2006	948

##### Student members:

2000	200
2003	376
2004	336
2005	362
2006	371

##### Institutional subscriptions:

1998	908
1999	883
2000	869
2001	860
2002	842/847*
2003	671/805*
2004	686/770*
2005	753
2006	684

SSB Annual Council Meeting Minutes 2007

\*Two different values for institutional membership were provided on Chris's message from 2/16/07 for these years, I am not sure which to use.

**Membership as of 6/14/2007**

	Paid	*Arrears	Total
Emeritus	49	5	54
Emeritus no Journal	5	1	6
Family	20	1	21
Life	12	0	12
Regular	904	182	1086
Student	342	139	481
Sustaining	11	1	12
Total	1343	329	1672

\*Arrears are Members from 2006 that have yet not yet paid for 2007

Our largest number of institutional subscriptions are in North America (458), with 418 from the U.S. and 37 from Canada, the second largest number are from Europe with 158, 67 from Asia, 15 from South Africa, 11 from South America. Similar values are seen with total subscriptions by region.

Respectfully yours,

Dr. Molly Nepokroeff  
Associate Professor  
Department of Biology  
University of South Dakota  
414 E. Clark St.  
Vermillion, SD 57069  
605-677-6178

### **Financial Report – Mindell**

Mindell presents report (below). Recommends for approval the 5% policy towards endowment fund. Penny moves to support the 5% policy as suggested by the Board of Trustees. Second by Simon. Unanimously approved. Donoghue suggests that as we have initiatives (like Internationalization or Database development), we can develop an endowment campaign around such initiatives and promote them during our annual subscription renewals. Olmstead suggests that the Long-Range Planning Committee take up the concept of an endowment campaign. Huelsenbeck suggests soliciting contributions from industry partners. Discussion on whether we should take the 5% this year. Penny suggests we postpone decision until later in the year and address it via email. Mindell suggests an order of priority of targets for funding with awards and symposia as the first priority and support the internationalization and databasing efforts suggested by the Long-Range Planning Committee.

### **Society of Systematic Biologists, 16 June 2007 Council Meeting**

Treasurer's Report, submitted by David Mindell

#### **Transition**

Outgoing and incoming SSB Treasurers, V. Funk and D. Mindell, met in Washington D.C. 30 Nov. – 1 Dec. 2006 to review SSB finances and to meet with CPA Rob Clayton and with Burk and Associates. Clayton is continuing as SSB's contracted CPA. Burk and Associates (BAI) have provided valuable assistance in publication contract negotiations and in reincorporation of the society. BAI will continue to handle SSB membership dues collection.

#### **Proceeds of 2006 Evolution Meetings**

SSB received a check for \$23,016 on 18 May 2007 as its share of the proceeds from the 2006 annual meetings. The total proceeds are being divided equally among SSB, SSE, and ASN.

#### **Graduate Student Award funding**

SSB distributed \$43,035 and \$23,000 total for Graduate Student Research Awards and the Ernst Mayr Award during 2005 and 2006 respectively. The amount was decreased in 2006 because there were no proceeds received from the 2005 annual meetings in Fairbanks, Alaska. At the mid-year SSB officers meeting (17 March 2007), the officers voted unanimously to increase expenditures on SSB Graduate Student Research Awards to \$50,000 for 2007.

#### **Policy regarding use of Endowment funds for programs and initiatives**

In order to make SSB's current practices regarding use of Endowment funds for SSB programs and initiatives more explicit, the following statement has been written by the Officers and the Trustees (Terry Yates, Joel Cracraft), and is offered for consideration and is recommended for approval by the SSB Council at the 2007 annual meetings.

*The Council affirms the following general policy regarding management of the Society's Endowment funds. The Council may request a disbursement from the Endowment each*

*year of up to 5% of a five-year moving average of the principle as of 31 December. As soon after 31 December as possible, the Trustees will inform the Council, through the Treasurer, the amount that is available for disbursement. The Treasurer will inform the Trustees of the desired disbursements, and the Trustees will arrange for transfer to the Society's operating account. If the Council so chooses, it may request less than the allotted amount, in which case the remainder returns to principle.*

State of the Budget (see emailed file 'SSB Budget 6.07')

SSB is financially solvent. The approximate amount from the SSB money market and checking accounts (Operating and Wachovia accounts) as of 1 June 2007 is \$110,930. The approximate value of SSB investments (Endowment) also as of 1 June 2007 was \$645,702. These are healthy but still modest amounts given the operating costs and commitments of the society. As in the past (with many thanks to previous Treasurer Vicki Funk), the first priority is ensuring that expenditures remain less than income.

Given the society's general economic health, there is an opportunity to increase our spending on SSB programs and initiatives, in accord with recommendations of the Long-range Planning Committee. Following the policy for use of Endowment funds (above), Council might consider requesting 5% or less of the five-year moving average value of the Endowment, with the request to take effect at the end of the year. For comparative purposes, the average value for 2002-2006 is ca. \$509,000. and 5% of that is ca. \$25,450.

**Society of Systematic Biologists**  
**Balance Sheet**

					Dec 31, 02	Dec 31, 03	Dec 31, 04	Dec 31, 05	Dec 31, 06	May 31, 07
<b>ASSETS</b>										
	<b>Current Assets</b>									
	<b>Checking/Savings</b>									
	<b>1000 · Operating Account</b>									
				<b>1000.1 · Cardinal Bank</b>	54,286.00	93,345.05	71,961.28	13,776.96	-	-
				<b>1000.2 · Florence Savings Bank</b>	528.52	527.52	-	-	-	-
				<b>Total 1000 · Operating Account</b>	54,814.52	93,872.57	71,961.28	13,776.96	-	-
	<b>1010 · Wachovia Account</b>									
				<b>1010.1 · Wachovia Checking</b>	-	-	-	27,215.27	11,219.47	9,757.25
				<b>1010.2 · Wachovia Money Market</b>	-	-	-	5,030.88	37,283.07	100,517.69
				<b>Total 1010 · Wachovia Account</b>	-	-	-	32,246.15	48,502.54	110,274.94
	<b>1100 · Investments</b>				381,906.00	512,969.00	499,847.00	542,127.23	612,105.40	645,701.92
				<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	436,720.52	606,841.57	571,808.28	588,150.34	660,607.94	755,976.86
	<b>Other Current Assets</b>									
				<b>1300 · Accounts Receivable</b>	45,931.00	74,271.40	58,262.00	28,241.00	53,405.00	-
				<b>1350 · AIBS Credit Card Collections</b>	-	-	26,695.00	26,506.35	3,080.00	3,080.00
				<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	45,931.00	74,271.40	84,957.00	54,747.35	56,485.00	3,080.00
				<b>Total Current Assets</b>	482,651.52	681,112.97	656,765.28	642,897.69	717,092.94	759,056.86
	<b>Fixed Assets</b>									
				<b>1600 · Computer Equipment</b>	1,376.94	1,376.94	3,003.08	3,003.08	3,003.08	3,003.08
				<b>1601 · Accum Depreciation - Computer</b>	(980.00)	(1,139.00)	(1,623.00)	(2,222.00)	(2,534.00)	(2,534.00)
				<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	396.94	237.94	1,380.08	781.08	469.08	469.08
				<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>483,048.46</b>	<b>681,350.91</b>	<b>658,145.36</b>	<b>643,678.77</b>	<b>717,562.02</b>	<b>759,525.94</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>										
	<b>Liabilities</b>									
	<b>Current Liabilities</b>									
				<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>						
				<b>2100 · Accrued Expenses</b>	-	-	-	-	7,525.00	-
				<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	-	-	-	-	7,525.00	-
				<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	-	-	-	-	7,525.00	-
				<b>Total Liabilities</b>	-	-	-	-	7,525.00	-
	<b>Equity</b>									
				<b>3500 · Retained Earnings</b>	504,588.29	483,048.46	681,350.91	658,145.36	643,678.77	710,037.02
				<b>Net Income</b>	(21,539.83)	198,302.45	(23,205.55)	(14,466.59)	66,358.25	49,488.92
				<b>Total Equity</b>	483,048.46	681,350.91	658,145.36	643,678.77	710,037.02	759,525.94
				<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>483,048.46</b>	<b>681,350.91</b>	<b>658,145.36</b>	<b>643,678.77</b>	<b>717,562.02</b>	<b>759,525.94</b>



### **Journal Report(s) – Sullivan/Ciszek/Page**

Page presents report and initiates discussion on open access, especially relative to Wellcome open access policy. T&F claim that they won't have a problem with the open access issue and we should be sure that this issue is addressed in the roll-over agreement. Thanks to Rod Page for his excellent service as Editor.

Ciszek presents her report (below) and reminds us that we have advertisement space in our journal which is very underutilized.

Sullivan reports that he asked all current associate editors to stay on and many extended. He has worked to increase the number of female representation on AE board. He has increased the number of AEs to 25 with 17 male and 8 female.

Ciszek covers Taylor & Francis report. Institutional subscriptions continue to decline. Since moving to T&F, our subscriptions have decreased over 33%. Impact factor of 10.327 in 2005, with Systematic Biology ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> of 33 in evolutionary biology with TREE ranking first.

## **Editor's Report 2007**

Rod Page

### ***Summary***

The transition period seems to be going relatively smoothly, although Debbie has had some problems with MC. Most of the issues in the June 2006 report are still open, although we now have RSS feeds for the latest issue. One issue that needs to be addressed is Open Access, specifically whether we will ensure that we meet requirements of funding agencies.

