

Highlights of the CBE Board Meetings

The CBE Board of Directors met twice in conjunction with the CBE annual meeting in Montreal. Highlights of the meetings are as follows.

May 21 Meeting

President Pat Huston reviewed the 8 objectives listed in the CBE strategic plan: broaden membership to all sciences (as reflected in the members' vote to change the organization's name to Council of Science Editors), maintain the focus on editors, remain a cohesive organization of diverse members, energize CBE's commitment to serve members and increase opportunities for members' involvement, strengthen CBE's fiscal responsibility, become an authoritative resource for education in scientific communication, develop and promote CBE's products and services more effectively, and report to the membership.

Treasurer Michael Held reported that the budget is on target for 1999.

In the spirit of succession development, the board voted to institute the new position of treasurer-elect on the board of directors; the treasurer-elect would automatically succeed as treasurer. The term of the treasurer-elect would be 2 years and would be concurrent with the term of the treasurer, allowing the treasurer-elect to serve as vice chair of the Finance Committee and as an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors. This will require vote of the membership and, if approved, a bylaw change.

Janice Audin, chair of the Information Management Committee, recommended

phasing out the committee, creating a task force to handle continuing issues, having CBE Headquarters handle database management, and appointing a Web-site editor to serve along the model of the CBE Views editor. The board agreed. A search committee has been formed to identify a CBE Web-site editor.

Barry Davis, chair of the Membership Committee, reported that an overall, detailed assessment and plan for membership marketing that works with the broadened membership agenda are needed. The board will consider the committee's additional recommendations for this plan at its September meeting.

The board commended Diane Scott-Lichter for her work on and development of the new Sponsorship Committee.

President-Elect Tad Parker will chair a Society Name-Change Task Force. Parker reported on the many tasks that need to be addressed by this task force, including legal issues, new logo and trademark, new print materials, new promotional materials, appropriate Web-site URL, and CBE Views redesign. The name change to Council of Science Editors (CSE) will take effect in January 2000.

The board thanked Barbara Meyers and Bob Utiger, who were retiring from the board, for their years of service and leadership. The board thanked Annette Flanagin, who was retiring as secretary, for her work as well.

May 25 Meeting

Michael Held announced that a draft of the final budget for the year 2000 would be sent to the board by 1 September. On Monday, 13 September, at 11 AM EST, there will be a teleconference to discuss the budget.

Annette Flanagin, new chair of the Education Committee, announced that Sally Edwards is gathering information on possibly starting a fourth short course—for Web editors.

Tom Lang, new chair of the Program Committee, announced that Ann Link has agreed to serve as vice chair of the committee.

Leesa Bruce said that the Publications Committee is working on 2 new guidelines: on levels of technical editing and on tips for author's editors and authors. She announced that Miriam Bloom will serve as vice chair of the Publications Committee and will become chair in 2000.

The board agreed on the name change of CBE Views to Science Editor effective January 2000. The old name will be linked ("formerly CBE Views") for some time to ensure continuity. A redesign to become effective in January 2000 is under way.

The board agreed that Blaire Mossman would draft a statement on the comments made about E-biomed during the open forum at the annual meeting and send it to Dr Varmus. [NOTE: Done 3 June.]