

Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution

Minutes of Council Meeting and Business Meeting at UC Irvine, July 1993

1. *Call to order.*—The council met during an extended lunch hour on July 8 (12:30–2:50 P.M.). Present were: Walter Fitch (President), Masatoshi Nei (President-elect), Linda Maxson (Secretary/Treasurer), Caro-Beth Stewart (Council-at-large), Barry Hall (Editor).

2. *Announcements.*—(a) *MBE*: It was agreed that *MBE* subscriptions should start on January 1 and run for entire calendar year. All complaints on fulfillment should be directed to Barry as Editor. Editor Hall announced he will welcome (and at times solicit) book and minireviews. Editor Hall presented new cover ideas. Suggestions were made and received.

(b) *Future Meetings*: Wyatt Anderson presented invitation and information on meeting with SSE, SSB, and ASN on June 15–19, 1994, at the University of Georgia, Athens, GA. He set aside one evening for SMBE to hold a separate banquet. SMBE also will host two separate symposia. Venues for future meetings were discussed—including sites both here and abroad. No future site was selected. Walter proposed travel and registration expenses for officers be paid by SMBE. Motion passed.

(c) *Legal Business*: Bylaws were discussed, and final copy will be sent by Walter Fitch to Linda Maxson for distribution to membership for vote, along with ballot for President-Elect. Maxson is still investigating incorporation mechanism. The possibility of local chapters was discussed but not resolved. With a newly approved set of bylaws, Maxson would continue to be secretary and let someone else have the pleasure of being treasurer. Nei moved and Stewart seconded a motion to **prohibit** Associate Editors from serving simultaneous terms as officer of SMBE. Passed 3-2.

3. *Membership Meeting*: July 9—after banquet.

(a) *Report from President Walter Fitch.*—SMBE will produce a membership directory; information for directory will be requested in mailing to include ballot for President-Elect and bylaws approval. Mailing will be ASAP. Nominees for President-Elect are Roger Milkman and Wes Brown.

(b) *Report from Secretary Treasurer Linda Maxson.*—Society received \$60,000 from Sloan Foundation to “jump start” SMBE. Membership dues were reported:

	1994	Present
Regular	\$ 58	\$ 54
Student	45	43
Family	68	64
Institution	330	275

SMBE will meet in Georgia with SSE, ASN, and SSB on June 15–19, 1994.

SMBE will run two ½-day symposia.

SMBE will host a separate banquet on Friday (June 16, 1994).

(c) *New Business.*—* It was suggested there be separate subscription categories for postdocs and emeritus faculty.

* It was suggested that we include extra membership applications with bylaws so current members can each try to recruit one additional new member.

* The question of encouraging local molecular evolution “groups” to affiliate with SMBE was raised.

* It was suggested that SMBE meet with SSE every 3–4 years at most.

* It was suggested that SMBE hold our overseas meeting once every 3 years.

Secretary’s Report of Council Meeting, 1994

1. *Call to order.*—The SMBE Council meeting was held at The Georgia Center of the University of Georgia in Athens, GA on June 15, 1994. The meeting was called to order by President Masatoshi Nei at 5:10 P.M. Present were Masatoshi Nei (President), Wes Brown (President-Elect), Linda Maxson (Secretary/Treasurer), and Naoyuki Takahata (host of the 1995 SMBE meeting). Editor Barry Hall could not attend these meetings, and Past President Walter Fitch’s plane was delayed.

The minutes of the 1993 Council and business meetings held July 7–10, 1994, at The University of California, Irvine, were approved.

2. *Announcements.*—The results of the 1993 elections were: Wesley Brown, President-Elect. Secretary Maxson reported that 332 ballots were returned (47% of membership).

The First International SMBE Meeting was deemed a success. One hundred twelve (112) persons registered for the meetings. Prizes for best student presentation were awarded: Society Award to Youn-Ho Lee (U.C. San Diego); \$500 and Journal Award to Janet Kornegay (U.C. Berkeley): \$100.

The results of the 1994 elections are: Margaret Kidwell, President-Elect; and Richard Hudson, Treasurer. Secretary Maxson reported that 292 ballots were received (37% of the current membership). Thanks go to the Nominating Committee, Marshall Edgell (Chair), Cathy Laurie, Paul Sharp, Naoyuki Takahata, and Linda Maxson (ex officio).