### ***Manuscript Central***

The transition to MC is now complete. For other MC issues (such as coping with two Editors) please see Debbie's report.

### ***Illustrations***

We are trying to educate authors about the advantages of vector file formats over bitmaps, both in terms of resolution and file size (see <http://systbio.org/?q=node/138>). We still get 2-3 Mb Photoshop files containing simple pie charts, for example. These files tend to be of low quality,



and are difficult to work with.

## ***Open Access***

We need a clear policy statement regarding Open Access and author archiving. For example, we are currently listed as a “white publisher” by SHERPA’s RoMEO database (<http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo.php?colour=white>). This will have implications for researcher’s choice of publication if they are funded by grant agencies that require Open Access. See attached letter for more details. Basically, I think we need a clear statement about what kind of archiving we allow, and we should ensure that this meets requirements of NIH and Wellcome-funded researchers.

**Managing Editor’s Report**  
Debbie Ciszek

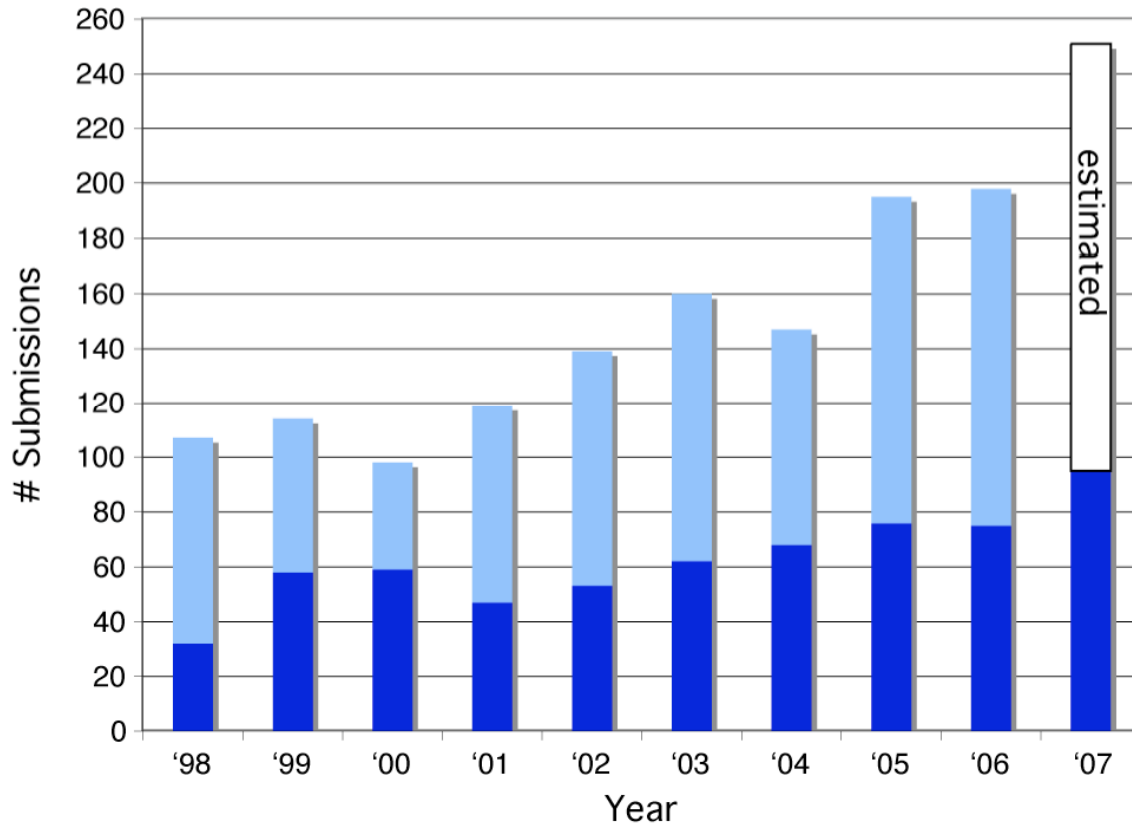
June 2007, Christchurch, NZ

### **I Submissions:**

#### Submission Rate:

**=> Predicted dramatic increase in submission rate. Should we try to decrease it?**

Our submission rate continues to rise, with slightly more in 2006 (198) than in 2005, and a projected jump in 2007. In 2006 82.5% of submissions were regular articles and 17.5% were Points of View. Throughout this report, “submissions” is defined to include submissions and resubmissions, but not revisions or book reviews.



In the graph above, the lower (darker) portions of the bars show the number of submissions through May of each year. Each combined bar shows the total number of submissions in the year. Through May of this year we received 95 submissions; at the same time last year we had received 75. The estimated portion of the 2007 bar was calculated by comparing the proportions:  $75/198 = 95/x$ ,  $x = 251$  estimated 2007 submissions. Of course the actual number could vary from this in either direction, with the previous trend suggesting it should be a bit lower. (Good luck Jack!)

- Should we attempt to reduce the number of submissions?

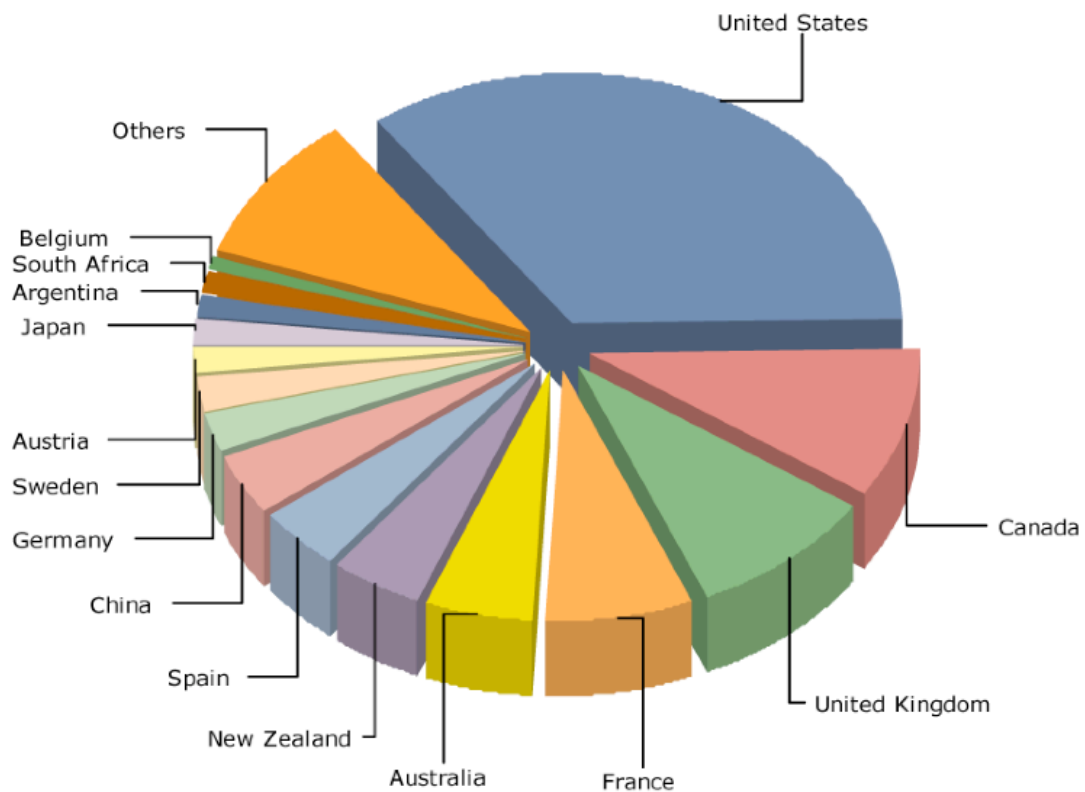
Based on speaking with other Managing Editors, Editors, and a few publishers, I believe our submission rate is low compared to other high caliber journals, so perhaps we already have sufficient self-selection by authors. However, if a reduction is desired, we could include dissuading information on our website and possibly in our instructions to authors. Citing our rejection rate might be effective, particularly if it's not adjusted for the number of rejected papers that are eventually published (more on that below); on the other hand, other journals also have high rejection rates. We could draft a statement regarding the quality but \*lengthiness\* of our review process, although a potential drawback is upset authors of the occasional paper that receives brief comments that nevertheless took time to be produced.

#### Geographic Origin of Submissions:

⇒ We receive manuscripts from all over the world, but papers sent for review are a disproportionate subset (despite no bias in favor of the USA).

Of all submissions in 2006, 65% were submitted by an author residing outside the USA. SB is definitely an internationally read and recognized journal. However, although countries other than the USA, Canada and UK made up 46% of submissions, they were disproportionately represented among papers returned without full review—of the 52 papers returned w/o review, 39 (75%) came from outside the USA, Canada or UK. (Giving “props” to our hosts, no papers from NZ were returned w/o review ;-) Papers returned without full review (either by the Editor alone or in consultation with an Associate Editor) are those definitely not appropriate for the journal. It seems that some authors from many countries misunderstand the broad scope and impact on the field necessary for papers published in SB. Nevertheless, 4 countries had better acceptance rates than did the USA, so there is no apparent bias in favor of the USA.

