Message From the Chair:  Nancy Stimson

Happy New Year, DBIO members! The Division is off to an excellent start this year. Janet Weiss (Nashville Program Planner), Peggy Jones (Chair-Elect), Christina Woodward (Toronto Program Planner), and I went to Albuquerque for the 2004 SLA Leadership Summit. The main purpose of the meeting was to coordinate planning for the 2004 and 2005 SLA annual conferences, to become informed and participate in decision-making pertaining to association business, and to hone our leadership skills---and all in four days!

During the Leadership Summit, it is expected that the long-awaited Governing Documents for Divisions would be approved by the SLA Board. These documents were approved at the Division Cabinet Meeting during the 2003 SLA annual conference in New York. If the Board approves the documents, as of February 1, 2004 all divisions' bylaws will be replaced with the Governing Documents. The overall goal is to simplify the administration of SLA units. The Division Recommended Practices document will replace the divisions' Procedures Manuals and will be easy to update as needed regarding how things are done (committees, elections, etc.).

As you will see from Janet Weiss’ article in this issue, program planning for the 2004 annual conference in Nashville is well developed. The DBIO Division will offer a wonderful array of programs, CE courses, and a field trip. Well done, Nashville Program Committee members! The Fund Development Committee is working hard to raise funds for the Nashville conference. If you have any ideas for vendors who might be willing to contribute, please let Peggy Jones know.

Amazing as it may seem, it is also time to start planning for the 2005 annual conference in Toronto. Do you have ideas for programs you would like to see held in Toronto? Are you willing to serve on the Toronto Program Committee? If so,
please contact Christina Woodward. Help make the Toronto conference relevant to your interests and those of your colleagues.

There are many other ways that you can make a contribution to the division. Take a look at the "Volunteer Opportunities Abound" article by Peggy Jones in this issue and the volunteer form which will allow you to easily sign up to be on a committee, to be a liaison, or to be our next archivist! Committee work in this division is very gratifying since you are making valuable contributions to the division and at the same time networking and getting to know remarkable people from around the country, and the world.

Laurie Scott and Lorri Zipperer have started the discussion about developing project ideas for the SLA Endowment Fund. Read all about it in their article in this issue. Let's keep the ball rolling by bouncing ideas around on the BSDNET-L listserv, in BIOFEEDBACK, and at the annual conference in Nashville. Don't hesitate to contact Laurie or Lorri directly if you have an idea and want some feedback. Finally, look for your ballot for the election of officers for 2004-2005 to appear in your mailbox in early February. This will be our first single slate of candidates under the bylaws revision that the membership approved at the Annual Business Meeting at the annual conference in New York last June. The board would like to extend big thanks to Laura Osegueda and Eleanor MacLean for running for the Chair-Elect and Treasurer posts, respectively.
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Contact: tbhumana@humanaprl.com
The registration website for the 2004 SLA Annual Conference is up and running at http://www.sla.org/content/Events/conference/2004annual/index.htm so it’s time to start thinking about NASHVILLE. The Program Committee has been hard at work for the past several months and the program list is very full and diverse. From CE courses on Immunology and Biosystematics to a field trip to the Cheekwood Botanical Gardens and Sculpture Trail, the week promises to be information and fun-filled. The list of programs follows this text.

Exhibits will be open Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday this year with no-conflict time on each day (Sunday 4-6 p.m., Monday and Tuesday 10:30 a.m-12 Noon.). The Medical Section Reception (Monday 6/7) and the Medical Section Business Meeting and Program (Tuesday 6/8) will be held at off-site locations. We’ve arranged for buses for each day so if you plan to attend, please purchase a ticket ($5) so that we can count you in.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel and Convention Center!

Janet Cooper Weiss
2004 Program Chair

### DBIO EVENTS AT THE 2004 SLA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**Editors Note:** The dates and times for the events have changed since originally arranged. Check the SLA registration site at the address above. The (hopefully) final schedule of events will also appear in the next issue.

