

SSB Mid-year meeting

- Attending. Jack Sites (President), Lacey Knowles (Past-President), Paul Lewis (President-elect), Andy Anderson (EiC), Jennifer Boyd (Oxford University Press), Brad Shaffer (Treasurer), Joel Cracraft (Trustee), Sean Brady (Awards Director), Bryan Carstens (Executive Vice President).

Agenda

- **New Business:**
- ***SSB Website and Membership Renewal:*** [Jack Sites] We are still hearing complaints about the OUP Membership website. SSB's concern is that we are losing potential members, because OUP website is not as streamlined as the member services of the SSE. [Jennifer Boyd] There have been several improvements in the layout and the way that error messages are now displayed in entry screen. In addition, the Credit card processing improved. [Jennifer Boyd] requests that she be contacted with complaints/suggestions about this process via email. [Lacey] notes that registration did remember when she started and would allow her to pick up where she left off. [Joel] had issues with registration as well. [Brad] asks if there is an easy way to verify that dues have been paid. [Jennifer] suggested that the best approach is to try to access the journal over the web. [Brad] notes that it a way is needed to verify membership. [Paul] notes that perhaps a password reminder could be useful. [All] Agree to follow up on this issue at the summer meeting. [Bryan] is going to reregister next week and check back with Jen Boyd for comments.
- ***SSB Constitution Revision:*** [Jack Sites] is working on keeping the SSB constitution up to date, and sent a newer version around. There is some discussion about reconciling changes to the document that were approved in 2012. Articles of concern include Article IV and Article VIII, sections 1 and 2. [Brad] appears that these sections are accurate. [Paul] moves that we accept the 2013 document. [Brad] seconds the motion. All present vote affirmative. [Jack] agrees to contact Chris Simon to verify changes and to upload an updated version on the website. [Paul] asks if now is the correct time to clarify issues related to the timing of nominations. In section 1, are members of nominations committee appointed by the president elect or president? [Lacey] clarifies that updated constitution reflects changes to this process. The Nominating committee is composed of three members who each serve a three year

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term, with one person joining the committee each year and serving as the chair in their third year. This is designed to facilitate institutional memory. [Jack] verifies this and will check to make sure that the constitution reflects this. [Lacey] suggest that we add a phrase about the membership being informed three of names of nominees months prior to elections. [Lacey] agrees to solicit help from Chris Simon for verification. [Brad] wonders if the Vision Committee should it be listed among the officers in the constitution? Agree to discuss this at summer meeting during conversation about the Vision Committee. [Brad] questions the clause related to Reserve Fund under Section III in the Operations Bylaw VII. Brad suggests that the endowment is discussed elsewhere (bylaw XIV). Functionally, the reserve fund is the \$300,000 that we need to make a decision on. If nobody knows, we need to revisit this topic. [Joel] This is confusing, but thinks that the reserve fund is managed by the trustees, whereas endowment fund is a holdover from bygone era – suggests that we should clear this up. [Brad] suggests that he and the trustees try to clear this up. [Joel] agrees and suggests that David Hillis and maybe Vicki Funk will be at summer meeting. [All] Plan to discuss this topic in Raleigh. [Lacey] We should also add a statement regarding the student member to the constitution – [Jack] agrees to work on wording of student member. [Joel] will send a message to other trustees. [Jack] will send it to council before we meet in June.

- **SSB List Keeper:** [Jack] confirms that he has spoken with David Cannatella to make sure that he is still willing to serve as the keeper of the SSB Council Listserve. All agree that this arrangement remains fine.
- **The new OUP Principles Document:** [Jennifer Boyd] mentions this document, which is a statement of principles regarding how OUP operates with respect to laws, worker equity, and issues related to gender equality and sustainability. [All] agree that we (SSB) are grateful to be aware of the guiding principles of OUP.
- **Published Abstracts at the Evolution Meeting:** [Jack] SSE has decided to publish abstracts for the Evolution meeting, apparently this decision was made without consulting anyone at SSB. [Jack] does not like abstract requirement, mentions that Chris Simon expressed concerns about the wasted paper, extra time required, how it makes it hard to plan ahead, etc. [Brad] agrees that the lack of abstracts was a positive of the Evolution meeting. [Lacey] is concerned that this will have a negative impact on students, and might discourage them from giving talk. [Lacey] It is surprising that this was not addressed to vision committee. [Paul] Does not like to

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publish abstracts that are not peer reviewed. [Joel] Abstracts might provide a way to give people credit for non-published work.

