Casey M. Holliday, Secretary, DVM

This year’s DVM Business meeting kicked off with Bill Zamer from NSF sharing updates to NSF policies and programs. He reminded us that the 2014 budget is not finalized yet and we are still in the throes of a poor budget climate. This will have a significant impact on NSF funding of symposia so those organizing symposia, be sure that they are truly forward thinking symposia. REU supplemental awards will no longer be submitted following an award but must now be included in the full proposal’s budget. Bill reminded us to pay attention to new guidelines regarding the DDIG programs and that DEB has different formats for preproposals than IOS, so pay attention! Keep an eye out for new Mid-Career awards and supplements. Those PIs that are eligible for CAREER proposals should submit their CAREER ideas as preproposals in order to receive feedback (but be careful in mediating the ambitiousness of a 3yr vs 5yr project). Bill’s visit was followed by the SICB EXCOMM’s visit to share their enthusiasm about the attendance and success of this year’s meeting.

Program Officer Rita Mehta provided this year’s attendance stats: SICB had 1900 pre-registrants, 1600 abstracts total with 330 abstracts from DVM. Of the 12 symposia selected for the 2015 meeting in West Palm, 4 are DVM symposia. Symposia proposals for 2016-Portland are due August 2014.

Misty Paige and Katie Staab organized this year’s Student Awards judging in which there were 33 talks and 22 posters to judge. Award winners were announced later. This was obviously a large number of presentations to vet and judge and we discussed ways to better streamline the poster and presentation awards, provide feedback, and not overextend the judging pool. Options included limiting the number of applications per student, having an organized session of candidates like other divisions, and offering a separate award to undergraduates. Stemming from this discussion arose the following:

The motion carried to require a pre-competition screening for the Davis Student Oral Presentation award. Students will submit a two page extended abstract that will be anonymized and reviewed by the DVM program committee. This 2pg abstract will not be published so that students’ work will be protected prior to true publication. A short version will suffice for the program and abstract volume. This motion will require an amendment to the bylaws in our upcoming newsletter.

The motion carried to remove the limitation on how often a student can apply to the awards, however a student may only win an award once. This motion will require an amendment to the bylaws in our upcoming newsletter.

After several years of discussion regarding the naming of the DVM student poster award, the motion was carried to name the award after Karel Liem. This motion will require an amendment to the bylaws in our upcoming newsletter.

Next we discussed fundraising for DVM through a variety of means. First, the SICB Bat mug designed by Alice Gibb sold for $25 which included profits that came back to DVM. Ideas for other merchandise were suggested. Second, the implementation of DVM membership dues was raised after observing that other
divisions required $5-$10 per member upon registering with SICB. Although how this money would be spent remains to be determined, it was largely agreed upon that the money would go to support regional DVM meetings and Travel awards. The topic was ultimately shelved.

This year’s nominating committee for the election of Chair and Secretary was chosen thanks to volunteers Miriam Ashley-Ross, Jeanette Wyneken, and Nicolai Konow.

The location of the 2018 meetings was broached. Sheraton Hotels has offered a discounted price to stay at Disney’s Swan/Dolphin resort for a fixed $145/night. The direct kickback to SICB was about $40k and being on Disney property may be a good thing for those with families. However it was also noted that ultimately this savings would only amount to ~$40 off of registration per participant (considered minimal) and the location within the Disney property was quite isolating to those wishing to not spend all of their money on expensive Disney food and products.

Finally, Adam Summers announced this summer’s Friday Harbor Fish course which has some NSF funding for participants. Beth Brainerd announced that NSF sponsored XROMM short courses would be offered at UNLV in March and at Brown in June.