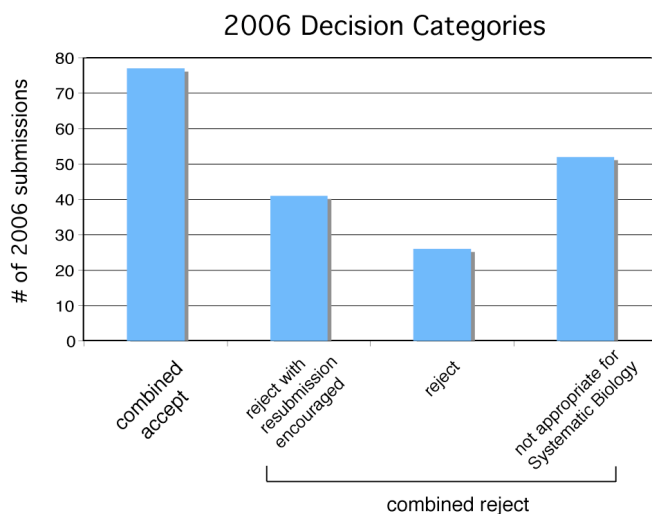
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## II Manuscript Processing:

### Reject/Accept Rates:

⇒ **The 2006 rejection rate was 61%, but was 56% if adjusted for ms' that were originally rejected with resubmission encouraged, and were subsequently accepted.** Of the 198 ms' submitted in 2006 (2 were withdrawn), the EiC's decision on the initial submissions were 77 accepts (all denominations of accept combined) and 119 rejects (as itemized in the figure), for a rejection rate of 61%. However, if adjusted for reject/resubmission encouraged papers that are eventually accepted, the rejection rate would be 56%. This is somewhat higher than in past years (the previous EiC's rate varied around 50%).



Based on a 9 month sample (Sep05-May06: starting our 1st full month of MC and allowing a full year for resubmission) of 33 reject/encour. papers, 40% were resubmitted. Of those, 62% were accepted. Therefore, approximately 24% of rej/enc papers are eventually accepted. Applying that percentage to the 2006 submissions, we would move 10 papers from combined reject to combined accept, giving an adjusted rejection rate of 56%.

There are two reasons the apparent decrease in rejection rate this year as compared to last is smaller than it seems, both of which were mentioned in last year's report. One is the adjustment shown above. The other is that the decision time required for papers returned without review is much lower, so more of them are included in the decisions sooner. However, all of the 2006 submissions have by now received a first decision, so this no longer affects the percentage.

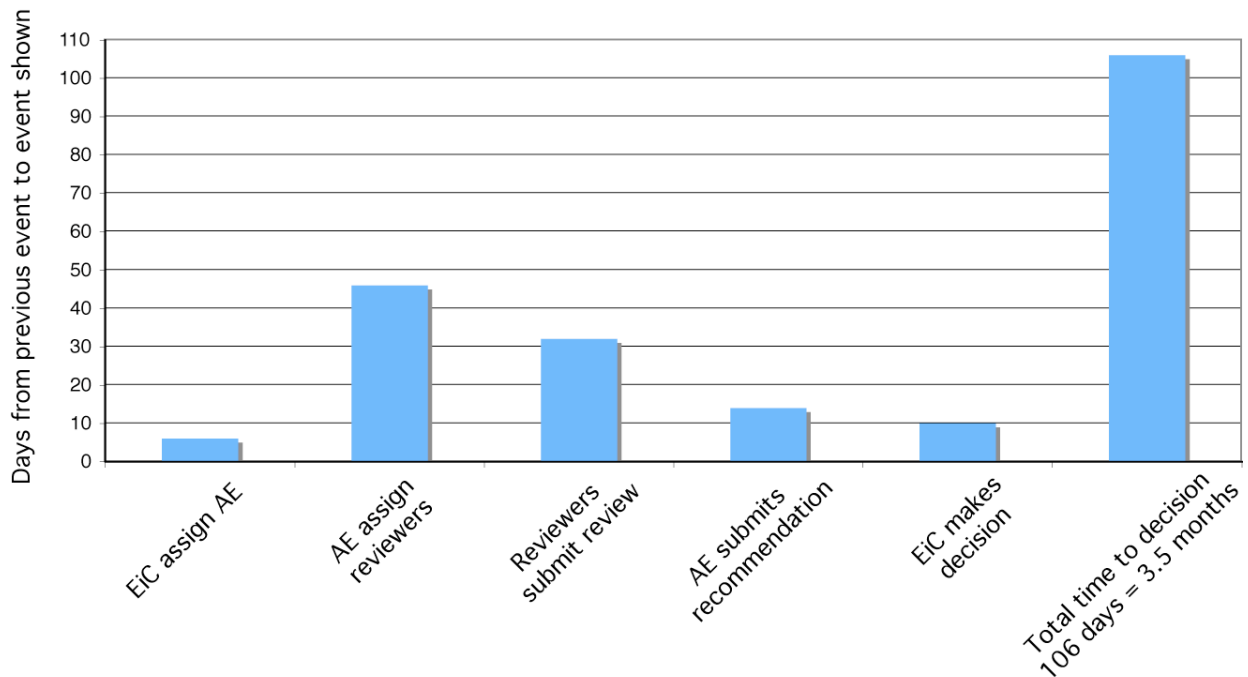
Through 12Jun07, the Editor-Elect had made decisions on 52 submissions: 13 combined accept, 9 reject/encouraged, 10 reject, 20 not appropriate. This is a 75% rejection rate (approx 62% adjusted for rej/enc.). It's inflated because not ap. decisions come back faster, so it's too soon to judge this year's rate.

### Manuscript Processing Time:

⇒ **It takes approximately 3.5 months for a manuscript to receive initial acceptance, and about a year from first submission to print publication. Changes to this are beginning.**

- Time to first decision. Graph located on next page. For 2006 submissions that received full review, the average time from submission to EiC decision was 3.5 months. (If submissions that did not go out for review are included, the average time to EiC decision was 2.3 months.)

On the graph below, it will seem surprising that the time it takes for AEs to assign reviewers is longer than the time it takes reviewers to submit reviews. Faster would be preferable, but the duration is at least partly due to 1) difficulty in finding reviewers who agree to the task, and 2) an AE may have already assigned one or two reviewers, and is still looking for an additional person; assigning reviewers is counted by MC as a single event. The average time for reviewers is for each review returned, and there's high variation (not calculated) in the time it takes reviewers to submit a review.



- Time to publication. For these data I've used manuscripts submitted in the first 12 months we used Manuscript Central, 25Aug05 to 24Aug06, so that there has been time for almost all to be published if they were accepted. Of the ms' submitted during the first year, 48 have been published (through the April07 issue). These data concern time to hard copy publication; time to online publication is addressed elsewhere. We published 79 papers in 2006 (63 reg, 16 POV plus 12 book reviews, thanks to David Morrison), and 44 (33 reg, 11 POV) in February through June of 2007.

Phase of production	Months (SD)	Notes
Initial submission to publication	12.3 (2.5)	Combination of all phases.
Submission of "final" version to publication	6.1 (1.4)	Combination of the phases below. This is the time frame the author perceives to be the time required for publication.
Submission of "final" version until export to T&F	3.5 (1.0)	This is the time the ms is with me. The time delay due to our backlog is included in this phase because T&F preferred in

---

		the past for me to send papers as they were needed to fill an issue (the reason for this has to do with the way POVs and book reviews are added at the end of an issue). The actual time required to prepare a ms for publication is a small portion of this. Our backlog is approximately 1.5 issues' worth, which seems like a comfortable margin. However, a smaller backlog means shorter overall time to publication, so we publish as many pages per year as we are allowed, which keeps the backlog down as much as can be achieved, and it is decreasing.
Export to T&F to publication	2.6 (0.75)	This is the average time it takes T&F to publish a manuscript in print.

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**Recently, the timing patterns of processing our backlog and T&F production began changing.** T&F is improving their processing time. There have been some cases in which only 6 weeks passed after I sent manuscripts to T&F until they appeared on iFirst. However, some manuscripts take much longer, particularly POVs. It's too early to interpret any change in the average time from receipt of ms' by T&F to their hard copy print date.

I have been working on shifting the backlog over to T&F, in the hope that soon they will post papers online far in advance of print publication. I kept the backlog with me in the past partly because 1) if an author realized significant changes were needed, it was much more efficient to exchange files before sending the paper to T&F, and 2) it allowed the Editor to control the order of publication of papers, e.g., if there was a reason for two papers to appear together in the same issue, or for a particular paper to be published asap. As of 11Jun07 I hold only 7 accepted papers. (Causing a significant time crunch in producing this report, by the way ;-)

### **III Problems with Manuscript Central:**

**=> Some problems can be solved, others will remain.**

Ah, where to begin? There are basically 3 categories – things we want to change about MC and can, with effort, have changed for us; annoying things about MC that can't be changed (MANY examples available on request); and problems related to users having incomplete knowledge regarding how to accomplish tasks. We have 1,376 registered users.

I'm always ready and willing to answer anyone's questions. Also, the ScholarOne support team is actually quite good with answering questions submitted through the "Get Help Now" link in red text in the upper right corner of the MC screen. I've used this

many times, including requests for minor changes to the configuration of our site. To make significant changes I still have to contact T&F who then contacts the ScholarOne engineer assigned to SB (I still literally am not allowed or able to contact him directly).

I've sent an email to the AEs asking for various types of feedback. After discussion at the Editorial Meeting I'll draft a FAQ on using MC to be posted on the SSB website (thanks to Paul Lewis for the idea of posting this on the web), and request any additional configuration changes we come up with.



