

Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution, Council and Business Meetings, 2013, Chicago, IL

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Council Meeting

I. Call to Order

President Sudhir Kumar called the council meeting to order at 9:00 am, Sunday, July 7, 2013. In attendance were President Sudhir Kumar, Past-President Charles Aquadro, President-Elect Brandon Gaut, Councilors Soojin Yi, Laurent Duret, Yoko Satta, Harmit Malik, Marta Wayne, Secretary James McInerney, online via Internet video link Treasurer Aoife McLysaght, and *MBE* Editor-in-Chief Bill Martin. In addition, Taras Oleksyk (Puerto Rico) and Carolin Kosiol (Vienna) attended part of the meeting and an Oxford University Press delegation led by Jennifer Boyd attended part of the meeting.

II. Approval of Minutes

The council approved the minutes of the 2012 Council and Business meeting, published in the January 2013 issue of *MBE* (First published online: November 22, 2012).

III. Editors' Reports

The Editors in Chief of *MBE* and *GBE* gave reports on the current state of their journals (see separate editors reports). OUP also gave a presentation on their work on the journals.

IV. Treasurers Report

Treasurer Aoife McLysaght summarized the financial state of the Society. The records show that the Society is in excellent financial health (see separate Treasurer's report).

V. Secretary's Report

Secretary James McInerney reviewed the council actions over the preceding year and the report is summarized below.

VI. Election of SMBE Officers

The nominations committee for nominating candidates for the position of President-elect and for two council positions was chaired by Michael Purugganan (New York University, USA).

The members of the committee were Laura Landweber (Princeton University, USA), Michael Nachman (University of Arizona, USA), Claudia Russo (Federal Univ of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil), Naoko Takezaki (Kagawa University, Japan), and James McInerney, SMBE Secretary (NUI, Ireland), *ex officio*, as per by-laws. The membership of the society were asked by email to nominate candidates for the various positions and the committee selected nominees from this pool of proposed candidates.

The nominees for President-elect were Joe Felsenstein (University of Washington, USA) and Nancy Moran (Yale University, USA). The nominees for the councilor positions were Sandra Baldauf (Uppsala University, Sweden), Tal Dagan (University of Kiel, Germany), Peter Andolfatto (Princeton University, USA), and David Liberles (University of Wyoming, USA).

The membership of the society were issued with online ballot details through Oxford University Press with the voting period being open from June 21 to July 10 and the results of the ballot were that the successful candidate for President-elect was Joe Felsenstein and the two successful candidates for council positions were Sandra Baldauf and David Liberles, who will hold the positions of two councilors for the years 2014–2016 inclusively.

VI. Other Activities

i) Nominations for Future Annual Meetings

The membership was issued with a call for proposals for future annual meetings. The task of producing a shortlist was taken by President-elect Brandon Gaut. A number of venues were proposed and brought to council. By vote it was decided that the 2015 Annual meeting would be held in Vienna and the 2016 meeting would be held in Queensland's Gold Coast.

ii) Nominations for Future Satellite meetings:

A committee was set up that was chaired by Soojin Yi (Georgia Institute of Technology, USA) and additionally

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consisted of Hopi Hoekstra (Harvard University, USA), Daven Presgraves (University of Rochester, USA). A total of five proposals were received and after extensive discussion, it was decided that funding support would be made available to three of them.

iii) Satellite meetings held in 2013:

The SMBE satellite meeting on the Origin of Life was held in the Princeton Center for Theoretical Science, on January 21–24, 2013. The meeting was organized by Laura Landweber and Aaron Goldman.

The SMBE satellite meeting Mechanisms of Protein Evolution was held on February 7–9, 2013 on the campus of University of Colorado School of Medicine in Aurora, CO. The meeting was organized by David Pollock, David Liberles, and James McInerney.

The SMBE satellite meeting on Eukaryotic-Omics took place at UC Davis from Monday, April 29 to Thursday, May 2, 2013. The meeting was organized by Holly Bik and Jonathan Eisen.

iv) Undergraduate Mentoring and Diversity Program

Councilor Laurent Duret organized the Undergraduate Mentoring and Diversity program at the annual meeting. Ten undergraduates won travel awards to the meeting.

v) Society Website

The Society website was updated with a new look and with additional features, a FaceBook Page (www.facebook.com/OfficialSMBE) and Twitter account (twitter.com/OfficialSMBE)

were created in an effort to help communication with the membership.

vi) Bylaw Amendments

The council suggested several changes to the bylaws of the Society and these were put to a vote of the membership of the society. The result of this vote was that the new bylaws were approved by the membership.

vii) Editor-in-Chief of GBE

Bill Martin was approved by the council for a renewed term as Editor-in-Chief of *GBE*.

Business Meeting

I. Call to Order

President Sudhir Kumar called to order the annual SMBE Business meeting at 12:15 pm on July 10.

II. Business

The president summarized the discussions at the council meetings, announced the locations of the 2015 and 2016 meetings and congratulated Manyuan Long and the other organizers of the Chicago meeting. Taras Oleksyk gave a short presentation on the logistics of the 2014 annual meeting in Puerto Rico.