

Paleoecology Section Business Meeting 2013 Minneapolis, Minnesota

Current Officers:

Jacquelyn Gill – Chair, Phil Higuera – Vice Chair, Alex Ireland – Secretary,
Kendra McLaughlin – Deevey Award Chair

Meeting Minutes:

1. Welcome by Jacquelyn Gill, including introduction of John Calder, student liaison.
2. Minutes from 2012 meeting distributed, reviewed by attendees, and approved.
3. Phil Higuera attended the ESA Council Meeting and reported his observations.
 - A. Noted similarities to what was reported in the minutes from 2012
 - B. Noted that the Paleoecology Section is not widely known
 - C. ESA Membership is up; ESA is doing well, financially
 - D. All sections are asked to document their history ahead of the 2015 centennial
 1. JG expressed her intent to digitize binder, in accordance with above
 - E. Sections can access long-term planning grants, are encouraged to think big
 1. Ideas: travel grants, awards, white papers, events, strategic planning
 - F. A few motivated students are sweeping fields
 1. Ensure Deevey Applicants divulge other awards for which they apply
4. Budget, Reported by JG
 - A. Binder in transit, ESA budgetary personal unresponsive (no value reported)
 - B. However, JG is certain that the Section is in the black
 - C. In fact, ESA has requested that the section spend down its budget
 1. On what can we spend this money?
 - a. All agreed that student travel grants would be a good idea
 - b. Considerable discussion of how much (range = \$250 - \$500)
 - c. JG will:
 - i. Figure out average award across sections
 - ii. Draft proposal, get things moving
 - d. Everyone agreed, help students in need, not those who aren't
 - D. Supplying lunch for business meeting is a waste of money
 1. Motion made to cease this expenditure, motion passed
 - E. Do we want to host a mixer?
 1. This conversation fizzled out, no motion made
5. Website, Reported by JG
 - A. ESA has required movement to World Press format
 - B. But, has been unresponsive to inquires
 - C. Student paid to update website (via long-term planning grant)
 - D. But, content not yet live, due to ESA unresponsiveness
 - E. JG wants to move all out-going communication to blog format

- F. Jessica Blois: How does information get funneled to blog?
 - 1. Answer: Anyone posts to Google Group, Chair, Vice Chair approve and re-route. Provided by (Dave Nelson and Phil Higuera)
 - G. JG wants to post monthly updates to blog (papers published, ect.)
- 6. Officer Terms**
- A. Robert Booth immediately pointed out that this discussion has happened every year for at least 10 years
 - B. Much discussion, no resolutions other than deciding to do nothing
 - 1. Dave Nelson: Must change bylaws
 - 2. Dave Nelson: Some sections has senior scientists as officers
 - 3. Bob Booth: Junior scientists, build their CVs
 - 4. Beth Lynch: Does anyone care about this on peoples, CVs?
 - C. Conclusion: Leave it alone.
- 7. Meeting in 2014 in Sacramento, CA, Theme: "Mountains to Oceans, its All Ecology"**
- A. General comments on the lameness of this theme
- 8. Symposium Ideas**
- A. Procedural Review by JG
 - 1. Section can offer primary endorsement to one and secondary endorsement to two proposals
 - B. Jessica Blois: Evolution of Western (CA?) Ecosystems
 - 1. People liked, JB is going to do move this forward
 - C. JG was in support of Steve Jackson's idea from 2012 (paleo – social sci)
 - D. Phil Higuera: Large, infrequent disturbances
 - 1. PH will move this forward, possibly in collaboration with Melissa Chitman who proposed a modeling component
- 9. Centennial, 2015, Baltimore, MD**
- A. ESA: Think Big, photo essays, planning grants, money available
 - B. Beth Lynch: 100 years is a nice chunk of time, links to section
 - C. Sara Hotchkiss: The Section has contributed several leaders to ESA
 - D. Dave Nelson: Interesting Paleo work in Chesapeake Bay
 - E. Planning Grants
 - 1. Due in winter, money delivered in spring
- 10. Election of Officers**
- A. Phil Higuera automatically promoted to Chair
 - B. Jacquelyn Gill, current Chair, nominated self as Vice Chair – approved
 - C. John Calder nominated self as Secretary – approved
 - D. Phil Higuera nominated Melissa Chitman as Student Liaison – approved
 - E. Ryan Kelly nominated self (volunteered) for Deevey Award Chair - approved
- 11. Workshops**
- A. There was general discussion that the Section should host a Workshop

- Ideas: fire reconstruction, something with LacCore
- B. Gavin Simpson: He and Simon Goring want to do some sort of “quantitative thing”

12. Announcements

- A. Phil Higuera is recruiting a graduate student
- B. Biogeography Society has an upcoming special meeting