

SSB Midterm report on Joint Meeting Council Activities

Prepared by Kelly Zamudio (JMC representative for SSB)

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[Please note anything in yellow requires discussion, or is an action item]

Meeting Venues Upcoming Years

Next year (2018) our meetings are in Cleveland, Ohio (June 19-23)

Looking forward: Albuquerque, NM (June 25-29) in 2021; and Athens, GA (June 24-28th) in 2022, and Sacramento, CA in 2023.

Meeting organizers are researching potential venues for 2024 either in US or Canada. 2024 is the next time we meet with ESEB.

Prep for Cleveland Meeting

We are in good shape for our three symposia and two pre-conference workshops, plus all the rooms, for our society functions.

** Couple things that are different:

- 1) We will continue our new and improved tri-society “diversity gathering”. Reminder that last year 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, and we held a *Story Collider* event in Providence. That was a huge success, and each society provided support for the *Story Collider* personnel (3K per society) with the remaining costs made up by ticket sales. We are having a second *Story Collider* event in Cleveland, and once again SSB is contributing 3K to the shared cost.
- 2) Our two Pre-conference workshops (Tandy Warnow and Daniel Caetano) are scheduled. The organizers approached JMC about covering costs for plugs and AV and coffee for the single day workshop. I contacted exec last year and a decision was made that SSB would pay for those rather than charge a registration for our workshops. I would like to have a discussion and decide on how to formalize these incidental costs (room rental, AV, etc) from this point onward for our workshops. For this year, I have followed the protocol from last year, and we will be covering those costs for our two workshops.

Safe Evolution Efforts

The code of conduct committee has continued work on implementing the code of conduct and procedures in Cleveland this year, and we are working on finding the safety officer that would be best for our conference.

We have now implemented the 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 for 2020:

- 1) All council and exec members **who have not had training yet**, 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 Cleveland. 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 the Safety Officer to make final decisions on sanctions. **We need to check with our nominees and confirm they will serve another year- we need 4-5 people for these positions** (of which three will be chosen from each society).
- 3) 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 renew or not.**
- 4) 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. **This has been on my agenda as JMC rep for a while, so it would be great to get this solved.**

Nominees for Future Joint Meeting Rep

I have agreed to serve one more year as JMC rep (until December 2020) because we could not find anyone to replace me, and I am happy to serve one more year. However, I will be stepping down at the end of 2020, and we really need to have another person in mind so I can share procedures, and other expectations of the job. The JMC deals with immediate issues related to meetings, but is also making decisions and setting policies for years ahead... so it is important to have continuity in this. **I would like to have a short discussion about being JMC rep and use our collective group to come up with a list of pre-nominees that Laura Lagomarsino can work with for my replacement.**