Walter Fitch again donated \$500 for a student prize for best paper at the meetings. Secretary Maxson received 25 abstracts; six student applicants were not members of SMBE. The remaining 19 abstracts were evaluated by Bob Vrijenhoek (Rutgers) and Axel Meyer (SUNY—Stony Brook), and 14 were selected for the Saturday-morning student session. Two students withdrew just prior to the meetings. M. Nei appointed as judges: Svante

Paabo (Germany), Eleutherios Zouros (Canada), and Michael Bulmer (Rutgers).

The 1995 meetings will be held August 21–25, in Hayama, 50 km south of Tokyo, at the new Graduate University for Advanced Studies. Naoyuki Takahata, who will host these meetings, described the facilities and discussed the planned program with the Council. The meeting site can house 200 participants, and the meeting rooms can accommodate over 300 participants. Additional housing can be arranged for as needed. N. Takahata is arranging to raise funds to subsidize all invited speakers; SMBE will help defray costs of President, Secretary, and Editor to attend all Society meetings. Detailed information on the meeting will appear in *Molecular Biology and Evolution*.

Wes Brown reported that Margaret Kidwell has extended an invitation to SMBE to hold the 1996 meeting in Tucson—details are still to be worked out.

The SMBE Directory was mailed to each individual member of SMBE the week of May 20, 1994.

It was noted that the bylaws will need to be amended, to reflect that The University of California, Irvine, library will do our archiving, as the American Philosophical Society decided they could not. Council also agreed to increase the size of the Council by adding three council members, each with 3-year staggered terms. If approved by the membership, the required quorum would also change to $\frac{2}{3}$ of the Council.

Although last year Council contributed \$50 toward a meeting in The Eastern Great Lakes Region, it was decided we had insufficient funds to make any further financial commitments to any group requesting support for meetings. Thus a request for assistance by William Jeffrey was denied.

Secretary Maxson reported that, despite problems with membership fulfillment, the total number of subscriptions had increased from 1,130 in July 1993 to 1,216 in June 1994.

Council discussed proposal on population by John Avise, President of The Society for the Study of Evolution, that we go on record as supporting an active role for our Government in addressing overpopulation problems on our planet. Council agreed, and M. Nei signed on behalf of the SMBE Council.

Council discussed proposal by Doug Futuyma, President of The American Society of Naturalists, to resolve to “avoid meeting, if possible” in venues with laws discriminating based on sexual orientation. Council approved an amended version and moved to bring the proposal to the Society business meeting for final action.

The Council adjourned at 8:20 P.M. and reconvened on June 17 at 12:00–1:30, with Walter Fitch (M. Nei, W. Brown, and L. Maxson) to discuss and officially

approve all actions with Past-President Fitch, giving a quorum.

Secretary's Report of Business Meeting, 1994

1. *Call to order.*—The business meeting was held on June 18, 1994. The meeting was called to order by President Nei at 5:10 P.M. Twenty-five people were present, including President Nei, Past-President Fitch, President-Elect Brown, and Secretary-Treasurer Maxson.

2. *Business.*—President Nei announced that Margaret Kidwell had been elected President-Elect and Richard Hudson elected Treasurer. Nei read the Editor's report in the absence of Editor Hall. Nei explained we have plans to go to monthly publication of MBE after 1995, if we get 1,200 pages to give us 100 pages/month. Communication problems with the Editor's office were voiced. It was requested that the Editor notify authors of when to expect proofs so the authors can make arrangements for speedy handling of proofs even if they are not in the country. It was suggested the Editor send out postcards or E-mail authors such notification. There were complaints that Editor Hall was insensitive to needs and requests of authors.

It was announced that Walter Fitch had again donated \$500 for a Society Student Prize. This year's winner was Alan Cooper (National Zoo, Smithsonian).

The 1995 meeting in Hayama, Japan was described. Meeting venues were discussed. It was suggested SMBE try to meet alone alternate years and also try to meet overseas alternate years. Walter Fitch announced that he and Bill Atchley were planning to organize a Gordon Conference to be held those alternate years when SMBE met outside the United States. There was some discussion of meeting alone versus with SSE, ASN, and SSB. The President-Elect will consider all of these things when identifying and recommending future meeting sites. Wes Brown is working with Margaret Kidwell to plan the 1996 meeting in Tucson, AZ.