- Standing Business

- **Treasurer's Report:** [Brad] Starts by reporting that he is pleased with SSB accountant Rob Clayton. Would like to make some decisions about budget moving forward. The bottom line is that we are in excellent shape in terms of our normal operating budget. Joel will discuss endowment, but SSB has an excess of cash and it appears that we'll be making money in remainder of 2013 and 2014. Best projections indicate that we have \$331k in cash or money market, and an additional \$66k in the black sitting in our net ordinary income. Suggests that we should spend this on the mission of SSB; suggests giving more away to students via grants and travel awards. Also discusses using some of the money to support officer travel and registration at the meeting. [Lacey] Reminds all that this was discussed at council meeting, and that we decided to give this back to society (awards and travel). [Joel] reminds Brad to move \$175,000 into the endowment. [Brad] Could we raise this amount to \$200,000 or \$225,000? [Lacey] Suggests we start with the funds already approved (\$175,000). [Sean] reminds us about email council vote raising awards budget to \$40k, with \$5k for travel. [Joel] suggests that we implement the plan that was approved last year, and hold extra money for travel for next year's meeting in Brazil. [Jack] seconds this idea - major issue is cost of travel. [Joel] We will put Rob Clayton in touch with Morgan Stanley representative for wire transfer. [Joel] Bylaw VII and XIV need to be redone. Brad and Joel will work on bylaws.

- **Endowment Committee/ Trustee's Report:** [Joel] SSB Endowment had a good year. We increased payout by ~18%, and will send operating expenses check to Rob. Portfolio is more or less unchanged. Our advisors suggest that we stay the course, not do anything too radical. Trustees are pleased with performance of the fund, and expect that the payout of the endowment will continue to rise over the next few years. [Brad] stated that in his conversation with Rob Clayton that Rob thought that the SSB money was being invested effectively. [Joel] suggests that in a couple of years we add a greater payout to the endowment to create a more consistent growth. Brad confirms that membership is part of his operating budget. Membership is down but net ordinary income appears to be holding even.

- **Editor's Report:** Andy refers us to both Editor-in-Chief and Editorial Officer report. The number of submissions has increased slightly - we are still getting 200+

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submissions. Rejection rate of new EiC is slightly lower than previous, but number of papers returned without review is slightly higher. Turnaround time remains slower than other journals, but this is a function of the fact that AEs provide reviews and that the EiC does a substantial read as well. Andy suggests that there is a trade off, but doesn't want to change things too much. [Paul] asks if all AEs wait to do a review until other reviews are received before doing review – [Andy] thinks that this is the case. [Andy] asks if anyone has suggestions about the turnaround time. [Jen] mentions that many of the journals that she manages are faster, but that this is probably a function of the reviews by AE. Author frustration appears to be caused by things getting stuck in the queue. [Andy] Cecile Ane stepped down last year (as AE), but newly added AEs have worked out well – for example John McCormack has been very thorough. Robb Brumfield has also been a big help culling through submissions prior to the review stage.

- **Managing Editor's Report:** See attached.
- **Publisher's Report:** [Jen Boyd] Everything is going well on the publishing end. SSB is slightly under page budget, but close. The online usage has increased, marketing alerts have increased and circulation remains very healthy. [Jen] suggests a 4% increase to set earlier in the year (by end of April). 4% baseline and a 1.5% online increase. [Bryan] Questions whether we need to send a council vote, asks Jen to send a proposal to Jack.
- **Program Officer's Report:** Symposia are scheduled for the 2014 meeting. Tandy Warnow is organizing a premeeting workshop. Stacey Smith is taking over as Program Officer at the conclusion of this meeting.
- **Award Committee Report:** [Sean] Student awards are progressing well, same procedures as in years past. One issue with Evolution Meeting that there is no mechanism during registration process to register to Mayr symposium. Sean has contacted organizers yesterday, hopes to work this out soon. Will send email to people to see if they want to register. [Bryan] Suggests that this fell through the cracks with the organizer.
- **Vision Committee Report:** [Bryan] expressed concern with how Vision Committee has operated. It is unclear to the VC rep when the CMO can act unilaterally rather than with input from the Vision Committee. It is clear that SSB needs a strong advocate for the society in this post. [Bryan] Suggest that immediate past president

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serve as VC rep. [Lacey] thinks that we might need someone who serves for more than one year, because institutional memory is important. [Sean] agrees that this is likely not a one year fix. [Lacey] The VC was formed to address concerns of smaller societies, she (Lacey) is willing to serve in the capacity of the VC rep. Lacey will talk to Bryan about history of VC.

- **Other business:** [Paul] asks for a clarification on the nominations committee. [Lacey] indicates that nominations are complete. [Bryan] Answered in the affirmative, the nominations form is onling. [Jennifer] it will be online in mid April.
- [Paul] asks for clarification on committee to consider the next EiC. Paul asks if he should email the council and ask for nominations. [Lacey] agrees that Paul should solicit input. Paul, Andy, Jack, and Lacey agree to meet at Evolution Meeting to discuss the next EiC.