#### CE CLASSES:
- Phylogenetics and Systematics: Saturday June 5, 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- Basic Immunology: Saturday June 5, 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

#### OTHER EVENTS:
- Outgoing Board Meeting: Saturday June 5
- Academic Roundtable: Sunday June 6
- Vendor Roundtable: Sunday June 6
- Past Chairs Luncheon: Sunday June 6
- Joint Science Divisions Reception: Sunday June 6
- Nanotechnology: Monday June 7
- West Nile Virus: Lessons Learned: Monday June 7
- Medical Section Reception: Monday June 7, Ticketed Event
- Annual Business Meeting: Tuesday June 8, Ticketed Event
- Stress Management: Tuesday June 8
- Open Access Publishing: Tuesday June 8
- DBIO Contributed Papers: Tuesday June 8
- Medical Section Business Meeting: Tuesday June 8
- Incoming Board Meeting: Wednesday June 9
- Sustainable Fisheries: Wednesday June 9
- Winners Circle of Web Sites: Wednesday June 9
- Field Trip: Wednesday June 9

ASM, CABI, Elsevier, NetLibrary
Co-sponsored by the ENG Division
Ticketed Event
“Beyond Information Literacy”
Ticketed Event
Lunch with ERM Division (ticketed)
Cheekwood Botanical Garden
Fund Development Committee Making Progress

Fundraising for the Division's programs at the SLA Annual Conference in Nashville is in good shape. As of January 29, 2004, we have firm commitments for $8,100, $2,400 of which was raised by the Vendor Relations Committee to fund the Vendor Roundtable. As you conduct business, please let the following vendors know how much we appreciate their contributions to our Division:


The fund development brochure is available at http://www.sla.org/division/dbio/. If after reviewing the brochure you think of other vendors who could be contacted for their support, please let me know. It's not too late to ask for support for 2004 conference programming!

Peggy Jones
Chair-Elect and Fund Development Committee Chair

Volunteer Opportunities Abound!

The 2004-2005 year is fast approaching. Many committees within the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division will soon have openings as some committee members end their terms of service in June 2004. If you always wondered what a particular committee did or wanted to serve on a committee but were not sure where to start, here is your opportunity. Committee appointments are two years in length and may be renewed for another two years. There are also some appointed positions that may have vacancies within the near future.

Check out the Division’s Procedure Manual (http://www.sla.org/division/dbio/procedur/index.html) for committee and position descriptions. Contact any of the committee chairs or members listed at the end of this newsletter to find out what a committee’s workload is like. Then fill out the Volunteer Form below and mail it, fax it, or e-mail it to the Division Chair-Elect. Take this opportunity to meet new colleagues, share and expand your knowledge and experience, and participate in shaping the future of the Division and librarianship!

Peggy Jones
Chair-Elect, Biomedical and Life Sciences Division
Children’s Memorial Hospital
Pritzker Research Library
2300 Children’s Plaza, No. 205
Chicago, IL 60614
(773) 755-6341
(773) 755-6304 (Fax)
pmjones@childrensmemorial.org
VOLUNTEER FORM

American Society for Information Science and Technology (ASIST) Liaison

Bylaws Committee

Government Relations Committee Liaison

Professional Development Committee

Public Relations Committee

Student Relations/Career Guidance Committee

Archivist

Contributed Papers Committee

Membership Committee

Program Committee

Publications Committee

Vendor Relations Committee

Awards Committee

Fund Development Committee

Nominations and Elections Committee

Program Committee 2005 (Toronto, ON, Canada)

Program Committee 2006 (Baltimore, MD)

PR-Homepage Subcommittee

I am interested in volunteering for:

1st Choice: ________________________________________________________________

2nd Choice: _____________________________________________________________

3rd Choice: ______________________________________________________________

____ I have served on a BIO Division Committee with the past five years

____ I have served as a BIO Division Committee Chair within the past five years

Name: __________________________________________________________________

Address: ________________________________________________________________

Phone: _________________________________________________________________

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Contact: tbhumana@humanapr.com
BIO MEMBERS PUBLICATIONS LIST
July 2003 – December 2003


Please continue to send citations for materials published in 2003 to Claudia Lascar at clascar@ccny.cuny.edu for inclusion in the next issue of *Biofeedback*.

