

**Minutes of the DIVISION OF SYSTEMATIC AND EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY
BUSINESS MEETING, 4 January 2008, San Antonio**

The meeting was opened with a brief intro by (now) past President Don Swiderski. Thanks to Rachel for ordering us food and drinks for the meeting!

The secretary's report was given by me (Marta deMaintenon). Most of the updates here come from the society-wide secretary's meeting, which I had attended the day before. There were two primary issues. First, SICB has been seriously re-vamping the web site, and Lou Burnett (SICB Secretary) and Ruedi Birenheide (SICB Webmaster) would really like to have some input from the divisions on the structure and contents of the web site... So if you have any ideas, send them to me (demainte@hawaii.edu) and I can forward them. Second, there are a number of by-laws changes that we will be putting up for a vote later in the year. These stem from Lou Burnett going through all of the divisional by-laws, and suggesting changes where divisional by-laws are in conflict with or redundant to the society by-laws. Thanks to Lou for doing this; we will run a special ballot in the fall on some proposed changes.

The society officers then stopped in with their report. An important question here was the venue for the 2010 meeting, with the current favorites being Long Beach or Seattle. More on that to come!

After the officers briefing, discussion turned to the terms of DSEB officers. A proposal was made at this point and seconded (I have to apologize, I don't remember who proposed this) to change the by-laws to extend the term of the Division Chair to three years, as the Secretary's and Program Officer's terms already are 3 years (for the PO, this change was voted in just last year, so will take affect with the NEXT program officer). The effect of this would be to standardize the officers terms, and to set the officers' terms so that we would be electing one new officer every year. A vote was taken, the proposal was accepted unanimously. Please don't forget to vote on this in the fall.

The program officer's report was given by Rachel Collin. DSEB will be supporting several symposia next year and it's time to start thinking about symposia for the next year, so get your ideas to Rachel (collinr@si.edu). It was suggested that for those looking for NSF support for symposia, NSF is presently really interested in synthetic or integrative topics.

Don Swiderski then brought us back to some of the society's financial concerns. The society overall is still overspending on our operating budget, so we need to trim some expenses. One issue is that journal subscriptions right now are stable, but because libraries are currently more interested in buying access to blocks of e-journals, funding from *ICB* subscriptions will not likely increase and may decrease over time. Several possible solutions are: 1) put a ceiling on student support (e.g., cap it at 3 years); 2) increase fees and 3) keep supporting the journal!

We were in need of a new Student/ Postdoctoral Affairs Officer, as Audrey Aronowski stepped down with a year to go. Nicole Cox was appointed to fill the position.

Finally, we were behind on seating a nominating committee for the election of new officers. Many thanks to Brian Sidlauskas, Michael Alfaro, and Ken Angielczyk who picked up the job and found us three officer candidates for next year.

Upcoming Meetings of Interest to the Division

Evolution 2008, the joint annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Evolution (SSE), the Society of Systematic Biologists (SSB), and the American Society of Naturalists (ASN), will be held June 20-24, 2008, hosted by the University of Minnesota, The Bell Museum of Natural History and its College of Biological Sciences. More info:

<http://www.cce.umn.edu/conferences/evolution/>.

SMBE 2008, the annual meeting of the Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution (SMBE) will be held June 5-8, 2008 in Barcelona, Spain, hosted by the Universitat de Barcelona. More info: <https://smbe2008.com/>

Hennig XXVI, the Annual Meeting of the Willi Hennig Society, will be held October 28-31, 2008, at Hotel Sol San Javier, Tucuman, Argentina. More info:

<http://www.cladistics.org/meetings.html>.

Submitted by Secretary Marta deMaintenon