

SSB Midterm report on Joint Meeting Council Activities

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Meeting Venues Upcoming Years

Next year (2018) our meetings are in Providence, RI.

Looking forward. Cleveland, Ohio (June 19-23) in 2020; Albuquerque, NM (June 25-29) in 2021; and Athens, GA (June 24-28th) in 2022.

Meeting organizers are targeting Colorado, Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, and California as potential venues for 2023.

Prep for Rhode Island Meeting

We are in good shape for symposia and our pre-conference workshop, plus all the rooms, for our society functions. In addition, we have an SSB booth at the exhibitors hall for our grad reps.

** Couple things that are different:

- 1) We will be experimenting with a new and improved “diversity gathering”. Reminder that last semester we voted (along with the other societies) to not hold our evening society mixer, and to participate instead in an evening event that was original. We can decide after this year if we want our mixer back as an evening function. The Diversity function is under development and may include a *Story Collider* event. JMC voted that the costs of the room and service should be wrapped into the meeting costs, and that each society should provide additional support for the *Story Collider* personnel (\$max 3K per society).
- 2) Our Pre-conference workshop (Warren) was approached about covering costs for plugs and AV and coffee for the single day workshop. I contacted exec and a decision was made that SSB would pay for those rather than charge a registration for this workshop. It would be good to make a decision on how to handle incidental costs (room rental, AV, etc) from this point onward.

Safe Evolution Efforts

The code of conduct committee has continued work on implementing the code of conduct and procedures in Rhode Island this year.

In addition, SSB has appointed a representative to the Code of Ethics (CoE) joint committee (Rayna Bell), and that separate committee is at work creating a framework for each of our societies to work within.

We voted at Council meeting in Montpelier to adopt the recommendations of the CoC Committee, including changes in alcohol policies at meetings, contracting with Sherry Marts, advertisement, and policies on training, reporting, etc.

Here are the action items for Safe Evolution:

- 1) All council and exec members should plan to participate in a short training session, which will be led by our Safety Officer on the morning of the council meeting in Rhode Island. Exact times/location will be announced shortly, but please mark your calendars. The training session will cover various topics including bystander intervention.
- 2) The procedures for decision-making about reported incidents includes a board composed of 9 members (from three societies) who will work with Sherry Marts to make final decisions (based on Sherry's recommendation) on sanctions. We need to nominate 4-5 people for these positions (of which three will be chosen from each society).
- 3) EvoAllies are a group of individuals who receive special training and are available to the community and at the meetings for discussions, questions, support around any incident involving inappropriate behavior. We need to nominate five names of people who would like to be Evo Allies. Junior and Senior members can be considered.
- 4) AAAS has formed a consortium of societies to address sexual harassment and the role that societies have in changing the culture in STEM. Andrea (SSE-VP) participated in the opening meeting in 2018 and reported back to us. The consortium is asking societies to join and support the consortium. They have a sliding scale depending on member number, and we are the lowest tier (\$500/year). We need to decide whether to join or not.
- 5) The issue of insurance for Directors and Officers was brought up by JMC and I forwarded the info on to the exec, but we have not decided on this yet. The issue is whether we should get the standard D&O insurance for society officers (volunteer or minimally paid positions) to protect against liability. The typical cost is \$1200/year and it covers anyone elected or appointed to perform any specific duty related to society business.

Monies left over from Brazil Meeting

We ended up with an unexpected ~\$20K excess from the Brazil meetings, which the Brazil organizers returned to the JMC and requested that we somehow invest in facilitating attendance of Brazilian students/post docs at future meetings. JMC put out the call for small travel grants for grads and post-docs members of any of the three societies, with a deadline of Jan 1. Each student will get a waived registration and \$500 toward travel.