BIO Public Relations Committee:
Margy Grasberger
Claudia Lascar
Carol Lepzelter
Nalini Mahajan
John Sisson
Product Review
From the Vendor Relations Committee

(http://www.biomedprotocols.com)

By Susan Kendall, Chair, Vendor Relations Committee

Representatives from Humana Press presented their new online product, BioMedProtocols, at our Biomedical and Life Sciences Vendor Roundtable at SLA in New York last year. The idea was intriguing. An online subscription to this resource includes full content of the ever-popular Methods in Molecular Biology and Methods in Molecular Medicine series, which cover content in such varying subject areas as biochemistry, genetics, microbiology, neuroscience, and oncology. A subscription could substitute for purchasing the printed books (of which many are published each year), and the searchable nature of the online resource would also make it more valuable to research faculty. Therefore, a closer look at the quality of this product was warranted.

BioMedProtocols is available from Humana Press’ HumanaNow Web site, a portal encompassing all of Humana’s online content, but with a special platform only for BioMedProtocols.

Content

The full text of books from the Methods in Molecular Biology and Methods in Molecular Medicine series is included in this resource. A link from the main BioMedProtocols page gives a detailed list of the books included, and I counted close to 250 titles when I accessed the site on December 29, 2003. It appears that new books are added as they are published, and some of the titles listed are forthcoming titles. Older titles are also included, dating to 1999. Only the newest edition is included of books that have been updated. It is clear that the content of this resource is sound. These books are highly used by researchers, and librarians find the print copies of these books circulate frequently. No doubt making these books available online would increase the number of users able to access this material. Chapters from these books are also indexed in Medline, and links can be made from PubMed or various forms of Medline to the appropriate chapter in BioMedProtocols, making this resource even more convenient and likely to be used.

Searching

Two types of searching are available: Quick Search and Advanced Search. From the home page of this product, the Quick Search box is available, and a link is shown to the Advanced Search. Humana also provides a link from the home page called “how it works” which explains what is happening with different kinds of searches. Search results can be sorted by relevance, title, or publication date. Strangely, the results are a combination of both whole books and chapters in books. Clicking on the title of any given result leads to a page of either the table of contents of the book or an abstract of the selected chapter. The full text is available from a “Read Now” button, which shows up on the side when a subscription is activated. The full text articles are in PDF format, and are easy to read and print out.

There are many problems with the searching feature of this product. I initially tried a search of plant genetics with the Quick Search. I got references to books such as Plant Hormone Protocols and Plant Functional Genomics Methods and Protocols. However, I also got references to such books as Psychiatric Genetics and Mammalian Artificial Chromosomes Methods and Protocols, both of which can’t have anything much to do with plants. This was only looking at the first page of what was considered “most relevant” by the search engine. It was not entirely clear how the Quick Search works or what it is searching, but the results appeared to me to come from a Boolean OR search of anything with the word plant or genetics in it, not in any particularly relevant order. I had similar results with a search for green fluorescent protein, a reagent used as a marker in some cell and molecular biology techniques. The Quick Search this time told me that there were too many results and that I should try a more specific search.
Your resource for the Biomedical and Life Science Division of the Special Libraries Association is...

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search. This is good advice; however, it is not clear just how to do a more specific search. There is a box to check off to search for an exact match of your search entry. This works in a situation where one wants an exact phrase. However, trying to narrow down my search by trying green fluorescent protein and neurons did not work. Again, results could have any of my search words or some combination, but relevant articles did not rise to the top. The word and was highlighted along with the other search words found in the abstracts which leads me to think that the search engine is not ignoring stopwords.

Unfortunately, the Advanced search is also problematic. In Advanced Search one can search specific fields like keyword, title, author/editor, abstract, publication date, book series, ISBN, all fields, or full text. One can also choose “expert mode”, a box next to each search box. Search tips are offered off to the side of the page, a good idea that failed to make up for the general non-intuitive nature of the Advanced Search option. For instance, I tried several general searches in the keyword box (at the top of the page) before realizing that keyword is actually a specific field that is being searched. Keywords are assigned to articles, but many articles do not have keywords at all, and so many relevant articles will not be retrieved by this type of search. The boxes for searching all fields and full text, presumably the most popular search options, are at the bottom of the Advanced Search options, whereas ideally they should be at the top. The keyword option, since it is so limited, should be at the bottom.