The expansion of the Council by three elected members was described.

Secretary Maxson announced all members should have received a copy of the Directory. The suggestion was made that the next Directory should include a listing of members by country and state, as well as alphabetically.

Subscriptions were reported as 1,216 as of June 1994, up from 1,130 in July 1993. The number of institutional subscriptions went from 427 to 423, and number of members from 703 to 793. Exactly $\frac{1}{3}$ of our total membership is from outside the United States. The U.S. membership increased 10%, from 439 to 483. Overseas membership increased 18%, from 210 to 248. Overall student membership increased 19%, from 116

to 138. The number of family memberships was unchanged, at 26.

The Avise population proposal urging the U.S. government to actively take a leadership role in addressing "population growth, environmental protection, and economic and social activities as interrelated issues of overwhelming and immediate importance to the future well-being of human and other life on earth" was described, and President Nei reported he had signed it on behalf of the Council.

The Futuyma proposal was read and discussed. An amended version was approved. The crux of this proposal was "that SMBE registers strong opposition toward legislation, initiatives, and constitutional amendments that seek to prohibit anti-discrimination protections for homosexual (gay, lesbian) or bisexual individuals; that in planning its annual meetings, SMBE will take into account whether a state, province, or city being considered for a meeting has passed such a constitutional amendment, law, or ordinance, and will give preference to states, provinces, or cities in which such legislation is not in effect."

President Nei relayed that his appointed auditors, Linda Strausbaugh and Douglas Cavener, had approved the Treasurer's report. Linda Maxson reported that as of June 1994 SMBE had \$3,062.65 in a checking account and \$52,046.69 in the Sloan account. The Society's only source of income is \$5,000 annually, received in four quarterly payments from The University of Chicago Press.

The meeting was adjourned by 6 P.M. so all members could attend the banquet.

Linda Maxson, Secretary

Treasurer's Report: 1993—June, 1994

In 1993 SMBE received from The Sloan Foundation a "gift" of \$60,000 (in response to a request from President Walter Fitch). This money was deposited in an account at Penn State until SMBE receives tax-free status.

For fiscal 1993, the SMBE spent \$1,414.82.

As of December 31, 1993, there was \$58,585.18 in our account.

Itemized expenses:

IRS \$150.00; 1994 election ballot \$695.34; postage and phone \$26.48; annual meeting, U.C. Irvine \$543.00 (approximately \$3500 still outstanding, awaiting invoicing from UCI)

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$1,414.82

The SMBE received from The University of Chicago Press (UCP) \$562.65, the remainder of the annual \$5000 UCP agreed to contribute to SMBE after purchasing computer equipment for the editorial office of Barry Hall at Rochester. We also received our first two quarterly payments for 1994 (total \$2,500), and this was used to open a checking account at Peoples National Bank of Central Pennsylvania.

ASSETS as of June 1, 1994:

Checking Account: \$3,062.65

Sloan Account: \$51,046.69

Itemized expenses:

Annual Meeting at UCI (still incomplete): \$2,856.30

Lawyer's Fees: 1,150.70

1995 Ballot: 449.34

1994 Meeting Announcement 644.69

Georgia Meeting (still incomplete) 2,280.00

Postage 72.81

Telephone 31.40

Misc. office Supplies 3.25

Eastern Great Lakes SMBE Meeting 50.00

TOTAL EXPENSES \$7,538.49

Linda Strausbaugh (U. Connecticut) and Douglas Cavener (Vanderbilt U.) audited the books and found them in good order.

Editor's Report to the Society

I assumed responsibility for *MBE* on July 13, 1993. As of the end of May 17 we had handled 194 manuscripts, of which 149 are complete (accepted or rejected), and 45 are at various stages of consideration. Of those 149 completed manuscripts, 75 have been accepted, 73 were rejected, and 1 was withdrawn.

Some of those manuscripts were already in the works when I assumed responsibility for *MBE*. Of the 159 manuscripts that have been submitted since I assumed responsibility, 114 are complete, of which 49 have been accepted and 64 have been rejected.

The January, March, May, and July issues have been completed, of which the January, March, and May issues have appeared. Those four issues include 69 papers and 713 pages.

Barry G. Hall
May 20, 1994