#### **IV Notes on T&F:**

**=> A laundry list, of which the iFirst situation is probably the most important.**

- **iFirst** – T&F remains steadfast in their position that POVs (and book reviews) cannot be published online until an issue is completely paginated, and subsequent issues cannot begin to appear online until after the previous issue has been fully published online. T&F's best possible speed for getting papers on iFirst is 5 weeks after I export the paper to them (the 5 week target is not usually achieved, but T&F is getting close). So under current conditions iFirst publication will not be very far ahead of print publication for many papers, but will be several weeks ahead for some papers.

This discussion has gone back and forth many times, and the above is always their bottom line even though we're willing to compromise by foregoing the following: page numbers and issue assignments for papers on iFirst, the order of papers on iFirst (e.g. POVs can be interspersed with regular articles), and pagination of announcements. Also, the backlog of papers will no longer reside with me; I'll send papers to T&F asap.

We have not conceded to T&F's insistence that in order to quicken iFirst, POVs must be given a separate page numbering system in print, such as P1, P2 etc., or else POVs cannot follow regular articles in the printed version of an issue but must rather be interspersed.

- Beth Gallagher ([beth.gallagher@taylorandfrancis.com](mailto:beth.gallagher@taylorandfrancis.com)) has replaced Andrew Moyer. She seems to be learning our journal quickly, and putting in significant effort. Our Production Editor was replaced by Anita Michel—I have no complaints about her. However, one example of the several small inconveniences of frequent staff turnover is that I don't get answers to questions comparing the current situation to past practices because the PE says she only has access to information on issues she has personally worked on. Presumably, if we insisted a question was important the records would be accessed.

- T&F sends emails to our authors with information irrelevant and problematic for SB. We asked them to stop (to alter the emails) despite the extra time required due to the emails being automated through their CATS system. They wouldn't make the effort, and the current fix is for us to send our authors an email telling them which information sent to them by our publisher they should ignore.

- For many years SSB has been paying for (in the sense that they are included in our page budget) ads for T&F products that have been placed in SB by T&F without obtaining approval from any editorial staff (it would be appropriate to seek approval from the EiC). To be fair, although I very recently found out about this, T&F thought we knew (they told me ads SSB chose to place would come out of the page budget, but not that this applied to ads T&F placed—they thought it was implied). They have agreed to use the space from now on for ads for SSB membership or any other use the EiC chooses (generous of them, since we already pay for those pages anyway!). Also, any pages for errata needed due to T&F error come out of our budget. However, T&F would probably add the pages they've used back into our allowed budget if we insisted. All issues must contain a number of pages that is a multiple of 4, so there are sometimes extra pages. The surprising aspect is that we pay for blank pages and for T&F ads.

- Typesetting. I cannot contact the typesetter, and sometimes requests I make through Anita are lost somewhere along the way. I don't see the typesetting until I receive proofs, so if changes are needed that means a second set of proofs must be prepared, which delays online publication. There have been several problems with inclusion of ms info at the end of the paper, figure size, arrangement of figure portions, and, multiple times, even figures placed out of order! The problems are more frequent with papers in LaTeX, and I've emphasized that it's very important to our journal that this format be handled well.

- As Rod touched on in the web report, SSB members sometimes have an almost nightmarish experience trying to get their journal mailing address changed or obtain issues they didn't receive. Some of the problem stems from these two needs (changing address and obtaining missing issues) being closely related but Burke handling the first and T&F the second. Communication is poor. Several members have told me they were ignored when they tried (multiple times in some cases) to contact T&F.

- Proofs are not proofread before being sent to authors. This isn't just an annoyance, it can introduce errors in publication that the authors did not make in their manuscripts, e.g., because the proofreader might mistake the meaning of phrases and make grammatical changes. (A recent case was "gamma shape parameter" being changed to "gamma-shape parameter.") Authors not seeing the proofread version is a general problem, and I have heard from multiple authors about small errors introduced, for which they did not feel the need to publish an erratum. A more specific and serious problem (luckily rare) is that in some cases authors request changes to their proofs which are not made. A recent example, for which we are publishing an erratum, is that a  $\leq$  symbol was inverted in multiple locations in a paper.



# ***Systematic Biology***

June 2007

## Publisher's Report

***Prepared by Beth Gallagher, Acquisitions Editor***  
**Taylor & Francis Group LLC**  
**[beth.gallagher@taylorandfrancis.com](mailto:beth.gallagher@taylorandfrancis.com)**

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## Introduction

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*Systematic Biology* is an impressive journal by any measure, and we at Taylor & Francis are proud to call ourselves its publisher and the Society for Systematic Biologists our publishing partner.

Taylor & Francis has been *Systematic Biology*'s publisher for nearly 10 years, and in that time, academic publishing has undergone a sea change. Taylor & Francis has carefully kept pace with all new developments that affect *Systematic Biology*'s role and status in the field of evolutionary biology—and, more generally, the timely, efficient, and ethical dissemination of research to scholars—and our current practice represents both a vigorous response to the realities of academic publishing today and a stepping-stone to the future.

Taylor & Francis has grown quite a bit since 1998, when we first began publishing *Systematic Biology*. We have acquired a number of other publishers, learning from their journals and their business practices along the way. In 2004, we merged with informa plc, “a leading provider of specialist information to the global market.” Today, Taylor & Francis publishes over 1,000 scholarly journals—hundreds on behalf of society partners—and approximately 1,800 new books per year. We have editorial and sales offices across the globe, from South Africa to Singapore.

Our goal at Taylor & Francis is to be the most flexible, dynamic, technically advanced provider of reliable, value-added information and knowledge to researchers, students, and professionals. We are committed to continually adapting to the rapidly changing publishing and sales environment in order to maximize worldwide readership for *Systematic Biology* and our other journals as well as the revenue returns to the societies who publish with us.

We also aim to maintain excellent relationships with our partners, including the Society for Systematic Biologists—relationships that are transparent, consultative, flexible, and individualized, taking into account your needs and strategies. We offer a high-quality service in all aspects of the publishing business, from excellent production values through rapid dissemination of material. We are committed to innovation, both in developing new subject areas with our academic partners and in constantly improving efficiency and the recognition of our journals in the academic community.

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## Report Summary

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By all measures, *Systematic Biology* is a healthy journal of the highest quality. The journal is beautiful to look at, reads well, publishes on time, and provides important discussions and research findings of great value to systematists and other biologists at a very low price.

This report presents detailed information about the journal's current status by examining subscription levels, pricing, production processes, the status of print and online publication, and our marketing activities. The report is divided into three sections:

**Editorial:** The editorial section reviews information on overall management of the journals, including subscription management.

**Production:** The production section reviews the journal's production status at the time of writing and includes a detailed discussion of iFirst, Taylor & Francis's early online publication system.

**Marketing:** The marketing section discusses promotion of the journal via direct mail, electronic mail campaigns, cross marketing opportunities, and promotion at conferences.

## 1. Editorial

### 1.1 Subscriptions

Institutional subscriptions as of May 2007 showed a 6% year-to-year attrition rate, from 679 subscriptions in May 2006 to 639 in May 2007. The journal experienced a 5% attrition rate from 2005 to 2006. Attrition is a fact of life in journals publishing, but *Systematic Biology*'s sterling reputation and low price keep the attrition levels low. The journals staff at Taylor & Francis is currently (as of June 13) putting together a list of lapsed and cancelled institutional subscribers, to facilitate contacting lapsed subscribers and convincing them to renew.

The tables below show the breakdown and totals of all subscriptions for 2005 and 2006, as well as the breakdown of subscriptions by region and country.

	2005	2006
<b>Institutional</b>	748	710
<b>Society</b>	1389	1252
<b>Gratis</b>	142	143
<b>Other</b>	3	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	2282	2107

Institutional Subscriptions by Geographic Area & Selected Countries (2006)

<i>Region/Country</i>	<i>Total Subscriptions</i>	<i>Region/Country</i>	<i>Total Subscriptions</i>
<b>Australasia</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Europe</b>	<b>154</b>
Australia	20	Germany	22
<b>Asia</b>	<b>65</b>	Italy	17
China	12	United Kingdom	31
Japan	32	France	17
Taiwan	7	<b>Africa</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>North America</b>	<b>430</b>	South Africa	14
Canada	35	<b>South America</b>	<b>11</b>
USA	390	Brazil	7

Note that because Taylor & Francis now engages in sales agreements with consortia (groups of libraries that act as one "customer"), simple subscription numbers do not fully reflect the journal's circulation.

One excellent measure of actual readership is online usage data. The table below shows numbers of full-text article downloads for *Systematic Biology*, by quarter and by year. This data includes downloads from all sources: Informaworld, Metapress, Ingenta, Ebsco's Electronic Journals Service (EJS), and Ebsco's full-text databases.

Q105	Q205	Q305	Q405	Q106	Q206	Q306	Q406	Q107	2005	2006
13921	15016	13643	17823	18634	15550	15469	17091	17207	60403	66744

## 1.2 Subscription prices

The institutional subscription rate for 2007 is \$222 for both print and online access, which represents a 9% increase from 2006. Members of the Society for Systematic Biologists receive the journal for just \$21 per person. We plan to raise the institutional subscription price by 7.5% in 2008, to \$238.

*Systematic Biology* compares very well to its competitors in terms of price. The table below shows the 2006 prices per page for *Systematic Biology* and some of its major competitors.

