Report for PI-E Section, Entomological Society of America

Publications Council Meeting, Tuesday, November 12, 2013

Presented by William Lamp, University of Maryland

The Publications Council met starting at 1:05 with Bill Lamp as Chair. We first heard from David Gammel, ESA Executive Director, about future plans for ESA journals. An external evaluation concluded that our journals are well-regarded although our impact factors are not high. One recommendation was that we should consider finding a company to host our journals. Seven proposals are under consideration right now, with the plan to accept one proposal early next year. The proposals include hosting our online journals as well as marketing of library subscriptions across the globe. ESA will maintain editorial control, ownership, and copyrights. Little change will be seen by authors. ESA expects such a move should allow ESA to receive more revenue from subscriptions, perhaps resulting in reduced page charges, and increased impact factors. We have the flexibility to continue using Rapid Review. The migration of journals will take about a year.

David also announced that Alan Kahan, Director of Publications, will be retiring in summer, 2014, after a long and distinguished career at ESA. Plans are in place for a replacement before his retirement.

We heard reports from the Editors-in-Chief for all of the editorial boards. Overall the ESA publications remain strong, with submissions either up or steady. For most, the number of citations is up, and the impact factors are improving although remain relatively low. Acceptance rates range from 48-60%. The need for reviewers of submitted articles continues to be a problem, and the Editors point out that many of their email requests are not even answered. If an ESA member publishes in our journals, then they should serve as reviewers.

Under old business, the Editor Code of Conduct was finished and approved. In addition, we discussed if there was a need for changing the manuscript submission format. We determined that no change was currently needed, although minor changes were suggested within Rapid Review to improve the editorial process.

Under new business, we discussed whether the journals should allow Twitter usernames for corresponding authors. Overall, the committee was not enthusiastic about the idea, but we decided that at this time we should honor any request for the inclusion of Twitter usernames by an author as we would an email address. In addition, we discussed the use of ORCID with Rapid Review. Although not required, some individuals may wish to use the system for name identification.

The meeting concluded at 3:45.