Call to Order: 4:05pm

Minutes of 2007 Business Meeting: Accepted by majority

Report from the Chair

The Section has a program for the Vancouver meeting with 37 contributed papers, 3 posters, an informal presentation session, and an open forum Paleobotanical Collections discussion session. Of the contributed papers, 13 are student papers.

A Moment of Silence was held for Serge Mamay and Marcia Winslow

Report from the Secretary

The Paleobotanical Section currently has 294 members (245 regular members, 34 associate members, and 15 honorary members). This represents an increase of 57 (≈20%) members since last year.

However, 25 Regular Members and 21 Associate Members are currently in arrears so that increase may be inflated.

Report from the Treasurer

We currently have the following funds available.

Cash Account: $7,456.46
Allotment Account: $0
Paleo Endowment: $26,645.54
Michael Cichan Award: $16,931.78
Isabel Cookson Award: $19,120.75
Remy & Remy Award: $10,371.53
James M. and Esther N. Schopf Fund: $50,080.00
Becker Fund: $11,100.50

This does not include commitments such as $2000.00 for the field trip and $7500.00 for Student Travel to IOPC2008. And Banquet expenses.

During the past year the Paleobotanical Section was the recipient of an anonymous gift of $50,000 to support a fund is named in honor of Dr. James Morton Schopf and Mrs. Esther Nissen Schopf. This fund is to be used to enhance the collegiality and effectiveness of the annual meeting of the Paleobotanical Section. This could include, but is not limited
to, funding refreshments or other aspects of the Section's annual dinner, Section field trips (such as bus rental, preparation of field guides, etc.), attendance at the annual meeting of specially invited guests, and/or any other costs involved in the Section's annual meeting. These funds are to be distributed by, and at the discretion of, the Secretary-Treasurer of the Paleobotanical Section, Botanical Society of America. This fund is an endowment account, such that the monies to be spent come from the dividends/interest accrued on the account, rather than on the principal in the account.

In addition the Section received a gift of $8937.56 from the estate of Marcia Winslow that will be used to endow an additional award for the section. A Committee has been formed to formalize the details of the award. (See New Business)

The Section will receive an additional $1,300 allotment from the BSA for the Botany 2009 conference in Snowbird.

The Paleobotanical Section Banquet was held on Monday evening, 28 July, 2008.

   The Paleobotanical Auction earned $3066. This years Paleobotany button “Paleobotanists do it with Hard Data” earned $116.

The Section also sponsored a two-day pre-meeting field trip to Eocene fossil localities near Princeton and Cache Creek, British Columbia.

It was suggested that the Section provide coffee during the talks.

Report of the Executive Council Meeting

   The President Elect is Kent Holsinger

   The Program Director is David Spooner

Dr. Sun Ge was elected a Corresponding Member.

   The call for Corresponding Member nominees will go out soon. There is no limit to the number.

BSA has $35,000 in “Special Initiatives” money to promote BSA. Suggestions include:

   CBA and MBA Presidents as Special Guests
   Hiring a Science Writer
   Hiring a Grant Writer
   Student Initiatives
Membership Rates:  
Student Members and Colleagues = $10.00  
Post Docs = $40.00  
Community College (distinct from K-12) = $30.00

AJB Subscription Rates:  
Inst Online = $600.00 (up from $540)  
Prof Members Print = $90 (but the actual cost is more than $200)

Budget:  
Online, but up slightly

By-Law Changes will be mailed soon, but will reflect the fact that we have full time paid employees. The changes will make us legal and therefore eligible to apply for grants.

There was a recommendation to push for awards for entry level Grad Students:

The recommendation is to add awards rather than split the current awards

Symposia are limited to 12 per year: 2 each morning and afternoon each day

Each section gets 1 symposium, subject to evaluation by the Section Program Directors

All symposia are ½ day: normally consisting of six 30 min talks  
However the option remains to have 15 minute talks instead

Report of the Bibliography of North American Paleobotany

Walter Cressler was re-elected Editor for 2009-2011 in absentia.

