

GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR BEHAVIORAL ECOLOGY
CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA
2 October, 1996, 16:00 pm

Agenda:

1. Message from outgoing President Nancy Burley.
2. Treasurer's Report (Carl Gerhardt).
3. Editors' Report (Paul Schmid-Hempel)
4. Newsletter Report (Bart Kempenaers)
5. Frank A. Pitelka Award.
6. New Business.

**MINUTES
GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING
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Attending: The attending Executive Committee members (Rauno Alatalo, Anders Berglund, Tim Birkhead, Andrew Cockburn, Janis Dickinson, Larry Dill, Mark Elgar, Carl Gerhardt, , Patty Parker, Gunilla Rosenqvist) plus a Behavioral Ecology editor, Paul Schmid-Hempel, and the newsletter editor Bart Kempenaers, plus perhaps 10 members.

Meeting called to order at 16:05, Tim Birkhead (President) presiding.

1. We discussed ideas for boosting participation in general business meetings in the future. Suggestions included the following:
 - n have a drawing from among attendees for a free subscription to Behavioral Ecology
 - n serve beer
 - n call it "the general meeting"
 - n announce the Pitelka Award at the General Business Meeting
 - n reduce overlap with competing events (like, at this meeting, the soccer game)
 - n schedule it immediately after a Plenary talk
2. Patty Parker read a message from outgoing President Nancy Burley wishing the meeting well and expressing her regrets for not being able to attend.
3. Treasurer's Report: Carl Gerhardt reported an estimated surplus of \$16,255 in the society treasury, of which some portion (perhaps \$2000; C. Gerhardt will be able to calculate this amount more precisely after the meeting) should be available for use. From this, the 1996 newsletter costs must still be subtracted. We discussed ways of boosting membership. Comments were heard that an OUP booth would help. A decision was made to prepare an overhead visual with membership information for display at the opening talks the following morning.

Suggestions were heard for how to use available portion of surplus money. We discussed the possibility of waiving registration fee for some students to attend meetings (in the form of a competitive award amounting to a travel grant). An alternative would be to help fewer students at a higher rate by supporting part of travel costs.
4. Editors' report: Paul Schmid-Hempel (PS-H) reported that there were more than 200 papers received during the preceding year, with a 35-40% acceptance rate. The submission rate to the European office has doubled, resulting in Paul Schmid-Hempel's handling more than the 2 North American editors together.

PS-H would like to see more papers making a conceptual contribution.

PS-H reported on executive committee discussion related to turnover of editorial board membership. Several current members of the editorial board are retiring (Clutton-Brock, Grafen, Gross, Kacelnik, Stephens, Vehrencamp). Suggestions for replacements include: Francis Ratnieks, Marion petrie, Pat Monaghan, Andrew Cockburn. Prior to the meeting, Larry Dill, Marlene Zuk and Nick Davies had been invited (all three accepted).

The contract with Oxford University Press is up for renewal, and proposed changes include increasing from 4 to 6 issues per year, resulting in 30% more pages. Tim Birkhead will review details of contract with solicitor.

5. Society newsletter is being shipped with journal issue that is closest to publication date of newsletter. Bart Kempenaers, the newsletter editor, reported that the newsletter will include a new section for book reviews, and perhaps a forum section for discussion of current issues in behavioral ecology.
6. The Frank A. Pitelka Award. Since the Executive Committee meeting, Carl Gerhardt had consulted with the (anonymous) donors of the Pitelka Award, following the Executive Committee discussion of the difficulty of determining eligibility under the current award system. The donors of the Pitelka Award were happy to hand over responsibility to the Executive Committee for them to decide the best way to handle the award.
7. To the floor:

Patty Gowaty asked how symposia were organized at ISBE meetings. The response was that there was no current mechanism. Andrew Cockburn, organizer of this Canberra meeting, expressed his opinion that open competition for symposium topics produced the best meeting and the best papers. He felt that the decision was best left in the hands of the conference organizers. The discussion closed with the general consensus that the nature and number of symposia should left to the discretion of the conference organizers.

Meetings adjourned at 17:07.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Parker, Secretary ISBE