

ESEB Members' Meeting

Lisbon - August 24, 2013; 13:00 – 14:00

Attendees:

Officers: Roger Butlin (President, Chair), Laurent Keller (President-elect), Dieter Ebert (Vice-President), Leo Beukeboom (Executive Vice-President), Michael Ritchie (Editor in Chief), Octavio Paulo (Congress organizer), Hinrich Schulenburg (Secretary), Tad Kawecki (outgoing Secretary)

Excused: Brian Charlesworth (Past President)

Members: 119 (list is attached); invited to present: Julia Schroeder and Pleuni Pennings

RB opened the meeting at 13:00 and welcomed everyone.

1. Minutes of the last Members' meeting in Tuebingen 2011

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

2. Secretary's Report

HS presented the current officers (RB, DE, LK, MR, LB, OP, NP, HS), announced the new council members, and thanked the election committee (S. Elena, J. Mappes, K. Lessells) for their work.

Membership

The society continues growing with currently 1670 members, who are geographically well distributed. The top five countries include UK, Germany, France, Switzerland and USA.

ESEB Initiatives

- John-Maynard-Smith Prize

Every year the committee chaired by the ESEB Vice President distinguishes an outstanding young evolutionary biologist with the JMS Prize. In 2013, R. FitzJohn (Macquarie University, Australia) and runner-up L. Ugelvig (IST Vienna, Austria) were selected. T. Stadler (Lausanne, Switzerland) and runner-up D. Matute (Chicago, USA) have been chosen in 2012.

The next call will be announced in November 2013.

- Travel stipends

The society grants travel stipends, which allow members from low GDP countries to attend the ESEB congress and, in the intervening years, the conference of the *Society for the Study of Evolution*. The travel stipend committee (N. Wedell, M. Egas, B. Zwaan) granted 15 stipends to attend the Joint conference in Ottawa in 2012 and 17 students received a stipend in 2013 to travel to the ESEB congress.

Comment by L. Rubinjoni: As awardee in 2012, he expressed his thanks to the society.

- Outreach

Since 2010, the outreach committee (S. Otto, S. Elena, I. Olivieri, and B. Zwaan) received 129 applications and selected 32 projects from all over the world. Details are available at the ESEB website. The next deadline is September 15, 2013.

S. Otto and I. Olivieri requested to step down and will be replaced by K. McCoy and S. Magalhães.

- Emerging communities of Evolutionary Biology

A new committee has been established to support evolutionary communities in those countries, in which the field of evolutionary biology is currently emerging. Approved by the ESEB Council, this committee (T. Kawecki, S. Barrett, and J. Höglund) will proactively contact communities directly to offer support for workshops. In addition, the committee welcomes requests for funding. Details will be announced at the ESEB web site.

Question by NN: When will this initiative start? TK: The committee can be contacted from now on.

- Godfrey-Hewitt Mobility Grant

A new grant will be available to young researchers to support field trips or study visits to receive training and mentoring in a senior scientist's laboratory. The committee (R. Butlin, M. Ritchie, P. Beldade) will call for applications early in 2014. Further details will be announced at the ESEB website.

Question by Dieter Ebert: Will master students be eligible too? HS: They may be included and more details will be announced at the website.

Question by NN: Are certain countries excluded? RB: No, but the focus will be on people from institutes with limited resources.

- EMPSEB

The meeting, supported by the society, is very successful and will take place for the 19th time in Cornwall, UK in September 2013.

ESEB congresses

Lausanne 2015: The congress proposal by the organizer Nicolas Perrin has now been approved by the Council. Members should note that this congress will take place one week earlier than usual from 10-14 August, 2015. Registration fees will be comparable to the previous congresses.

Groningen 2017: The society received a proposal by Leo Beukeboom to organize the congress in Groningen, Netherlands. There is currently no alternative proposal.

Montpellier 2018: The second joint congress with SSE will be organized by Ophelie Ronce and Yannis Michalakis in Montpellier, France.

On request by RB members had no objection to the three congress proposals presented.

3. Executive Vice-President's Report

Annual reports 2011, 2012

LB mentioned that ESEB, as a non-profit organization, has to ask for approval of the annual reports. He presented the reports for 2011, 2012 and the budget plan 2013. The society is in a healthy state and therefore support for ESEB congresses and initiatives will be raised in the future.

Question by NN: Why has the budget for "Miscellaneous costs" been raised to 14,000 in 2013? LB stated that the society will have to pay for DRYAD registration and a planned JEB "Best publication by a PhD student" prize.

The members accepted the annual reports 2011 and 2012 without a dissentient vote. The members accepted unanimously the discharge of the officers in duty.

Question by Heribert Hofer: Are the accounts audited by an independent accountant? LB explained that the annual reports were approved by a Dutch accountant and signed by all officers of the ESEB steering committee.

Policy Plan 2013-15

LB presented the new policy plan 2013-15 and highlighted the following points:

- the support for ESEB congresses was raised to 200,000 Euro
- the initiative *Emerging communities of Evolutionary Biology* will have an annual budget of 12,000 Euro
- the initiative *Godfrey-Hewitt Mobility Grant* will have an annual budget of 10,000 Euro

Question by Pleuni Pennings: Will the increased support for congresses go to the congress budget? LB: Yes, the increased support may be used e.g. to lower registration fees.

The members accepted unanimously the Policy Plan 2013-15.

4. Editor in Chief's Report [MR]

MR reported that submissions to JEB continue to increase and therefore rejection rates have increased. The time to first decision is short and JEB has an excellent reviewing team. Among the deciding editors board David Coltman and Jacqui Shykoff finished their term and Christoph Haag and Michael Jennions replaced them. Thomas Flatt has agreed to serve for additional two years. In 2012 the JEB impact factor has been disappointingly modest and MR encourages potential authors to solicit and submit good papers to JEB, especially reviews. A first special issue, guest edited by Tanja Schwander, is currently in preparation. MR announced that a prize for the best PhD student paper in JEB will be introduced in 2014.

Question by NN: Is or will there be a double blind reviewing at JEB? MR stated that this has not been considered yet but we will monitor the statistics from current trials at other journals.

Question by S. Stearns: The impact factor could be raised by increasing the citations of JEB articles. MR passed this idea on to all members.

Question by T. Hansen: Could the print-version of JEB be switched to monthly publishing? MR will evaluate this point but suspects that printing and delivery costs will be prohibitive.

5. Other business

Presentation by J. Schroeder and P. Pennings "Suggested actions to improve diversity"

The percentage of female invited speakers at the ESEB congresses, in particular at the congress in 2011, has been quite low and women decline an invitation more often than their male colleagues. JS and PP argued that fewer female speakers lead to reduced visibility of women in science, which in turn will discourage female students to continue an academic career leading to fewer female professors. JS, PP and coauthors therefore proposed establishing a new "Equal opportunities committee" within ESEB to monitor this situation, to draft guidelines for congress organizers to improve the situation, to help with early career issues, and eventually consider financial support in case the higher decline rate of women for invitations is due to financial constraints.

The proposal will be discussed at the next officers meeting.

Comment by S. Stearns: The organizers of ESEB congresses should be encouraged to offer the possibility of daycare for children.

Distinguished Fellow

RB announced that the society nominated a new distinguished fellow, Rolf Hoekstra in 2013. Due to the constitution, a new fellow can be elected every two years and all members are welcome to send further nominations to ESEB.

RB thanked all outgoing Officers and Council members for their work, in particular the Secretary T. Kawecki and the Chair of the Outreach Committee S. Otto.

RB closed the meeting at 14.00 and thanked all members present for attending. All participants have been asked to sign the participation list.