Even when I followed search tip instructions, my results were not satisfactory. According to the site, a search string will be treated like a Boolean OR with combination of the words receiving a higher rank. However, I did not find that results containing combinations of the words were always ranked higher. One can choose to do a Boolean AND search, though, by choosing expert mode and placing the word and between all words of the search string. One can also search for a phrase by enclosing a search string in quotation marks. So, in fact, the way to do the original searches I wanted would be to go to advanced search, scroll to the bottom of the search options to search all fields, check off the expert mode box, and enter a search string like plant and genetics or “green fluorescent protein”. The search this way for plant and genetics, however, only gave a scant 7 results, and it doesn’t appear to be possible to combine a phrase with the Boolean AND such as I wanted to do with “green fluorescent protein” and neurons. In general, having to go through this many steps to do a simple Boolean AND search of a topic like plant genetics will not serve the general user of this product. The searching feature of this product would be much improved if it followed the model of most search engines that users today are familiar with, including Google and PubMed. A Boolean AND search is the best search option for novice users and should be the default for both Quick and Advanced searching, and the word and should be assumed (not required to be typed by the user) except when quotation marks are added to indicate a phrase. Being able to search different fields in Advanced Search is good, but the top choice should be “all fields”.

A major drawback to some online products is that searching is set up to encompass all of a publisher’s products at once even if only a part of those products are subscribed to, a feature which invariably causes both user and librarian frustration. BioMedProtocols suffers from this drawback in a couple of places. In general, searching is set up to default only to the BioMedProtocols materials. The Quick Search from the home page and the Advanced Search both default in this manner. Unfortunately, another box on the home page for an author lookup searches all of Humana’s online content including journals. Similarly, when search results are returned, there is a tempting link to “related materials”. Again, this also searches all of Humana’s online content rather than remaining only in the BioMedProtocols domain. **Browsing**

Besides the searching option, the site also allows browsing of individual books. There are buttons at the top of the home page to allow a user to browse new books only, or to browse books by subject category. In general, the browsing works well, although the subject
categories do not always make sense. Why is the book *Transgenesis Techniques* listed under “Applied Microbiology”, and why are there separate categories for “Molecular and Cell Biology” and “Molecular Biology”? A link to the alphabetical listing of all included titles would also be nice from this page.

**Price**

The cost of this product is not listed on the site. A glance at the license agreement provided indicates that pricing appears to be FTE-based and based on the number of biomedical and scientific users (staff and students) as well as the number of physical locations included. Libraries will also want to take into account whether they will continue to buy these books in printed form. I could find no indication that a library would own any of the content after discontinuing a subscription, an important consideration in this kind of decision.

**Recommendation**

*BioMedProtocols* has potential to be an excellent and useful product if the search engine and searching features were revamped. Certainly the content is valuable, and having these books online and searchable would be very convenient for biomedical researchers. As the search engine works now, it is difficult to recommend the product because I think that users will be frustrated and unable to be sure they are finding what is available on their topic. They could always browse the content of each book online separately, but that defeats much of the purpose of having these books online and searchable from one portal. Let’s hope that Humana Press will make some of the much needed changes that would improve the product tremendously.

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**IFLA Health and Biosciences Section of the International Congress of Medical Libraries**

Below are the themes for 9ICML in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil next year. We are looking for 210 x 20 minute presentations and Track 10 is an open track for any other subjects that might be usefully contributed. Paper submission will open in April 2004 and be announced as widely as possible – however you are all getting a sneak preview.

**MAIN THEME: Commitment to equity**

**Proposal for ICML9 tracks on 10 subjects (to guide the contributed paper, poster and plenary sessions)**

1) **Health and Medical Library development**
   New tools for old tasks; new tools for new tasks; information sources development; standards for metadata and cataloguing; health information architecture; emerging technologies; information systems management; library buildings; Research as a tool for development in health information practice

2) **Evidence-based health information**
   Evidence-based information to support decision-making in health; evidence based medicine; evidence-based librarianship

3) **Information and Knowledge Management. Learning and knowledge based organizations**
   KM in health; knowledge based health services; information sharing and organizational culture and development; communities of practices; data mining; automatic indexing; knowledge discovery

