

Society of Nematologists
Minutes of the 50th Annual Business Meeting
Corvallis, OR
20 July 2011

Recorded by Richard F. Davis, Secretary

1. **Call to Order:** President Parwinder Grewal called the meeting to order at 3:20 pm.
2. **Appointment of Parliamentarian:** Parwinder Grewal appointed Robin Giblin-Davis to serve as Parliamentarian during the business meeting.
3. **Agenda Approval:** *A motion to approve the agenda was made by John Webster and seconded by Patricia Timper and the motion passed.*
4. **Approval of Minutes of 49th Annual Business Meeting:** *A motion to accept the minutes was made by John Webster and seconded by Billy Crow and the motion passed.*
5. **Recognition of Deceased Members:** Parwinder Grewal informed the Society that the following members had passed away during the last year: Robert P. Esser, Amegda J. Overman, Bert M. Zuckerman, and Vernon Perry. The deceased members were honored by those at the meeting with a moment of silence.
6. **Officer Reports:**
 - a) **President:** Parwinder Grewal – Reported that nematodes had been added back to the NIFA grant program, thanks in part to the leadership of Russ Ingham. We had to hire a new business office to replace Schmitt and Associates. Inga Zasada led the committee to recommend a replacement, and the EB selected Rosewood Business Solutions. The sustainability of JON received a lot of attention.
 - b) **President-elect:** Jim LaMondia –Not present.
 - c) **Vice President:** Brent Sipes – No additions to the written report.
 - d) **Secretary:** Richard Davis – No additions to the written report.
 - e) **Treasurer:** Inga Zasada – The Society remains in good economic standing. There were initial costs of establishing the new website and also with transitioning to the new business office. Last year’s meeting returned about \$45,000 above the cost of the meeting.
 - f) **Past president:** Russ Ingham – No additions to the written report.
 - g) **Editor-in-Chief, JON:** Kris Lambert – JON is two issues behind. JON has about 60 submissions per year, but not all are accepted. Lack of submissions is one problem causing late publication, but the speed of review is another bottleneck.
 - h) **Nematology Newsletter Editor:** Sally Stetina – not present.
 - i) **Public Relations Director: Vacant:** no report.
 - j) **Web Page Editor:** Byron Adams – not present.
7. **N.A. Cobb Nematology Foundation Report:** Patricia Timper. The Cobb Foundation conducted a silent auction to raise money for the Foundation’s various endowments. The Cobb Foundation sponsored 4 student travel awards of \$700 each for this meeting. Interest income

from our investments (certificates of deposit and a money market account) is very low, so donations are really the only way right now to increase our endowment until interest rates increase. Everyone was encouraged to contribute.

8. Standing Committee Reports: Parwinder Grewal asked whether any of the standing committees wanted to add to the written reports that they had submitted prior to the meeting.

- a) **Biological Control:** Andy Nyczepir. They are planning a workshop.
- b) **Ecology:** Mario Tenuta. They want to link field and general ecologists. Review papers may be published from the symposium at this year's meeting. There is an ecology methods manual that they want to update and put on the web. They plan to host a symposium at next year's meeting. Parwinder Grewal announced that papers from the symposia at the Corvallis meeting could be published in JON, and that any symposium speaker could submit a paper based on their symposium presentation and be exempt from page charges for up to 10 pages if their papers were submitted before December 31st, 2011.
- c) **Education:** AgIdea was discussed (online MS degree in Nematology). A concept paper is being produced by Robin Giblin-Davis. They tabled a decision on a potential teaching award, but any such award would be classroom teaching only and not include extension. They conducted the genealogy poster and plan to clean it up and add it to the website.
- d) **Entomophilic Nematology:** They are preparing a workshop, possibly with the Extension Committee, on the use of entomophilic nematodes. They plan to prepare manuscripts from the symposia at this meeting.
- e) **Extension:** Ole Becker. They will participate with the Entomophilic Nematology committee on a symposium. They will work with the Student Committee on a presentation about jobs in extension. They plan to provide a manuscript for Vistas II.
- f) **Finance Advisory:** no verbal report
- g) **Honors and Awards:** They will have presentations at the banquet.
- h) **Industry:** no verbal report. Parwinder Grewal was very complimentary of the work the Industry Committee has done recently. They want to work with other committees.
- i) **Long Range Planning:** no verbal report
- j) **Meeting Site Selection:** Did not meet.
- k) **Membership:** Did not meet
- l) **Plant Resistance:** Judy Thies. They proposed a symposium on tolerance and also a session on synergy between breeders and nematologists. Also, they may make a list of crop varieties with resistance or tolerance.
- m) **Regulatory:** Andrea Skantar. The committee reorganized because so many of their members cannot come to the meetings. They discussed an article for Vistas II, and they proposed a symposium for 2012.
- n) **Systematic Resources:** Met for the first time in several years. Discussed the sustainability of collections and are planning a symposium on the topic.
- o) **Student Committee:** The Student Committee suggested that they would be open to reducing the number of students in the student paper competition by preselecting based on abstracts. The 10 best would be in the competition. The rest would present in the regular sessions. They also are proposing a symposium on jobs in nematology.