Publishing the Bibliography on-line was discussed, and it was decided to pursue the idea of going electronic with the option to receive a hard copy

Report on Meetings

1) Recent meetings:  
MPC 2008: Brian Axsmith  
GSA 2007: Denver, Stephan Little

2) Upcoming Meetings:  
IOPC 2008: Gar Rothwell  
GSA 2008: Stephan Little  
MPC 2009: Will be announced soon  
BSA 2010: Providence, RI
Old Business

Electronic Voting for the Section will be adopted using the IOP Model. Gar Rothwell will investigate

New Business

1. The IOPC Student Travel Awards approved at the 2007 Business meeting were awarded by a Committee Chaired by Genaro Hernandez-Castillo along with Alejandra Gandolfo, Gene Mapes, and Steve Manchester. $500.00 was awarded to:


2. The Isabel Cookson Award was announced by Stephan Little and was awarded to Cyrille Prestianni for the talk “Xenotheca and Pseudosorogonites: two Belgian acupulate seeds?”

3. A Committee composed of Pat Gensel, Edie Taylor, and Ruth Stockey proposed the formation of “The Marcia R. Winslow Fund” as follows:

   It is proposed to establish the Marcia R. Winslow Award, administered by the Paleobotanical Section. It will be used to support student travel to the annual BSA meeting. Accrued interest will be used for the awards, and the number of awards will be determined by amount of interest earnings available. Initially awards will be at $500.00, but this should be reviewed every several years. If any earnings from interest remain, it should be applied to the principal of the fund.

   To qualify for the awards, a student must be an active member of the BSA and the Paleobotanical Section, and be presenting a paper. Students should submit a brief proposal, due on the closing date of abstract submission, requesting support, and include a resume. A committee, composed of three Paleobotanical Section members, should be formed to 1) establish further criteria for evaluation, and 2) to review applications and determine the awardee.

   We also propose that this fund be made a line item for future contributions in order to build the capital so that more than one award per year can be made and the amount is meaningful.

   The recommendations of the Committee were approved

4. In addition the Committee recommended:
   A) the Paleobotanical Section should consider, after examination of the terms of the fund (and with Dave Dilcher), how to use the Herman Becker fund, which
currently is not being used. One possibility is for additional support of student travel to meetings.

B) Given that a considerable amount of money exists in the Cookson fund (more than would be spent each year), the Section should examine the terms of the trust and see if it would be possible to either increase the amount or include cost of travel in the award. Also, the Cookson fund box could be removed from the donations section on the membership website, so donations would go towards building other funds.

5. The Michael A. Cichan Award will be announced at the Society Banquet

6. The criteria for Paleobotanical Section of the Botanical Society of America Award for Contributions to Paleobotany were announced by the Secretary/Treasurer as follows:

The criteria for “The Paleobotanical Section of the Botanical Society of America Award for Contributions to Paleobotany” are broad, and can include: contributions to paleobotany, service or outstanding scholarship. The award does not have to be given every year but can be yearly as needed, and that typically two per year be awarded but more could be available in exceptional circumstances. Only members of the Paleobotanical Section are eligible for the award.

Criteria for submission of nominations:

1. A call for submissions will be issued by the Secretary/Treasurer with the September Newsletter.
2. Nominations will consist of an up to one page letter of recommendation.
3. Nominations are due to the Secretary/Treasurer by 1 February of the following year.
4. If more than two nominations are received, a committee will be formed by the Section Chair to decide recipients of the award.
5. The nominee does not need to be present to receive the award, however weight will be given to nominations, if the nominator will be present to read the recommendation at the Business Meeting.
6. The award, that includes a plaque, will be given at the Annual Business Meeting.

7. Genaro Hernandez-Castillo was elected 2008-2009 Paleobotanical Section Chair

8. A suggestion was made to schedule 1.5 hours for the Business Meeting rather than the 1 hour traditionally allotted.

The Meeting was adjourned at 5:20pm

Respectfully Submitted: Michael T. Dunn Paleobotanical Section Secretary/Treasurer