

ESEB Members' Meeting

Tuebingen - August 23, 2011

Attendees:

Officers: Brian Charlesworth (President, Chair), Roger Butlin (President-elect), Anneli Hoikkala (Vice-President), Leo Beukeboom (Executive Vice-President), Michael Ritchie (Editor in Chief), Nico Michiels (Congress organizer), Tadeusz Kawecki (Secretary), Patsy Haccou (outgoing Executive Vice-President)

Excused: Siv Andersson (Past President)

Members: more than 150 (an incomplete presence list is attached)

BC opens the meeting and welcomes everyone.

1. Minutes of the last Members' meeting in Torino 2009

The minutes have been approved and signed by the President and the Secretary

2. Secretary's Report [TK]

TK presented the new officers (BC, RB, AH, LB, MR), announced the new council members, and thanked the election committee (N. Wedell, J. Ågren, and I. Gordo) for their work.

All members have been reminded to update their email addresses in the ESEB membership account.

Membership

The society is growing and members are geographically well distributed.

The new membership scheme approved by the Council was presented.

ESEB initiatives

- ESEB Travel awards

The applications for travel awards rose from 17 in 2010 to 173 in 2011. Hence, from now on only applications from countries with a low gross domestic product will be accepted.

- Developing regions initiative

The society successfully contacted the respective organization in Colombia (*Red Colombiana de Biología Evolutiva*), which gained free access to the journals *J. Evol. Biol.* and *Evolution* and will held their 3rd meeting now. In addition, the society supported a workshop at the University of Antioquia.

Contacts to similar organisations in Chile and Brazil are established.

- Outreach initiative

After three rounds of calls, the initiative is well developing.

- Lobbying for the evolutionary scientific community

BC is publishing an article in *Public Service Review: European Union* vol 22 (September 2011)

Further ways to make politicians, research funding agencies, and other decision makers more aware of evolution research are under investigation.

- EMPSEB

The meeting is very successful and was recently held for the 17th times. The support for this meeting of European PhD students has been raised.

-Upcoming congresses

Ottawa 2012: The joint congress of ESEB and four North America-based societies will be held in Ottawa 2012, organized by H. Rundle. The opening of the congress registration is foreseen for January, 2012. Early registration and booking of accommodation is highly recommended.

Lisbon 2013: The congress proposal by the organizer O. Paulo has been now approved by council. Early registration and booking of accommodation is highly recommended.

Lausanne 2015: This proposal is developing. There has been no alternative proposal.

Congress 2017: ESEB is calling for proposals. One statement of interest came from Valencia. In sight of the Joint congress in 2018, proposals from northern European countries are welcome.

Congress 2018: The next joint congress with SSE is foreseen to be held in Montpellier.

Question by S. Elnagdy: Is it possible to organize an ESEB congress in one of the developing countries such as Brazil - maybe every 5th round? TK stated that this would be quite difficult and increase costs i, but the topic is open for discussion.

Question by W. Kunce: Is it possible to have some cooperation with Asian countries? TK answered that there are some members and people in India have been contacted, but were not interested.

3. Executive Vice-President's Report [PH, LB]

Annual reports 2009, 2010

PH presented the annual reports and mentioned that ESEB is registered as a non-profit organization since 2010. Since then, the reports are drawn up by a professional accountancy company. The society is healthy with a stable capital.

Question by S. Stearns: Could the savings go to accounts with more interests? PH responded that this is not easy to change.

Question by R. Wesselingh: Is the bank reliable and sustainable? PH: Yes.

The members accepted the annual reports 2009 and 2010 without a dissentient vote. The members accepted unanimously the discharge of the officers in duty.

Presentation of the new Policy Plan 2011-13

LB presented the new policy plan 2011-13 and highlighted mainly the changes for the JMS Prize (new rules, annually) as well as for the travel awards (now restricted to developing countries).

Question by D. Tautz: What is the long term plan of the society concerning higher income than expenses? LB responded that there some supports will be raised (congress, EMSEB).

Question by NN: is it possible to support workshops (e.g. for genomics, integrated biology) in order to round up the training for evolutionary scientists. LB: This suggestion has been noted.

Question by D. Ebert: Could ESEB collaborate with local evolutionary initiatives? TK stated that there are increasing activities at the Balkan and that e.g. the profit from congresses (Lisbon) will go to the organizers to support local initiatives.

4. Editor in Chief's Report [MR]

MR reported that submissions to the JEB are steadily increasing; the journal is doing very well. Further submissions are highly welcome. Due to the increased workload for the editorial office, there will be an

additional part-time assistant hired. MR thanked A. Moore for his hard work as Editor in Chief and in all other subjects for the society.

5. Other business

Most members signed the participation list. Approximately 20-30 people did not receive the list for signature.

BC closed the meeting and thanked all members present for attending.