Journal	Price-per-page
<b>Syst. Biol.</b>	<b>0.19</b>
<i>Cladistics</i>	0.96
<i>Evolution</i>	0.15
<i>Mol. Biol. Evol.</i>	0.24
<i>Mol. Phylogenet. Evol.</i>	0.22
<i>Trends Ecol. Evol.</i>	1.99

## 1.3 ISI data

Congratulations! In the 2005 edition of Thomson Scientific's *Journal Citation Reports* (JCR), *Systematic Biology* was once again ranked 2nd out of 33 journals in the category "evolutionary biology." (The 2006 edition will be available sometime in late June 2007.) *Systematic Biology*'s 2005 Impact Factor is **10.327** (see Appendix A). The 2005 Impact Factor is defined as (the number of citations made in 2005 to journal articles published in 2003 and 2004) divided by (the total number of articles published in 2003 and 2004).

The journal's "Cited Half-Life" (see Appendix A) tells us that 50% of citations to *Systematic Biology* articles are to articles published in the preceding 5.1 years. On the other hand, the journal's "Immediacy Index" is 1.154 years. This is calculated by dividing the number of citations to articles published in a given year by the number of articles published in that year, and is therefore a measure of how quickly a journal's papers are cited, i.e., how topical they are. *Systematic Biology* has the third highest Immediacy Index of the 20 top-ranked journals in evolutionary biology.

The aggregate Impact Factor for the 33 "evolutionary biology" journals listed by Thomson Scientific is 3.402, the aggregate Cited Half-Life is 7 years, and the aggregate Immediacy Index is 0.630. A listing of the top 20 journals in the evolutionary biology category, ranked by Impact Factor, can be found in Appendix A.

A list of the 20 most-cited *Systematic Biology* articles from 1994 to June 2007 can be found in Appendix B.

## 1.4 Journal webpage

*Systematic Biology* has a new webpage on **informaworld**, Taylor & Francis's new, custom-built online platform. **informaworld** experienced some growing pains when it first went live earlier in 2007, but these are rapidly abating, leaving us with an excellent product that is already serving *Systematic Biology* quite well.

**informaworld** offers state-of-the-art online journal publishing features, including public access to tables of contents, article abstracts, and article headers; articles available in both PDF and HTML formats; rich reference linking; ready-made e-mailable citations; RSS feeds; article and issue alerts; and forward citation linking. The system seamlessly integrates with library systems, and all articles are fully indexed by Google and GoogleScholar. Though we are proud of what **informaworld** already offers, we are also staying abreast of and creating new developments in online publication.

The *Systematic Biology* page is quite attractive and easy to navigate. Improvements that could be made include featuring the Society more prominently. Also, the journal's editors and the Society's officers are welcome to offer news items for posting in the "news and information" section of the journal page or elsewhere on the page.

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## 2. Production

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### 2.1 Print publication

The journal is currently meeting its bimonthly production schedule. Issues 1 and 2 of Volume 56 published toward the end of February and April, respectively, and issue 3 will publish within the next week or two (i.e., by the last week of June).

Journal production is primarily handled by the journal's Managing Editor, Debbie Ciszek, and the Taylor & Francis Production Editor, Anita Michel. Some of the production issues we have been working on in the past few months include proofreading procedures, due dates for article submissions, and handling figures.

Anita and Debbie have recently agreed that all papers for an issue should be submitted approximately 5 weeks before the issue is due to the printer; Anita has given Debbie target due dates for the remaining 2007 issues, which generally translate into early in the month before the publication month.



Also, due to errors in two recent articles that were either introduced by a Taylor & Francis proofreader or not corrected by a Taylor & Francis proofreader after requested by an author, proper proofreading procedures have been re-emphasized and all Taylor & Francis proofreaders have been reminded of the importance of following authors' wishes at the proofs stage, due of course to the fact that authors are the final authority but, more to the point, that authors do not generally have the chance to review "second proofs."

We are currently discussing with our printer the possibility of them issuing a report to Debbie on figure quality and potential problems with the first proofs, though Anita Michel reports that in general, this journal's figures are of a very high quality and rarely present problems.

## 2.2 iFirst publication

iFirst is Taylor & Francis's early-online-publication model. The goal of iFirst is to make journal articles available to subscribers as early as possible, and as soon as possible after being accepted for publication. Taylor & Francis only ever publishes one electronic version of an article, so iFirst-posted articles are fully copy edited, author-reviewed, and paginated. This means that they are also fully citable upon posting. (*N.B.: ISI does not currently track citations to DOI numbers*, so that articles posted as part of other journals' early-online-publication models without volume numbers and publication years, but with DOI numbers as their only identifiers, do not begin accumulating citations until a later electronic version is posted that does include both volume number and year.)

Taylor & Francis produces *Systematic Biology* on an accelerated iFirst schedule in which each stage of production is expected to take no more than 1 week, that is: 1 week for copy editing, 1 week for initial typesetting, 1 week for author and editor review of proofs, 1 week for subsequent typesetting, and 1 week for the production editor's final review and the typesetter's final make-up of the paper. When all goes as planned—submitted articles are complete, figures are publishable as submitted, authors and editor are available to review proofs as scheduled, and hired freelancers and typesetters are healthy and cooperating—regular articles (i.e., articles not included in special sections) appear online approximately 5 weeks after being accepted for publication. Based on tracking one issue of *Systematic Biology* (the June issue, which began appearing online on May 23), I have found that articles have taken anywhere from 2 to 6 weeks to appear, with most articles appearing in the sixth week after receipt by Taylor & Francis. I will continue to track postings to identify what is causing these small delays.

Journals gain the most benefit from iFirst if they (1) allow articles to be posted in the order in which authors approve their proofs, which generally corresponds roughly to the order in which they are accepted, (2) do not have sections of articles that must appear in a certain consecutive order, and (3) have a backlog of accepted papers, allowing papers to enter production continuously and well in advance of print publication.

How far ahead of the print publication that iFirst papers appear depends primarily on how long a journal's backlog of accepted papers is. Journals with long backlogs can see their articles appearing a year or more before print publication. Currently, given the lack of a long *Systematic Biology* backlog (which is a positive thing) articles generally appear online beginning 1.5 to 2 months before the print publication, with the last articles appearing online approximately 2 weeks before the print publication.

Another aspect of *Systematic Biology* that prevents some articles, namely Points of View and Book Reviews, from appearing online approximately 5 weeks after they are accepted is mentioned in point (2) above: they are designated to appear in sections of the journal that always appear after "original articles." Therefore, even if a Point of View is sent to Taylor & Francis early in the issue's production, it cannot appear online until all the original articles have been paginated.

Taylor & Francis staff and the journal's editors are currently working together to find a pagination and sectioning system that will allow all articles, including Points of View and Book Reviews, to appear online as they are accepted, typeset, and approved by authors. Changes to the *Systematic Biology* system will begin in the 2008 volume year.

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### 3. Marketing

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*The following marketing report was prepared by Abby Lang, Taylor & Francis's marketing associate for Systematic Biology.*

#### 2007 Direct Mail Promotions

- **2Q2007:** A 10,000-piece full color direct mail campaign for *Systematic Biology* mailed in May of 2007. The mailing targeted domestic and international members of the Society for the Study of Evolution; CRC Press book buyers in the subject area of Evolution and Natural History; domestic and international institutional subscribers to *The American Naturalist Journal*; domestic college faculty in Biological Sciences; domestic members of the American Institute of Biological Sciences in the subject areas of Evolution, Genetics, Systematics, Biology, and Zoology; and international libraries in Evolution.
- **1Q2007:** *Systematic Biology* was included in the environmental science journals cluster advertisement placed in the Taylor & Francis 2007 Environmental Science and Engineering books catalog. This catalog will be sent domestically to the Special Libraries Association and internationally to European libraries and various international sales agents and representatives, libraries, distributors, and bookstores.

- **1Q2007:** *Systematic Biology* was included in the 2007 Taylor & Francis Environmental and Agricultural Sciences journals catalog mailed to academic institutions. This catalog will also be displayed at relevant meetings worldwide throughout the year.

### **2006 Direct Mail Promotions**

- **3Q2006:** A 10,000-piece direct mail campaign for *Systematic Biology* mailed in October 2006. The mailing targeted the Entomological Society of America, the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology, and ISI subscribers identified by keywords.
- **2Q2005:** A direct mail campaign for *Systematic Biology* mailed in June of 2005. The promotion targeted National Science Collection Alliance, American Society for Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, the Society for the Study of Evolution, and the International Association of Plant Taxonomists.