Affiliated Organization Representative Reports:

Larry Duncan, the **International Federation of Nematology Societies (IFNS)** liaison, was not present.

Jon Eisenback, **Council on Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST)** representative, reported that CAST is preparing two papers that he [Jon Eisenback] suggested to them. The papers are on 1) the role of pesticides in agriculture and 2) the role of federal funding on agricultural research.

Pete Masler, the **American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS)** representative, was not present.

9. Old Business

- a) Two issues that require changes to the Society's Constitution were discussed: 1) the length of terms of the Executive Board liaisons and 2) moving committees from the Constitution to the Manual of Operations. These require Constitutional changes and we will pursue that this coming year.
- b) Patricia Timper presented an update on plans for the 2012 meeting in Savannah, GA, to be held August 12-16 at the Savannah Marriot Riverfront hotel. Parwinder Grewal announced that the 2013 meeting will be in Cleveland, OH on the lake in July. The 2014 meeting will be the international congress in Cape Town, South Africa. The proposed dates for the Sixth International Congress of Nematology is the 2nd week of May, but several people present suggested that the 3rd or 4th week of May be considered because the 2nd week would interfere with final exams at many U.S. Universities. The registration fee will be \$1,100, but that could change depending on currency exchange rates. The registration fee is intended to include practically every cost of the meeting. Accommodations will be available at a wide range of costs.
- c) Haddish Melakeberhan offered to host the 2015 meeting of SON in Michigan.
- d) **Other old business:** There was no other old business discussed.

10. New Business

a) **JON:** Parwinder Grewal stated that the current system for producing the journal is not sustainable. The number of submissions is still too low even with the page charge holiday. The journal will probably lose money in 2011. Nancy Burelle and a committee led a survey of the membership regarding the journal, and the results show that members want us to keep publishing JON, but that it should go online and stop having page charges. The impact factor of the journal also needs to be improved. Open access should be supported to get the papers available as soon as possible. Parwinder asked those present at the business meeting if the journal should become an online journal with no printed copy. There were two options discussed. ***Eric Luc moved that the Journal of Nematology be published as an online journal only, and the motion was seconded by Virginia Ferris.*** Accessibility and indexing are crucial issues. The details of how we should go online are yet to be decided. Roland Perry suggested that certain taxonomic papers may need to publish hard copies to be acceptable. James Baldwin suggested that this issue be explored by the Systematic Resource Committee. ***John Webster moved that the original motion be amended to be that the Journal of Nematology be published as an online journal with no***

print copy only if the issue regarding taxonomic papers could be resolved to the Society's satisfaction. The motion to amend was seconded by Billy Crow. The vote on John Webster's motion to amend the original motion was passed by a large margin, but not unanimously. The amended motion (Eric Luc's motion revised to include John Webster's amendment) then passed by a large margin, but it was not unanimous.

Several models for an electronic journal are available. The University of Florida (UF) online model has low costs, retains ownership of the journal, and allows open access. Partnering with a publisher may require giving up ownership of the journal (this is uncertain at this time), but it may be the lowest cost to SON. Access would not be completely open if we partner with a publisher. The Society would still handle the review process. To comply with our Constitution, SON members would still have to have complete access and have any fee for that covered by their membership dues, but others would not have access unless they or their institution paid a subscription. The company would run it as a for-profit publication. This option could make it very hard for USDA employees to serve on the editorial board.

The vote for which option to pursue can be held online when we have resolved some the questions. Pro and con editorials can and should be solicited prior to the vote.

b) Reorganizing JON: Parwinder Grewal proposed creating semi-autonomous sections within JON for specific subject groups that may not have traditionally published in JON. Examples might be entomopathogenic nematodes, model systems, marine nematodes, etc. The purpose would be to attract more submission to the journal and to expand the range of topics covered by the journal. Some members supported the concept, but others questioned the need for this stating that eliminating page charges and publishing on time would be more likely to attract papers.

11. Recognition of Service: On behalf of SON, Parwinder Grewal thanked several individuals for their service to the Society during the past year. He thanked Russ Ingham (Past President) for providing guidance, and he thanked the Executive Board, Brent Sipes (Vice President), Inga Zasada (Treasurer), Kris Lambert (the JON Editor-in-chief), and Nancy Burelle (incoming Editor-in-Chief) for helping with the journal. Parwinder also announced that Antoon Ploeg is the new Executive Board member and committee liaison.

12. Installation of New Officers: Current President Parwinder Grewal installed the new officers for the upcoming year. The new officers were Jim LaMondia (in absentia) as President, Brent Sipes as President-Elect, and Jon Eisenback as Vice President. JON Editor-in-Chief will be Nancy Burelle, whose term will begin in January. Billy Crow will serve as Honors and Awards chair.

Terry Niblack moved and Steve Thomas seconded the motion that the 50th anniversary SON Business Meeting adjourn, and the motion passed by acclamation. The meeting was adjourned at 5:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard F. Davis, Secretary