

International Society for Behavioral Ecology, Minutes of the Business Meeting, Tours, 25th July 2006.

Agenda

- 1. News from the Executive Meeting (Marlene Zuk)**
- 2. Journal report (Andrew Bourke and Cathy Kennedy)**
- 3. Treasurer's report (Marlene Zuk)**
- 4. Newsletter (Ken Otter & Mariella Herberstein)**
- 5. Closing remarks (Marlene Zuk)**

The President, Marlene Zuk, conducted the meeting. About 20 members were present, including Society officers.

1. Marlene Zuk summarized news from the Executive Meeting, held on 23th July.
 - a. The Society was in sound financial condition, and the Executive had decided to use annual income to help students and other needy members to attend ISBE meetings. The Society would also retain a reserve, to help with down payments on meeting venues and as insurance to meet unforeseen costs.
 - b. The ISBE meeting in 2008 will be held at Cornell University from 9th to 14th August, with possible symposia on the 15th. Further information is available at: <http://isbe2008cornell.org/>. The location of the 2010 meeting was still being discussed, while the 2012 meeting would be in Cape Town, South Africa.
 - c. Marlene welcomed new Society officers and thanked those who had just completed or were continuing their terms. Nina Wedell (Councilor), Hanna Kokko (Councilor), Malte Andersson (Past-President) and Paul Ward (Secretary) finished their terms. Jack Bradbury becomes Past-President and Patricia (Pat) Monaghan is the new President-Elect. Rob Magrath takes over as Secretary, and Rebecca Kilner and Michael Jennions begin terms as Councilors. Walt Koenig (Treasurer), Mats Olsson (Councilor) and Naomi Langmore (Councilor) continue in their positions.
 - d. She reminded those present to let students know that individuals could become members of the ISBE without subscribing to the journal. This may boost membership.

2. The journal report was given by Andrew Bourke (Outgoing Editor-in-Chief) and Cathy Kennedy (Oxford University Press). *For specific details, please see Editor-in-Chief's Report pages 25-27*

Andrew reported that *Behavioral Ecology* is doing well. The modest decline from 2004 to 2005 in individual subscriptions and a slight decline in institutional subscriptions was compensated for by a strong increase in access via consortia and OUP's Developing Countries Initiative. Overall, income from the journal is rising.

Journal submissions continued to rise, while the number of manuscripts published remained at about 140 per year. The acceptance rate has been about 30%, although this might have to drop slightly, and the time to first decision was about 60 days.

The impact factor of the journal has risen to 2.9, the highest it has been, and above comparable journals such as *Animal Behaviour*.

Recent developments include online subscription since Sep 2004, online advance publication since Nov 2004, and a redesigned cover including an author's color image since Jan 2005. OUP has also digitized back-issues of the journal, given authors free pdf access 12 months after online publication, and has had optional Open Access since Apr 2006.

Andrew thanked all those who have contributed to the Journal's success, including: the reviewers; Cathy Kennedy, Caitlyn Haase, Jenny Fulford and colleagues at OUP; the outgoing Editor (Marlene Zuk) and Board members (Theo Bakker, Jonathan Newman and Mary Reid); and incoming Editors (Naomi Pierce, Mark Hauber, Rob Brooks, Will Cresswell), Editor-in-Chief (Mark Elgar) and Board members (Mark Blows, Rebecca Kilner, Lotta Kvarnemo, Jutta Schneider, Bill Sutherland).

Heribert Hofer thanked Andrew for his efforts as Editor-in-Chief, sentiments endorsed by all.

Cathy Kennedy said that OUP considered *Behavioral Ecology* a model journal, and it had been a pleasure working with Andrew Bourke. The journal is doing well in times of great change in publishing due to electronic publishing and Open Access.

3. Marlene Zuk summarized the financial situation

outlined in Walt Koenig's Treasurer's Report. The society was doing well financially, with an income of about \$60,000 US per annum. Profits would be used to establish a reserve and help the needy attend ISBE meetings. The report was approved by a show of hands.

4. Ken Otter and Mariella Herberstein gave the Newsletter Editor's report. Mariella is the incoming Associate Newsletter Editor (a new position), and will take over from Ken as Editor after a period of at least one year's transition. A new Associate Editor would then be appointed. The new editorial structure may allow the newsletter to have a broader scope.

Since the last conference, there have been 4 regular issues of the Newsletter and one special election issue, with a total of 80 pages. There were 18 book reviews, 2 commentaries, information on the 2004 conference and a report of a non-ISBE workshop.

Ken encouraged submissions of book reviews, commentaries, announcements and synopses of workshops for future issues. Upcoming events would also be announced on the Newsletter's web site – web.unbc.ca/isbe/newsletter. The Fall issue would include book reviews, including the first review of a non-English book, and reports from the 2006

conference.

Mariella suggested and sought ideas about the future of the Newsletter. She intended to survey members on ideas, and suggested that we might consider articles on research groups, a series giving practical advice for those early in their careers, and (as a counterbalance perhaps?) more humor.

Jack Bradbury thanked Ken for his ongoing efforts with the Newsletter, and Mariella for volunteering take over. Ken thanked the Society and its members for their support and Mariella for agreeing to share the burden.

5. Marlene Zuk asked for any other business. There were no concerns about the issues on the agenda, but the poor attendance at the business meeting prompted informal discussion about how this could be remedied, and so how more members could take an active role in the society. Ideas included better advertising, a more appropriate name (eg "society meeting" rather than "business meeting"), door prizes, etc. Please send Marlene any ideas!

Rob Magrath, ISBE Secretary

Editor-in-Chiefs' Reports, *Behavioral Ecology*

Outgoing Editor-in-Chief's Report

I recently heard someone airing the view that scientific journals will soon be redundant. Before long, they said, researchers will just post their manuscripts on their own websites, or on institutional websites, where they'll be accessible to all. We would then live in a world of readily available scientific information with no journals, no submissions, no reviewers, no editors, no publishers and, most importantly from this person's standpoint, no publisher's profits. (Of course the profits of Internet Service Providers would rise, but that doesn't matter as much.) Well, I don't know what the future holds, and our predictions will only return to haunt us. But I can't help thinking that, if researchers travel down this path, people would get together after a few years and, faced with the growing mountain of undifferentiated information looming over them, would say, 'Here's an idea. Let's group our papers into subject areas to make

them easier to find, and get them vetted so that readers have some assurance of quality. To keep it fair, the vetting can be done by members of our own research community, so everyone gets a shot at being both author and reviewer. Hmmmm, someone will need to oversee and organise all this. So we'll need editors, and people to publish the product. We could call the whole enterprise a *journal*.'

This tale is by way of making the point that, as we all know, scientific publishing is in a phase of rapid change. New developments combine the possibility of many novel benefits to readers and authors with powerful pressures to travel down untrodden paths whose end-points remain uncertain. Nonetheless, my strong feeling is that the basic apparatus of journals, submissions, reviewers and so on will not cease to serve an essential purpose. Against this background, I am