### **Conferences**

**Taylor & Francis** attended or will attend the following conferences where *Systematic Biology* will be prominently displayed:

#### **2007 Meetings**

- 1/21/2007 5<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Computational Biology (Eilat, Israel)
- 3/20/2007 North American Wildlife Natural Resources Conference (Portland, OR)
- 3/31/2007 Society for Experimental Biology (Glasgow, UK)
- 4/28/2007 Experimental Biology Annual Conference (Washington D.C.)
- 5/14/2007 American Institute of Biological Science (AIBS) (Washington, DC)
- 6/6/2007 87<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists (Albuquerque, New Mexico)
- 6/16/2007 Society of Systematic Biologists –Evolution 2007 (Christchurch, NZ)
- 7/11/2007 American Society of Ichthyology & Herpetology (St. Louis, MO)
- 7/21/2007 Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology (Vienna, Austria)
- 7/21/2007 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Animal Behavior Society (Burlington, VT)
- 8/11/2007 American Ornithologists Union (Laramie, WY)
- 9/26/2007 The Wildlife Society 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference (Tucson, AZ)

#### **2006 Meetings**

- 5/23/2006 American Institute of Biological Science (AIBS) (Washington, DC)
- 5/24/2006 China Road Show (China)
- 6/23/2006 Society of Systematic Biologists (Stony Brook, NY)
- 7/7/2006 60<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Phycological Association of America (Juneau, AK)
- 7/12/2006 American Society of Ichthyology & Herpetology (New Orleans, LA)
- 8/16/2006 European Society for Evolutionary Development Biology (Prague, Czech Republic)
- 9/23/2006 The Wildlife Society Conference (Anchorage, AK)
- 10/16/2006 SACNAS (Tampa, FL)
- 12/10/2006 Entomological Society of America (Indianapolis, IN)

Editorial board members should feel free to contact the editorial or marketing department to suggest conferences where the journal's presence would be valuable or to volunteer to promote the journal informally at a meeting themselves. Flyers and a modest number of journals can be sent to an attendee's hotel for distribution at the conference.

#### ***Advertising and Cross-Marketing Promotions***

- A space advertisement for *Systematic Biology* was or will be placed in relevant Taylor & Francis journals such as:
  - *Critical Reviews in Environmental Science and Technology*
  - *Ichnos*
  - *The Journal of Natural History*
- We will also co-promote *Systematic Biology* with other related book and journal titles within the Taylor & Francis Group as opportunities arise.

#### ***Electronic Marketing & Press Releases***

E-mail campaigns and press releases highlighting special issues can be mailed as appropriate. Please contact the editorial or marketing departments with newsworthy journal-related information or other ideas for marketing the journal.

## Appendix A: Top 20 Evolutionary Biology Journals

A listing of the top 20 journals in the “evolutionary biology” category, ranked by Impact Factor, follows. Source: *2005 Journal Citations Reports, Science Edition*.

Rank	Abbreviated Journal Title (linked to journal information)	Total Cites	Impact Factor	Immediacy Index	Articles	Cited Half-life
1	<a href="#">TRENDS ECOL EVOL</a>	12101	14.864	2.031	65	6.5
2	<a href="#">SYST BIOL</a>	4952	10.327	1.154	52	5.1
3	<a href="#">ANNU REV ECOL EVOL S</a>	7883	10.104	0.222	27	>10.0
4	<a href="#">MOL BIOL EVOL</a>	15975	6.233	1.832	250	6.3
5	<a href="#">CLADISTICS</a>	2549	4.783	0.765	34	>10.0
6	<a href="#">BMC EVOL BIOL</a>	514	4.447	0.583	72	2.2
7	<a href="#">MOL ECOL</a>	11339	4.301	0.598	356	4.8
8	<a href="#">EVOLUTION</a>	20934	4.155	0.597	243	>10.0
9	<a href="#">MOL PHYLOGENET EVOL</a>	5951	3.431	0.590	234	4.5
10	<a href="#">EVOL DEV</a>	965	3.390	0.891	55	3.4
11	<a href="#">J EVOLUTION BIOL</a>	3480	3.332	0.955	157	4.6
12	<a href="#">J HUM EVOL</a>	2491	3.077	0.493	67	8.1
13	<a href="#">J MOL EVOL</a>	8285	2.703	0.297	145	9.6
14	<a href="#">PALEOBIOLOGY</a>	2039	2.576	0.377	53	>10.0
15	<a href="#">DEV GENES EVOL</a>	1525	2.549	0.632	68	4.8
16	<a href="#">J EXP ZOOL PART B</a>	220	2.387	0.809	47	2.1
17	<a href="#">BIOL J LINN SOC</a>	4406	2.261	1.295	132	7.8
18	<a href="#">TAXON</a>	1348	2.239	0.478	69	9.7
19	<a href="#">AM J PHYS ANTHROPOL</a>	5221	2.104	0.375	160	>10.0
20	<a href="#">THEOR POPUL BIOL</a>	2707	2.007	0.262	42	>10.0

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## Appendix B: Most-Cited *Systematic Biology* Articles

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What follows is a list of the 20 most-cited *Systematic Biology* articles from 1994 to June 2007. Keep in mind that very-recently published articles are at a disadvantage in a listing like this, because they have not yet had time to accumulate citations.

1. Guindon S, Gascuel O  
[A simple, fast, and accurate algorithm to estimate large phylogenies by maximum likelihood](#)  
**SYSTEMATIC BIOLOGY** 52 (5): 696-704 OCT 2003  
Times Cited: [646](#)
2. Goldman N, Anderson JP, Rodrigo AG  
[Likelihood-based tests of topologies in phylogenetics](#)  
**SYSTEMATIC BIOLOGY** 49 (4): 652-670 DEC 2000  
Times Cited: [474](#)
3. Farris JS, Källersjö M, Kluge AG, et al.  
[Constructing a significance test for incongruence](#)  
**SYSTEMATIC BIOLOGY** 44 (4): 570-572 DEC 1995  
Times Cited: [405](#)
4. Simmons MP, Ochoterena H  
[Gaps as characters in sequence-based phylogenetic analyses](#)  
**SYSTEMATIC BIOLOGY** 49 (2): 369-381 JUN 2000  
Times Cited: [359](#)
5. MIYAMOTO MM, FITCH WM  
[TESTING SPECIES PHYLOGENIES AND PHYLOGENETIC METHODS WITH CONGRUENCE](#)  
**SYSTEMATIC BIOLOGY** 44 (1): 64-76 MAR 1995  
Times Cited: [306](#)
6. HUELSENBECK JP  
[PERFORMANCE OF PHYLOGENETIC METHODS IN SIMULATION](#)  
**SYSTEMATIC BIOLOGY** 44 (1): 17-48 MAR 1995  
Times Cited: [287](#)
7. Maddison WP  
[Gene trees in species trees](#)  
**SYSTEMATIC BIOLOGY** 46 (3): 523-536 SEP 1997  
Times Cited: [273](#)
8. Graybeal A  
[Is it better to add taxa or characters to a difficult phylogenetic problem?](#)  
**SYSTEMATIC BIOLOGY** 47 (1): 9-17 MAR 1998  
Times Cited: [270](#)

9. OLMSTEAD RG, SWEERE JA  
[COMBINING DATA IN PHYLOGENETIC SYSTEMATICS - AN EMPIRICAL-APPROACH USING 3 MOLECULAR-DATA SETS IN THE SOLANACEAE](#)  
**SYSTEMATIC BIOLOGY** 43 (4): 467-481 DEC 1994  
Times Cited: [261](#)
10. Huelsenbeck JP, Larget B, Miller RE, et al.  
[Potential applications and pitfalls of Bayesian inference of phylogeny](#)  
**SYSTEMATIC BIOLOGY** 51 (5): 673-688 SEP-OCT 2002  
Times Cited: [255](#)
11. Baker RH, DeSalle R  
[Multiple sources of character information and the phylogeny of Hawaiian Drosophilids](#)  
**SYSTEMATIC BIOLOGY** 46 (4): 654-673 DEC 1997  
Times Cited: [242](#)
12. Savolainen V, Chase MW, Hoot SB, et al.  
[Phylogenetics of flowering plants based on combined analysis of plastid atpB and rbcL gene sequences](#)  
**SYSTEMATIC BIOLOGY** 49 (2): 306-362 JUN 2000  
Times Cited: [227](#)
13. Ronquist F  
[Dispersal-vicariance analysis: A new approach to the quantification of historical biogeography](#)  
**SYSTEMATIC BIOLOGY** 46 (1): 195-203 MAR 1997  
Times Cited: [220](#)
14. WHEELER WC  
[SEQUENCE ALIGNMENT, PARAMETER SENSITIVITY AND THE PHYLOGENETIC ANALYSIS MOLECULAR-DATA](#)  
**SYSTEMATIC BIOLOGY** 44 (3): 321-331 SEP 1995  
Times Cited: [217](#)
15. Posada D, Crandall KA  
[Selecting the best-fit model of nucleotide substitution](#)  
**SYSTEMATIC BIOLOGY** 50 (4): 580-601 AUG 2001  
Times Cited: [197](#)
16. Hillis DM  
[Taxonomic sampling, phylogenetic accuracy, and investigator bias](#)  
**SYSTEMATIC BIOLOGY** 47 (1): 3-8 MAR 1998  
Times Cited: [185](#)
17. Cunningham CW  
[Is congruence between data partitions a reliable predictor of phylogenetic accuracy? Empirically testing an iterative procedure for choosing among phylogenetic methods](#)  
**SYSTEMATIC BIOLOGY** 46 (3): 464-478 SEP 1997  
Times Cited: [184](#)

18. Shimodaira H  
[An approximately unbiased test of phylogenetic tree selection](#)  
SYSTEMATIC BIOLOGY 51 (3): 492-508 MAY-JUN 2002  
Times Cited: [183](#)
19. CHIPPINDALE PT, WIENS JJ  
[WEIGHTING, PARTITIONING, AND COMBINING CHARACTERS IN PHYLOGENETIC ANALYSIS](#)  
SYSTEMATIC BIOLOGY 43 (2): 278-287 JUN 1994  
Times Cited: [183](#)
20. Thorne JL, Kishino H  
[Divergence time and evolutionary rate estimation with multilocus data](#)  
SYSTEMATIC BIOLOGY 51 (5): 689-702 SEP-OCT 2002  
Times Cited: [181](#)



