Society of Systematic Biologists Program Director's Report

Mark T. Holder
January 4, 2022

Symposia
We have two symposia (other than the Mayr/Best Student Paper Symposium) slated for the 2022 Evolution meetings (both rescheduled from 2020), though the organizers of the "PhyloCode: Naming the Tree of Life" symposium, are now unsure if they will be able to attend. They are contacting other speakers to see if someone is willing to organize. I will follow up with them (I just learned of their potential unavailability on 10 December, 2022).

***Ad hoc* funding requests**
I agreed to fund a proposal for $3K to help a graduate student (Mr. Sungsik Kong) travel from Ohio State U. to Louisiana State U. to work with Dr. Jeremy Brown. The goal will be the writing of open-source javascript web applications for demonstrating/teaching concepts related to phylogenetic networks and hybridization graphs. The travel has been delayed due to COVID. Hopefully the trip can occur in Spring 2022.

Standalone meeting
I hope to meet (on Zoom) with the organizers of the 2023 SSB standalone to discuss planning in January, 2022. I was unable to find a time in my schedule in early December.

Background info about symposia Due to cancellation of the 2020 meeting we did not advertise for symposia slots for the 2022 meeting. Below is the information on the cancelled symposia and their status; this info is identical to the information on this topic in the 2021 reports.

Specifics on each SSB event for the canceled 2020 meeting

Symposium 1: "PhyloCode 2020: Naming the Tree of Life"
Organizers: Nico Cellinese and Michael Donoghue
Response: Preferred to wait for an in-person meeting, but now may have conflicts.

Symposium 2: "How do we make decisions about data and analyses in systematic biology? It depends!"
Organizers: Natya Hans, Alexandra Hernandez , and Chloe Nash
Response: Still interested in presenting this symposium

Workshop: "Using simulations to learn about data on phylogenetics and comparative studies"
Organizers: Daniel Caetano
Response: I need to check on this.