

## **Biomedical & Life Sciences Division (DBIO) Board Meeting**

### **Special Libraries Association**

**June 10, 2018**

**Attendees:** Nancy Curtis, Donna Gibson, Ruth Gustafson, Buzz Haughton (by phone), Monica Kirkwood, Peggy Murphy, Cindy Sheffield (chair)

Thanks to Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press for hosting this event.

#### **Agenda:**

**Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Cindy Sheffield thanked the members of the board and other volunteers to DBIO. The attendees introduced themselves. Approval of 2017 Board Meeting minutes – No minutes were available so the group agreed to review and approve them via email.

#### **Announcements –**

#### **Reports and Discussions –**

**Website** – Dave Matthews of Ink Stain Design hosts the DBIO website. It is time to renew his contract, which is for 20 hours at \$1,000. He also needs to complete a W9 form. The site, with the exception of the home page, is on a different server from the one used by SLA; as a result, the DBIO site was mainly unaffected by the hack that the SLA server experienced.

**Governing Documents** – Cindy reminded the board that if anything changes in the governing documents, we need to submit them to the SLA Bylaws Committee for approval before submitting them to the DBIO membership for a vote. Given that we have instituted an annual virtual business meeting to replace the in-person meeting at the annual conference, we will need to change the wording in the governing documents and on the website.

If we choose, we can use the generic template provided by SLA, enter the division name and our scope notes, and send it to the Bylaws Committee for approval.

**Biofeedback** – Buzz requested comments on how we decide what DBIO members are highlighted. It was suggested that he include a “Nominate a colleague” note in Biofeedback, and he will ask Lori Bronars if this is ok. He would also like to get comments from the membership on what they thought of the annual conference.

Cindy would like to recruit someone to handle a Facebook page and a Twitter account for DBIO; Nancy volunteered to tweet. Peggy volunteered to write a callout for the next issue, asking for volunteers to handle these accounts.

Peggy asked about changing the format to a blog, and Buzz pointed out that 4 out of the 5 people who responded to his Biofeedback survey said that they prefer it in its current format. The PDF is still heavily resourced as measured by hits. Advertisements are no longer included in the contents; while Buzz is happy to continue as editor, he does not want to solicit sponsors.

**Strategic Plan** – Peggy provided a recap of the executive summary from the DBIO survey conducted in 2017. “The important takeaways...are that we should focus on providing educational, networking, and volunteer opportunities.” – *from the summary of survey results*.

Anne Linton has volunteered to be involved in the strategic plan. The board recommended involving newer members, and that we should emphasize virtual membership. Peggy plans to work with Anne (and others TBD) to put together a draft strategic plan and to ask Danielle Walker to serve in an advisory capacity.

Membership – SLA Connect shows ~ 130 DBIO members are on the list, and the membership list pulled from the SLA website shows ~ 250 members.

**Option 1 versus Option 2** – Peggy asked what the board thinks. We recognize that there are problems with both, but if we have unique sponsors, maybe Option 1 is the better choice. Donna recommended scrapping both options and soliciting funding for other things like virtual training. Neyda Gilman is asking others about Option 2.

Questions raised include: What is happening with the revenue streams? What is SLA actually doing for us? Cindy indicated that the Maryland chapter raised a lot of money for their local Continuing Education offerings. The problems with Option 2 include the fact that sponsors aren’t being matched to content that fits them. Can we suggest sponsors for our programs? Nancy suggested asking HQ for a “dibs” system so that we get the sponsors that are related to our content. The problems with Option 1 include the fact that raising money will never get easier. At some point we will look at it from a decreasing revenue level.

Merger – The offer from DPHT (Division of Pharmaceutical & Health Technology) to merge with DBIO is on the table. Tony Landolt, past chair of DPHT, is interested in doing more joint programming. Cindy looked into how many people are in both divisions, and HQ indicated that there are 50.

We need to survey the membership to find out how a merger is viewed. If we merged, we would need to make sure that there is non-medical content at the annual conference. Consolidating is good fiscally but not in terms of content specialties.

**Treasurer’s Report** – Nancy reported the balance for the treasury is \$27,977.22. She noted that the balance will probably decrease following the annual conference because of various charges.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

*Attachment: DBIO Board Meeting Handouts: Board Meeting Agenda; Program Planning Committee Report; Treasurers Reports*