## Web Report - Page

# Systematic Biology Web site

Rod Page, March 2007

## Summary

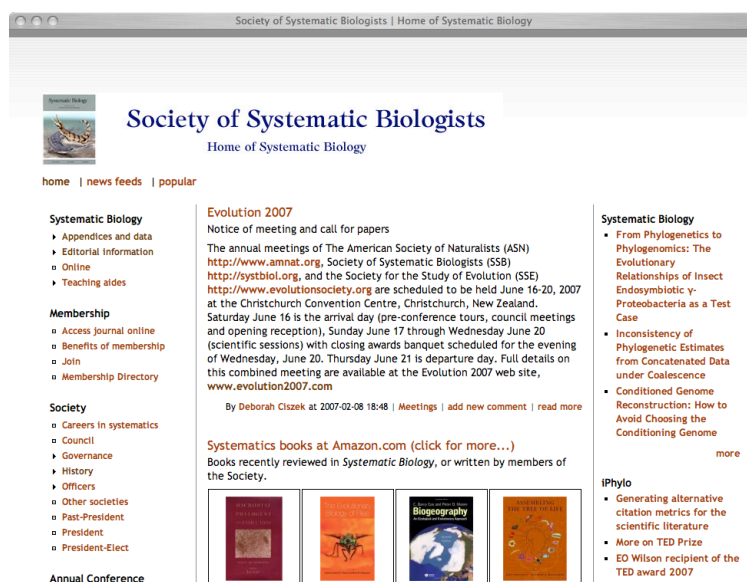
The Society of Systematic Biologists web site (<http://systbiol.org>) continues to operate without much work needed. There have been a few tweaks and improvements. The issue of providing members with electronic access to their subscription is still unresolved.

## Changes

New RSS feeds have been added, including an RSS feed to our own journal (!), meaning visitors can now see what is in the latest issue from the home page (see top right of home page).

The RSS feed comes from InformaWorld, which is the new platform hosting content published by Taylor and Francis.

Information about the Evolution 2007 meeting is now “sticky” on the top of the home page.



## Data

We continue to post supplementary files, such as appendices and data sets online. Ideally Debbie and I manage to do this shortly after the appearance of the print issue, but sometimes there is a short lag. The files are uploaded directly (using SSH) rather than via the web interface.

## Roles and permissions

Originally the aim was that any council members could add material to the site (e.g., post announcements). Some people have got the hang of this, so that announcements can be posted without either Debbie or I being involved. However, some people have reported

problems editing material posted by other people (for example, if I posted a page on awards, it may be that nobody else can edit it). This is being looked in to.

## ***Traffic***

Traffic tracking has been disabled as the company that I used started displaying annoying popups, which some users found off-putting.

## ***Membership services***

An ongoing issue is the problem of access to membership information and subscriptions. As it stands, we have the following:

1. Users with an account at <http://systbiol.org> can access the full text (via a clumsy hack involving a server at Glasgow).
2. Taylor and Francis maintain <http://www.sysbio-online.com> where members can login and use the membership number on the label to access the journal.
3. Users can lookup their Society membership via <http://systbiol.org>.
4. To join people have to download PDFs and mail them off.  
[Note: This has been rectified. Prospective members can now join over the web.]
5. It's hard for people to discover whom to contact about missing issues.

I view this as a mess. Case 1 is unsatisfactory because it confounds two different kinds of membership (ability to edit web site with access to journal), 2 is a site I'd forgotten about and only rediscovered when Vincent Lizzi of T&F and I were dealing with the broken link in 1 that resulted from the move to InformaWorld. 3 is possibly useful, though probably breaks all sorts of rules about privacy (we couldn't do this in the UK), and 4 is just crazy. 5 is annoying.

So, we have membership services on all sorts of sites and machines, distributed across two companies (T&F and Burke). Ideally we'd have a one-stop approach where people could get access to the journal, find missing issues, join via credit card, etc.

## **President's Report & Publications Committee Report – Simon**

**President's Report (Chris Simon), June 07, Christchurch, NZ council meeting. Including changes suggested by joint council, CS, Joel Cracraft,**

Each SSB President chooses a goal for their presidential year. My goals for 2007 is to **review issues related to the future security/continuity of SSB.**

In the past, there has been a lack of continuity on some issues, e.g., the articles of incorporation. Finding the incorporation papers took the efforts of many people (Vicki Funk, Richard O'Grady, Burk Associates, Smithsonian Archivist Ellen Alers <Alerse@si.edu>, former officers, and me). The former officers, including the one who signed the articles of incorporation, had no recollection of it and no one even knew the identity of the state in which we were incorporated. (It was Connecticut! And the designated Society representative was Janine Caira in my own department!) The necessary yearly paperwork had now been filed by the Society with the help of Burk Associates' Stephanie Cross and Dick Burk. We reincorporated the Society as of April 11, 2007 and the designated Society representative is CT Corp who will remind us to file the necessary paper work each year. We also got directors and officers insurance as of April 24, 2007; renewable after two years. The policy is on our website.

Questions for the council: How do other Societies ensure permanence? Do they have a Business Office in addition to an Editorial Office? Should our webpage have a "contact us" button and to whom should the contact email be addressed (Executive VP, Managing Editor)?

Comparisons from other societies: SSE (Evolution editorial office stayed at the Arizona State University for many years but now this editorial office is shutting down and Blackwell will take over. There is no SSE business office, no contact button but officers have complete contact info); ASN (journal owned by U. Chicago Press, no business office for the society, no "contact us", no email addresses for officers), MBE (published by Oxford, there is a "contact" button on the Society Website, also officers (listed under "council") have complete contact info), SICB (published by Oxford, business run by Burk, has an anonymous contact button and complete contact info for all division heads. Burk not mentioned on the Society Web Page).

SSB/SSE/ASN will discussed a joint business office. ASN is too small and does not need one. SSE is interested but no action has been taken. For now, we have Burk Associates and Debbie Ciszek to help with business continuity.

More questions for the council: Should we put the minutes of our meetings in the Smithsonian Archives now that they are not published in the journal any more? The Smithsonian archives and its index and archivist ultimately allowed us to locate the articles of incorporation and tax free status. These items can now be found on our website (and by Google). What kind of back-up do we have for our website?

The answer from the council: yes, minutes should be printed on archival paper and submitted to the Smithsonian Archives. Debbie Ciszek has offered to print them out on archival paper and archive all minutes from 2004 to present with Ellen Alers [Alerse@si.edu](mailto:Alerse@si.edu), of the Smithsonian.

Following are the activities I have overseen so far during my presidency: 1) the negotiations for the new journal publications contract (see details in publication report); 2) a revision of the SSB Constitution started by Pam Soltis and Keith Crandall (now approved by the membership and on our website; note that this is an on-going process); 3) with the help of Burk Associates, procurement of insurance for SSB director's and officers; 4) With the help of Burk Associates, hired CT Corp to ensure that paperwork is filed every year to maintain our incorporation and tax free status); 5) Location of important SSB documents and placement on the SSB website (e.g., proof of tax exempt status; articles of incorporation of SSZ 1971 and SSB 1991; D&O insurance

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policy; list of past annual meetings [with the help of UCONN graduate student Maxi Polihronakis], minutes of past annual meetings, others ideas?) Items on our website can now be located via Google.

Debbie has offered to keep track of legal documents like copyrights for the journal papers, filing SSB officers names and addresses for articles of incorporation when asked by CT Corp, etc. We just need to make a formal list of these documents so she and the rest of us know what is expected to happen.

These are things I still wish to accomplish during my Presidency: 6) Copyright the back issues of SSB; 7) Recruit energetic and dedicated SSB members to executive posts and onto the council (as past president I will head the nominations committee next year) [Do any council members have suggestions for future councilors?] 8) Make a few more changes to the organization of the SSB website (history is currently found in several places, e.g., list of past officers, list of past meetings, minutes of annual general meeting (split in 2 places), legal forms, list of past council members.) By the way, the old SSB website and the old constitution can still be found by Google. Under the following web address  
<http://www.google.com/search?q=%22Society+of+Systematic+Biologists%22+incorporation&hl=en&client=safari&rls=en&start=10&sa=N>

Many of the activities I have listed were stimulated by necessity by the Systematic Biology contract negotiations process. Many of my activities for 2007 (to date) and 2006 are summarized in the publications committee report (below).

Acknowledgments. I'd like to thank Keith Crandall for his excellent service to the Society including an extra, fourth, year of service in 2007. Similarly, Kelly Zamudio volunteered for an extra, fourth, year of service and has done a superb job running the four SSB Awards programs. I'd like to thank Vicki Funk for her excellent service as interim Treasurer taken on at short notice and David Mindell for agreeing to become the new treasurer and for working hard to create a smooth transition. George Weiblen has worked diligently in his position as Program Chair, especially this last year in preparation for the 2008 Minnesota meetings. Keith Crandall and David Mindell were instrumental in phone negotiations with Corey Gray during January and February when I was in NZ and Australia. I like to thank them, Dick Olmstead, Rod Page and Debbie Ciszek for their hard work on the publications committee and the other executives and council members for their quick comments and votes on contract and constitution issues. Richard O'Grady and Burk Associates provided valuable expert advice. I'd especially like to thank Rod Page for his excellent leadership of the Journal, for expertly modernizing the SSB website and for agreeing to remain as webmaster during Jack Sullivan's term as Editor-in-Chief. The Society is run by volunteers; it is important to have a strong team so that when inevitable commitments distract individual members, others can jump in and take over. Debbie Ciszek as Managing Editor is our only permanent employee. Over the past six years, Debbie has gained tremendous experience with the operations of the journal and the Society. She provides superb service and invaluable continuity. Finally, thanks to David Penny for taking on the president's position for next year and for his quick responses/advice this year.