4) **Policy making**
   Policy making based on scientific and technical information; health scientific and technical information policies; informational inclusion; equitable access; e-government initiatives
5) Scientific Communication & Electronic publishing. Open access, open archives
Full text access and electronic publishing; open archives; open access; online submission; managing quality in e-publishing

6) Health consumers & patients
Citizenship and public accountability; health, scientific and technical information as a public good; digital literacy in health; public health education; patient-led information services

7) Traditional and Alternative Medicine
American Indian health information; the information about herbs, phytotherapy and medicine, herbal; the African traditional health information; the Asian traditional health information; etc

8) Virtual libraries & virtual communities
Virtual health information sources; internet based catalogues; metadata

9) Distance learning
Continuing education programs; education for health consumers and patients; lifelong learning; e-learning portals; interactive experiences

10) Open track

Bruce Madge
Assistant Director - Patient Advice and Liaison Service
National Patient Safety Agency
4-8 Maple Street
London W1T 5HD
United Kingdom
e-mail: bruce.madge@npsa.nhs.uk
website: www.npsa.nhs.uk

From the Desk of the Liaison to the Medical Library Association:

Claudia Lascar reporting:

New SPARC “Create Change” Brochure Available
The Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC) has released the second edition of its "Create: New Systems of Scholarly Communication, Change: Old Systems of Scholarly Communication" brochure. The second edition reflects recent shifts in the scholarly communication landscape and includes up-to-date statistics on book and journal costs and information about open access. Information about these issues, including a link to the Create Change brochure can be found at http://www.createchange.org/. Print copies are also available.


MLA’s teleconference: "Roles and Essential Skills for the Expert Searcher" is scheduled for Wednesday, March 10, 2004, at 1:00 p.m., central time. Go to http://www.mlanet.org/education/telecon/expertsearch/ad.html to learn about the goals and objectives of this new teleconference.

Book Reviews

Charles B. Heiser
Weeds in My Garden: Observations on Some Misunderstood Plants
247 p. $22.95 (Hardcover)
ISBN: 0-88192-562-4

Reviewed by Roger Beckman

This is a book by a distinguished professor of botany at Indiana University who I see most days in my library, and who is the author of many books such as Seed to Civilization: the Story of Food and The Sunflower. He is a born teacher and cannot resist trying to explain more botany to the reader. The “garden” in question is actually an experimental field at Indiana University that faculty and student researchers have used to grow plants since 1948.

Most of the book is devoted to vignettes of 140 plants grouped by family, so relationships of related plants are more obvious. The strongest parts of the book are the histories and etymological derivations of the family, common, specific and generic names. An example is the cocklebur. I learned that cockle is of English origin and is any name for a weed in corn, i.e., a cereal to the English. Following the name section are “time and place,” “description,” and the “virtues”. There are some but not many weeds without virtues, although many are quite noxious. In the cocklebur case, it was used by Native Americans, and prompted George de Mestral to develop Velcro (of course Dr. Heiser gives us a brief etymology of this name). In another section we learn that barnyard grass or dog grass is apparently used medicinally by dogs as an emetic.

Unless the reader is well versed in plant identification, a field identification book would be useful to have as one uses this book, and Dr. Heiser has some suggestions. This book is appropriate for libraries serving colleges and universities as well as the public interesting in knowing more about the names, botany, uses, and ethnobotany of many of our weeds. Although it might be most relevant for those interested in plants of eastern North America, half of the 140 weeds treated may be found throughout North America. There is a list of references and an index.

Youngberg BJ, Hatlie MJ (eds).
The Patient Safety Handbook
Sudbury, Mass: Jones and Bartlett Publishers, 2004
ISBN 0-7637-3147-1

Reviewed by Lorri Zipperer

The Patient Safety Handbook compiles for its readers a range of content encompassing both background and current perspectives on the reduction of medical error, positioning this title as a reference volume that would serve well any basic medical reference collection. It includes essays on core patient safety topics such as medication use, reporting systems, root cause analysis, disclosure and sentinel event investigation. In addition, sections focusing on teamwork, training, health literacy and transformational organizational culture change allow the reader entry to safety issues outside the clinical arena but that are relevant nonetheless.

