

## **Minutes of the EED Business Meeting, August 1<sup>st</sup> 2008, 1800 hrs**

### **Department of Biology, University of Ghent**

23 Members in Attendance including the Frietson Galis (President), Gunther Theissen (Vice-President), Michael Schubert (Treasurer), Eckhard Witten (Programmes Officer) and Philip Donoghue (Secretary).

#### **1. Formation and Foundation of EED.**

The President described the formation and foundation of the Society. The inaugural meeting had been held in Prague in 2006 and had attracted 420 registrants from 28 countries. EED had subsequently been established as a Foundation in Dutch Law by the President and Treasurer, making the Society exempt of taxes and providing for the establishment of a Society bank account.

There is now a Society and conference website including facilities for online registration providing savings for the organisation of future meetings.

Guidelines were to be prepared for local organisers of meetings by the President and Treasurer and provided to the organisers of the proposed 2010 meeting.

#### **2. Proposed Constitutional Changes**

The EED President described the proposed changes to the constitution:

- Institute the position of a 'Fund raising officer' to orchestrate income/sponsorship from commercial companies

Passed unanimously.

- The six month bar on the action of the election committee should be removed and a new clause introduced, that they should report within 3 months of the election.

Passed unanimously

- Upon completion of their two year term, members of the new Executive will be elected for a four year term of office.

There was an ensuing discussion on the proposed changes to the constitution. Moya Smith suggested that there should be a rolling programme of replacement of officers and Council members, with some replaced mid-cycle of others. The President clarified that these were proposed changes to the constitution and, if passed, would not be effective for the election of officers and Council Members until the Business Meeting associated with the 2010 EED Meeting. Moya Smith suggested that the proposal should have been sent out in advance to members for scrutiny. The Secretary responded that this had not been possible since the Agenda for the Business Meeting had not been agreed until the Council Meeting. The Secretary would ensure that the Agenda was distributed to the membership in advance of future Business Meetings.

Ultimately, the proposal was passed unanimously.

#### **3. Election Committee**

The election committee, comprising Scott Gilbert, Moya Smith and Rolf Rutishauser, was appointed by the President.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer Presented his report (filed with minutes). This had been approved by the EED Finance Committee (Anne Burke, Rolf Rutishauser and Robert Cerny), and it was accepted unanimously. The Treasurer was duly released of responsibility for the previous accounting period.

#### **5. Proposed 2010 EED Meeting in Université Paris 7**

This meeting is to be organised by Didier Casane and Michel Vervoort. Excellent conference facilities were available. No conference agency was to be involved and there was an established interactive abstract submission and editing service in place. The meeting was likely to be held earlier in the year than the Ghent 2008 meeting. The proposal was accepted unanimously.

#### **6. Society Journal**

The President outlined the benefits and drawbacks of a Society journal. The publishers of *Evolution & Development* had offered a very attractive package that stopped short of editorial control. The publishers of *Development, Genes and Evolution* offered very little support.

Eckhard Witten asked whether either of the proposals provided for the publication of abstracts. The President indicated that the publishers of *Journal of Experimental Zoology: Molecular & Developmental Evolution* had said no – this was not an appealing prospect to publishers. Michael Coates confirmed that the editors of *Evolution & Development* were not interested in publishing meeting abstracts. Moya Smith queried whether either journal might be prepared to publish symposium proceedings.

#### **7. Any other business**

Rolf Rutishauser queried whether EED Council Members who had not attended the Ghent meeting were aware that, in failing to pay registration they had failed to pay their society membership fee. Michael Schubert indicated that they would be contacted and requested to pay. Moya Smith responded that if they failed to renew their membership fee they should not vote in the forthcoming elections.

The Business Meeting closed at 1900 hrs.

Philip Donoghue, EED Secretary