**Erratum: Past officers and past editors from inside front cover of the journal.... When renewing our incorporation paperwork, we made a list of past officers and councilors from 1991 to present. When doing this we found several mistakes and I copy them here for the purpose of entering these corrections into the records of the Society....**

1) inside front cover for 1994 has a mistake; the 92 class was listed as 93; the 93 class as 94; and the 94 class as 95. 2) the council class of 1993 (elected in 1991) served for an extra year. They were originally listed as the class of 1993 but someone lost count and they were then listed as 1994. There is also a mistake on the inside front cover for Dec 2000 where David Maddison is still listed as president even though Kevin De Quieroz was elected in June 2000. 3) The

presidents are off by one year starting in 2002 because Elizabeth Kellogg served a 1.5 year term (we shifted from starting in June to starting in January). Toby Kellogg should be listed as president for both 2001 and 2002. (She served from June 2001 to December 2002). Mike Sanderson should be listed as President elect for both those years.

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**Publications Committee Report, June 07, Christchurch, NZ council meeting.**

The publication committee for 2006 and 2007 consists of Chris Simon (chair, former editor, President), Rod Page (Editor), David Cannatella (former editor, former President), Vicki Funk (Treasurer, former President)/Dave Mindell (Treasurer, former Secretary and Program Director), and Dick Olmstead (former Editor). Debbie Ciszek (Managing Editor) served in an import advisory capacity.

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From the 2007 SSB Constitution revision: Publications Committee:

**Section 1. Function**

The Committee shall identify desirable policies for the Society's publications, act for the Society in negotiating printing, publishing, and other contracts, and provide fiscal review of the Society's publication management. The Committee shall also work with the publisher or printer to promote and increase membership. The Editor, Editor Elect, and Managing Editor shall not be [directly] involved in contract negotiations with the publisher in order to maintain amiable relations with the current publisher.

**Section 2. Membership**

The Committee shall consist of at least five members including a Chairperson, the Editor, the most recent past-Editor, the Managing Editor, and the Treasurer.

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In January of 2007, Jack Sullivan will become the new Editor-in-Chief so the publication committee will consist of Chris Simon, Rod Page, Jack Sullivan, David Mindell, and Dick Olmstead [if he is willing and available] with Debbie Ciszek serving as an advisor.

**New Publisher.**

The last contract with Taylor and Francis was signed on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2002 and covered Volume 52(2003) through 56 (2007). The previous contract was signed on the 21<sup>st</sup> of May 1997. The next contract was supposed to be signed on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May 2007 to cover Volumes 57 (2008) through 61 (2012). The search for the new Publisher began in 2006.

**Catalogue of major events in the Contract Renewal Process:**

January-September 2006. Informal investigations of potential publishers were undertaken by the publications committee. Debbie Ciszek contacted managing editors from other evolutionary journals to ask for advice.

September 2006. Request for Proposal (RFP) for a new publishing contract was prepared.

1 October 2006. RFP sent by email to three candidate publishers: T&F, OUP, Blackwell.

November 2006. Publishing consultant, Mark Ware, was hired (the delay in hiring was due to the fact that SSB was unsure of the availability of funds to hire the consultant—in the future, I recommend no delay in hiring a consultant, with funds being taken from the endowment if necessary).

December 2006. The three publishers returned their bids and consultant Mark Ware analyzed the results and presented them to the society with recommendations.

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21 December 2006: Contract negotiations were interrupted by Corey Gray, VP T&F. He stated that SSB did not properly notify T&F that the current contract was to be terminated. He threatened to invoke an automatic 3-year rollover clause in our current contract.

January and February 2007: The publication committee and Mark Ware continued to wrestle with possible solutions to the contract problem. Help was provided by Burk Associates Dick and Bret Burk and by Richard O'Grady who had written our first and second T&F contracts.

12 March of 2007, Corey Gray (T&F) and I (SSB) clarified our respective positions as follows:

T&F: Taylor & Francis' position is that specific notice to terminate was not given in a timely fashion and that the RFP process itself does not serve notice but only indicates that you are reviewing your options. I don't think either organization wants this situation to become litigious or adversarial. To avoid that possibility, I would like to offer the following compromise. We are willing to amend the contract to reflect a one-year renewal period rather than a three-year renewal. In specific terms, the contract would be extended to include the **2008 volume year**, after which SSB would be free to move to another publisher. We would accept the fact that timely notice has been given in advance of the **2008 end date**. This offer should in no way be construed as an indication that we are backing off our legal right to continue to publish the journal through the three-year period established under the existing contract. Rather, we would prefer to see our relationship with SSB continue and we would use the additional year to prove ourselves to be your publisher of choice. If that turns out not to be the case, then hopefully this solution will serve to make our separation mutually amicable.

SSB: SSB still maintains that we notified T&F clearly, properly, and ethically, and that as far as we are concerned the contract will end on May 20th 2007 as scheduled.

SSB may be willing to accept the roll-over in order to avoid further argument but we retain our right to decide either way. We have to clarify the conditions of the roll-over and T&F's ability to meet our needs before we decide. Any decision has to be approved by the council. So please do not include Systematic Biology in your financial plans for 2008 until you hear our final decision.

One further clarification: You say above, "SSB feels it has given notice of the intent to terminate our publishing agreement through its RFP process and that process alone should have provided sufficient notice to us." We clarify that is not just the RFP process that constituted notification that SSB did not intend to continue the current contract beyond 20 May 2007. The SSB publication committee met with Andrew Moyer [T&F acquisitions editor] in June and we made it clear to him that we were seeking a new contract and that the reasons were that T&F was not performing up to our needs. We told Andrew that we were working on the RFP process and that T&F would be included but was not our first choice because of the reasons stated. We did say that we would be willing to consider a new offer from T&F but that T&F would have to compete with other publishers as part of the RFP process. I can't believe that Andrew would deny this.

As I think you will agree, the publisher and the Society must have a friendly trusting relationship, the purpose of the renewal clause in the contract is not to allow a hostile takeover, the purpose is to protect the publisher from an RFP process in which they are not included. We included you in the RFP process and we kept you advised personally (verbally and through email). If you had any doubts about whether or not we were going to end the current contract, you could have asked us before December 1st and if you required a separate formal letter you could have asked us for it and we would have sent it. The contract does not specify the form of the notification.

18 April 2007- SSB officially and reluctantly accepts T&F's one-year roll-over offer. T&F has far more legal resources and money than SSB. We could not hope to fight them.

11 May 2007- Corey Gray acknowledges SSB acceptance of one year roll-over with a letter to SSB [file: T&F Release.pdf], the terms of the roll-over to be established.

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8 June 2007- SSB emails roll-over agreement contract addendum back to T&F (copied to SSB council) with amendments suggested by the committee and our advisors.

New agreement addendum includes profits on electronic rights and consortia, which were (mistakenly) not included in the previous contract. The publishing world is changing fast and as a result our institutional subscriptions dropped 33% in the last 4 years (but the institutions did not really drop Systematic Biology—just changed the way they were purchasing it as we found out this spring.) The agreement also includes details of transfer to any new publisher.

29 June 2007- SSB & T&F finalize the roll over agreement and the council approves. The final roll-over document has language that is approved by SHERPA to ensure that we will meet open access guidelines. T&F will sign the agreement and mail to CS in Hawaii for a signature by the end of the week of July 2nd.

[Aside: SSB Electronic content is sold by Ingenta for more than \$40 for a single article. How much profit is T&F making from the electronic rights? Here is one example:  
<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/tandf/usyb/2006/00000055/00000004/art00009;jsessionid=4qp2364sdbi9n.alice> Maximizing Phylogenetic Diversity in Biodiversity Conservation: Greedy Solutions to the Noah's Ark Problem **Authors:** Hartmann, Klaas<sup>1</sup>; Steel, Mike<sup>1</sup>  
**Source:** *Systematic Biology*, Volume 55, Number 4, August 2006, pp. 644-651(8)  
**Publisher:** Taylor and Francis Ltd \$41.39 plus tax.]

Discussion on council and executive council list servers. Page suggests contacting Rudy Birenheide (our society web administrator) about setting up such list servers instead of having them at U of TX. SSB thanks David Cannatella for hosting this service for the past number of years.

### Old Business

Jim Rodman Award postponed to Minnesota meeting

Honorary Memberships (From the 2001 Minutes, Knoxville, TN) Cunningham - What about honorary memberships? Could we give more of these? Cracraft - For honorary memberships, usually President will appoint committee, next year with a recommendation with suggestions. Simon - We are allowed to have 20 honorary memberships. We have 5 or 6 right now. Could be added to task of nominating committee.

Olmstead discusses what we need to archive from the past editors. Many past editors still have files of manuscripts and correspondence. We need to decide what to archive. Sullivan moves that past journal papers should be kept for 5 years and then can be disposed of. Mindell second. Unanimous supporting vote.

**Meeting adjourned 6:15 pm**