

SSB Annual Council Meeting Agenda

Friday, 17 June, 2011, 1:30-5 p.m, Norman Hotel, Northpark room

Final agenda sent to ssb-council@utlists.utexas.edu and ssb-exec@utlists.utexas.edu on June 10, 2011

In attendance: Officers: David Mindell (President), Keith Crandall (Past President), Jack Sullivan (President-Elect 2012), Susanne Renner (Executive Vice President), Sydney Cameron (Awards Chair), Kelly Zamudio (Program Chair), Cathy Kennedy (Oxford University Press), Ron Debry (Editor) delayed, Debbie Ciszek (Managing Editor); other council members: Alexis Stamatakis, Cecile Ane, Chris Simon, David Baum, Emily Lemon Erika Edwards, Karl Kjer, Lisa Knowles (President-Elect-Elect 2013), Luke Harmon, Seán Brady, Shelley McMahon, Thomas Buckley

From 3:36-16:00 p.m.: Allen Rodrigo (NESCent Director)

Not attending: Jim Whitfield (Treasurer), Joel Cracraft (Trustee)

1. Welcome and call to order. David Mindell

General point that came up during the meeting: Program officers should up-date their "job" description.

2. Election Results. President-Elect 2013: L. Lacey Knowles; new council members: Mark Holder, Brian O'Meara, Stacey D. Smith, Karen Cranston, Bryan C. Carstens

3. Joint Council Meeting Report. David Mindell.

a) Restructuring of Systematic biology at NSF; NSF success rates for the spring-2011 core panels: Evolutionary biology: 7.5%; systematics: 10%

b) Evolution 2013 meeting plans by Charles Fenster: Report on the costs of campsites, dorm rooms, and hotels – costs will be more affordable than people may think.

c) 2012 meeting in Ottawa, with the Canadian and the European societies for the study of evolution

4. Treasurer's Report. Jim Whitfield, read by David Mindell

Discussion of whether Systematic Biology should go *Online Only* versus *Open Access*, which are different things. Would our membership plummet?

Over the past 6 years, membership has already dropped by 59%:

2006 total: 1408

2007 total: 1465

2008 total: 1329

2009 total: 1206

2010 total: 1119

2011 total: 889

A motion to increase annual membership costs by 5% did not pass.

5. Awards Report. Sydney Cameron (**report attached below**)

General support for bringing back small awards, such as the Mini-PEETs under the new name PEET award and continuing the funding for graduate students at c. 32,000 US dollars. The SSB treasurer will be consulted on this point.

We must improve the wording of the Nominations Committee's responsibilities in the instructions to SSB officers.

6. Program Report. Kelly Zamudio (**report attached below**)

7. Managing Editor's Report. Debbie Ciszek (**report attached below**)

Motion was passed, and favorably voted on, that the society pay for annual membership, including journal subscription, beginning in 2012.

8. Report from the NESCent Director, Allen Rodrigo: NESCent activities over the next years until 2014. How might NESCent be continued after 2015? Partner institutions so far are Duke University, North Carolina State, and Chapel Hill. NESCent officers are currently talking to Duke's provost and development office to try and mount a campaign for supporting suitable programs at NESCent, such as evolutionary medicine or climate change, with endowment funds. NESCent as a physical entity will continue and will need to finance itself by service and resource activities, such as Dryad (Dryad currently uses backup servers at NESCent). Annual NESCent budget now is 5 million dollars. NESCent will put in a proposal to host the annual Evolution meetings on 19-24 June 2014 in Durham, NC.

9. Oxford University Press report. Cathy Kennedy (OUP). (**report attached below, [confidential to SSB Council]**)

There was general agreement to allow OPU increased use of e-symbols (QR codes, other codes for cross-linking papers published in OPU papers) that enhance the discovery of related papers.

10. Editor's Report. Ron Debry (**report attached below**)

11. Report on the childcare program: 2009-2011, an Elsevier New Scholars Grant over \$12,000 supported childcare and a mentoring program at the annual Evolution conferences. Cathy Kennedy states that she will enquire with OPU whether they might be interested in supporting the program.