This volume brings together both established voices from patient safety and new ones with fresh perspectives. The ability of the editors to draw contributions from this varied set of experts builds on their experience in risk management and patient safety. Ms. Youngberg is an attorney and a nurse. She is the editor of The Risk Manager’s Desk Reference 2nd edition (ISBN 0834210169) and other related volumes. Mr. Hatlie is also an attorney. He founded the National Patient Safety Foundation and was its executive director for several years. The interest of the editors on the legal issues involved in safety is represented in several of the essays.
While a good effort, improvements could be made. The Handbook’s usefulness as a reference tool would have been strengthened by the inclusion of a glossary. The case tense and citation format are inconsistent. There is a fair amount of repetition between the entries, which can be a recurring problem with multi-author volumes, can be tiresome. It may have been an editorial decision to leave the text “as is” as submitted to retain the voice of the distinguished authors represented here, but that strategy is not explained in the preface. This unevenness diminishes the polish of the book, but not the value of the content. An unfortunate omission is the lack of discussion of the role librarians and information professionals play supporting learning organizations, evidence sharing, knowledge management and patient-centered information delivery. Lastly, the designation of the volume as a “handbook” is a bit of a misnomer. At 780 densely typeset pages it offers more a textbook-style review of this complex issue rather than the handy referral guide the title implies.

Despite these caveats, the Patient Safety Handbook presents a broad based introduction to the multidisciplinary nature of patient safety and fills a key gap in the tools available for librarians and those they serve who seek to understand it.

Note: the reviewer was an employee of the National Patient Safety Foundation from 1996-2000.

Bernd Heinrich
Winter World: the Ingenuity of Animal Survival
347 p. $24.95 (hardback)
New York: Ecco, c2003
ISBN: 0-06-019744-7

Reviewed by Roger Beckman

This is an intriguing book by a scientist who has written a number of books that combine good science with an appreciation for the wonders of nature. He is a keen observer of nature. Some of his earlier books included Bumblebee Economics (Harvard University Press, 1979) and One Man's Owl (Princeton University Press, 1987).

The theme of this book is how animals cope with the harsh winter world. Heinrich begins with the definitions of hibernation and related terms that have changed over the years as new scientific information became available revealing the many fascinating solutions that have evolved. Chapters cover weasels, squirrels, birds, insects, mice, turtles, bats, etc. The example that Heinrich returns to repeatedly to illustrate his point is the kinglet, a 5.43 gram bird that is able to maintain its body temperature near 43° Celsius although the outside air in Maine is -20° C or -30° C, i.e., a 78° C difference.

One of the stories in this book is how Heinrich found out what golden-crowned kinglets eat in winter. He started by examining the stomach contents of several birds he “harvested” and found that they contained the remains of a geometrid (“inchworm”) caterpillar. Other observers had erroneously speculated that kinglets eat snow fleas. When the Smithsonian Institution’s expert was unable to identify the caterpillars to species Heinrich tried various times over several years before he was able to successfully grow the larvae to adults which are easily identified.

This book is recommended for the general reader as well as readers at the college and university level. Nice line drawings add to better understanding of the text. An index is lacking. There is an extensive list of references.
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**Biomedical & Life Sciences Division Year-End Financial**  
1/1/03 through 12/31/03

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<tr>
<td>TOTAL INCOME</td>
<td>19,972.61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EXPENSES

Meeting Exp:
  Annual Conference  19,240.66
  Winter Meeting  1,984.16
TOTAL Meeting Exp  21,224.82

Miscellaneous E:
  Committees  337.09
TOTAL Miscellaneous E  337.09

Postages & Supply  1,022.16

TOTAL EXPENSES  22,584.07

TOTAL INCOME-EXPENSES  -2,611.46

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS FOR 2003-2004
BIOMEDICAL AND LIFE SCIENCES DIVISION, SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION
(** Indicates needs to be filled or needs more members)

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Natural History Caucus, Steven Johnson
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**John Tebo, ASIST
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Note: Liaisons are 3 yr terms max.
All committees are 2 yr terms with optional renewal for a total of 4 yrs max. To stagger, some members can be appointed for 1-year terms.
The Student Relations Committee should have at least one Student member on it.
Contributed Papers Committee has a 4 yr cycle. (1st yr, 2nd yr, jr, sr)
Archivist, Biofeedback Editor, and BSDNET-L Moderator have no set terms.