**Division of Neurobiology (DNB) Business Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, Jan 5, 2012, Charleston, SC**

Submitted by Lisa Mangiamele, DNB Secretary-elect

**Attending Members:** Duane McPherson, Lisa Mangiamele, Uzma Tahir, Ken Lohmann, Jim Belanger, Shaun Cain, Jim Newcomb, Julia Dallman, Russell Easy, Robin Cooper, Brett Szymik, Harry Hagan, Darcy Ernst, Yuxiang Liu

**Other attendees:** Greg McCullagh, Sashka Zungul-Hasty, Jordyn Rice, Patrick Kelsey, Michael Simui, Irene Watters, Michelle Elekonich

**Items of Business:**

1) Michelle Elekonich ([melekoni@nsf.gov](mailto:melekoni@nsf.gov))  
   NSF Program Officer, Division of Integrative Organismal Systems, Behavioral Systems Cluster  
   Michelle updated us on the new solicitation for investigators wishing to apply for funding to the behavioral systems cluster (solicitation no. 11-572). The budget for the upcoming year is currently in process, however, she could let us know about a 2.5% projected increase to NSF (although this would not be equally distributed among the clusters). Bottom line: no huge cuts.

   Michelle also stressed that DNB members could apply for a new program that funds interdisciplinary work. The new program is called CREATIV (acronym for Creative Research Awards for Transformative Interdisciplinary Ventures). Michelle described that the work of many DNB members could be appropriate for the CREATIV grant mechanisms; one example is a project combining neurobiology and computing. See NSF website for further details.

2) Introduction of DNB Officers  
   Student and postdoc representative: Darcy Ernst  
   Program Officer: Duane McPherson (newly re-elected)  
   Secretary: Lisa Mangiamele (newly elected)  
   Chair: Jim Murray

3) Program Officer, Duane McPherson, updated us on 2012 SICB Meeting stats. There were a total of 77 presentations given by DNB members: 32 talks, 45 posters.

   This year is the largest SICB meeting ever, with 1850 participants. Next year’s meeting in San Francisco, CA is predicted to be larger than this year, so book rooms early. Room rate is very reasonable for a large city: $125/night

4) SICB officers visited the business meeting to deliver news on two important society-wide items:
   a. Symposium proposals: There was a high level of competition this year for symposia; some very good proposals were rejected. The officers offered advice on how to get your proposal accepted in the future. One point to
remember is that some of the funds for the symposia comes from NSF, so symposia are more likely to be funded if they better fit NSF’s mission. That is, they should be forward-looking and integrative. Some things that are discouraged: topics done previously or recently, and retrospectives. Also, it helps if your symposia can fit NSF’s goal of “broadening participation” in science.

DNB members were reminded to contact the division’s program officer if you’re thinking about submitting a symposium proposal. The deadline for Austin is July or Aug 2014.

b. The Educational Council wanted to draw everyone’s attention to the Teacher Database. The council encourages all SICB members to enter information about the courses they teach into their member directory page. A database is being built to serve as a place for members to share lab exercises or other teaching resources. This resource depends on the active participation of all SICB members, so please contribute.

5) Update on Integrative and Comparative Biology (journal). It is continually improving its impact factor. The journal has grown 10-20% larger in just this year. The journal is investing in more pages to make us a more popular place to submit manuscripts.

6) DNB Chair, Jim Murray, posed two questions for the division to consider:

Do we like the undergraduate poster session on the first day of the SICB Meeting? General consensus was yes, but it was mentioned that the session needs to be advertised better.

Is DNB interested in starting a session of 5 minute talks, a format that some other divisions experimented with this year? Jim requested ideas and feedback on this issue.

7) Elections: Jim Murray proposed a change in the election schedule for DNB. Currently, all officers hold a 2-year term. Jim proposed that we change this to a 3-year term. First, this will make DNB’s election schedule consistent with that of the Division of Animal Behavior and other divisions. Second, it takes a few years for newly elected officers to become familiar with their roles in the society. In addition, Jim will propose that the service of the Chair is restricted to 1 or 2 terms. Proposed changes will appear in the upcoming newsletter.

In addition, DNB will need to elect a new chair this year. We are currently forming a nominating committee.

8) Divisional Funds: We have $565. The Chair, Jim Murray, solicited ideas from members about what we should do with the funds. Some ideas include using it to invite speakers of interest to SICB, using it for a student scholarship, or using it as a back-up funding source. Send comments/ideas to Jim Murray.

The division also has $2000 in SICB funding for hosting symposia. Currently, we are supporting 4 symposia.
9) Several members expressed interest in creating a stronger and more formal link between SICB DNB and the International Society for Neuroethology (ISN). One way of fostering this link would be to allow ISN members to submit an abstract to SICB at the member rate. The ISN meeting occurs every 3 years, so this may be a useful way for its US members to present their work every year, as well as for ISN members to meet SICB members with similar interests.

10) Symposia and oral presentation sessions at SICB: The Chair expressed the need to involve more students and postdocs in symposia that DNB hosts. One way to do this might be paired junior/senior member talks? DNB also needs more volunteers to chair oral presentation sessions. We will do more active soliciting in the future.

11) Member Announcements:

Neuroethology course at Friday Harbor this summer taught by Dr. Jim Murray, Dr. Shaun Cain, and Dr. Russell Wyeth. It is a five-week graduate course. Please advertise. See website for more information: http://depts.washington.edu/fhl/

AD Instruments has a loan program for investigators who use their data acquisition systems, A/D conversion software, or other instruments for teaching. Their loan program covers a term of 3, 9, or 12 months and is available through the Faculty for Undergraduate Neuroscience. A proposal is required and the selection process is competitive.