**SSB Report on Joint Meeting Council Activities**

Prepared by Kelly Zamudio (JMC representative for SSB)

***NSF Update***

***Paula Mabee, George Gilchrist, Leslie Rissler, Katerina Dittmar***

• Uncertain Times for NSF. Priorities are to preserve the core programs and balance among fields within DEB.

• Flat budget over the last 10 years, which is a decrease based on inflation. Funding half the number of PIs compared to 10 years ago, but double the applicants. The budget is paralleled by staffing- has not increased.

• Report: main points are a) everyone hates one deadline a year. b) pre-proposal itself has been successful at decreasing community workload, but not deceasing NSF workload. c) mixed opinion on whether the system is good. d) pre-proposal might silo science a bit in a time when integration is crucial.

• No deadline programs: data from within NSF shows that no deadline reduces workload

***Meeting Venues Current and Upcoming Years***

***Howard Rundle***

Howard/Mitch and Andrea are the Meeting Planning Committee (CMO). Re-use of systems (software, programs, etc.) has reduced workload for the 2 meeting officers and 1 PCO.

Procedures:

• Experience is showing that 3 years out is too little time for organizing committees.

• New proposal: The JMC comes up with long list from their societies, get RFPs and proceed to booking 4 years out. JMC did that this year with the SE and SW locations.

• Anne asked about University venues: Howard: need 18 rooms with 150 seats or more, and ballrooms seating 1800. Feasibility is zero. Those days are over.

***Current/Past:***

• Budget Loss in Austin was a lot less than thought ($2150)

• Attendance in Portland: 1726 attendees, looks like distribution among faculty/students/post-docs as expected.

- diversity luncheon did not fill even half (137/300)

- recordings will put up talks the day after talk is given

- poster invitation system is getting used. 280 presenters invited others to their posters

***Future Meetings:***

***ESEB joint meeting in Montpellier August 19-22, 2017***

Many things will be different...

Things to be aware of:

• ESEB typically caps out! Must sign up early, people will certainly be turned away.

• Symposia are proposed and organized by researchers, and they select the talks. 900-1000 talks, some people will be declined for talks and given the opportunity to give a poster.

• Symposium submission deadline extended until July 1. Two Organizers and one invited speaker. Scientific committee selects among proposals, and identify gaps for new symposia.

• Call for abstracts, organizers select talks. This will be MUCH EARLIER (January) than normal talk submission.

• Scientific committee is the final arbiter of scientific nepotism, balance, etc. The symposium organizer does not speak in their own symposium.

• Special events (JL-H, Mayr, ASN VP etc..) will be run in parallel to other symposia. They are their own symposia. Tracy Heath, make sure that you signed up a Mayr symposium.

• Fewer organization of satellite events (by contract no room for workshops before/after).

• No funded SSB symposia.

• Registration will be cheaper, but cutting post-docs to 2 years post PhD; membership prices are close to 50% of non-member registrations.

• Montpellier has few dorms for students, hotels for faculty, AirBnB, but need to do this soon.

**\*\*\*\* Action Item:**

Proposal for the societies to host the food /drink at each of the levels of poster session, in lieu of mixers for each society.

***Beyond 2018***

• 2019 Providence RI.

• 2020 Cleveland, OH. Super social at Rock and Roll hall of fame.

• 2021

East: Athens, New Orleans, San Juan

West: San Diego, Albuquerque, Salt Lake City

[Eliminate MS, KS, TX, TN, NC due to discrimination laws. Eliminate Salt Lake City would not bid 4 years out.]

**San Diego**

[kind of a resort, with attached golf course, half hour to SDSU on trolley. It is the old convention center, we cannot afford the newer one. No convenient dorms.]

**Albuquerque**

[ESA met there 2009, 10 min from aiport. Good proposal, inexpensive hotel, dorms at UNM 2 miles away with express busline. Albuquerque Biological Park for super social. Negatives: might be tight fit... and somewhat less accessible]

**New Orleans**

[Downtown NO, OK hotel costs, Convention center is expensive and no dorms, so would need to be AirBnB, cheaper hotels, food and beverage costs high).

**Athens, GA**

[small town feel and convention center is right size, dorm rooms at UGA, hotel rooms very accessible/cheap. Problem is few flights to Athens and 75 miles from Atlanta.]

**San Juan, PR**

[beautiful facility, hotels easy, and can get variable prices, no dorms at all, so student housing a challenge, 20 min from airport, another potential problem is zika]

Note: depends on how much dorms matter to us. No dorms in San Juan, NO, and San Diego.

**\*\*\*\* Action Items:** Vote for Athens, San Juan, Albuquerque... San Diego and New Orleans ranked lower.

**\*\*\*\* Action Items:** From the shortlist of three... how would we feel about staging them the two next years (2021/2022)?

**\*\*\*\* Discussion:** other regions: Duluth? Denver? Montreal? Toronto?

***Future Meeting formats:***

Some unhappiness with poster sessions, difficult to get them well attended. Also consider the importance and validity of the society specific mixers.

JMC Discussed:

• Proposal to adopt a different schedule that reduces number of talk sessions to shift posters at lunch?

• Move posters to lunch and have mixers in evening?

**\*\*\*\* Action Items:**

What do we think about trying a new schedule for Rhode Island (2019) with 2.5 hour lunches and lunch time poster sessions. Then have mixers right after presidential address for each society?