

AAS 2018 Business Meeting Minutes: Ypsilanti, Michigan, USA

Date: June 25, 2018

Richard Bradley, President

- **Approval of 2017 Business meeting minutes**

Motion called to approve minutes, AI called, Warren Savary 2nded, all approved.

- **Reports –**

- **Membership:** Brian Patrick - Membership continues to decline (@ 13%). But #s have held pretty steady. # of sponsored memberships has gone up. In Congress years, there tends to be an uptick, particularly when held in NA. Institutional memberships continues to decline (28.6% decrease). But today received two institutional membership requests so he will amend report. Much of this is due to online access for institutions to JoA via subscriptions to BioOne and JStor. No comments or questions from members.
- **Journal of Arachnology:** Deb Smith – Most significantly is that the IF went from 0.66 to 0.98! Had 101 – 104 submissions. Acceptance rate in 2017 was 48% - up from 2016 due to International Congress. Royalty income was significant (see report) from BioOne and from JStor. So although individual subscriptions/memberships down, we make up for this via these royalties. BioOne income was down a bit 2017 from 2016; perhaps due to users in Brazil dropping off dramatically. We are up 50 pp from 2017. Cost per page has gone up a bit (expenses have gone up a bit). No comments/questions from audience.
- **Future Meeting Sites:** Greta Binford – 2019 is a Congress year in NZ in Feb; 2019 summer is Washington and Lee; 2021 is Jason Bond at UC Davis. Greta called for volunteer for 2022.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Karen Cangialosi – Revenue has been pretty steady at about \$162,000 (approx.). Membership has been declining. 2017 was the lowest income we have had for recent years. But is still fairly steady. Have received about \$10 from the Schlinger Foundation as a final donation towards travel grants (and other uses). Get a lot of income from BioOne and JStor (about \$40K total). The *Spiders of NA: an identification manual*– sales have been coming in steadily. We did spend \$62K putting out the 2nd edition. \$77K is from our Schwab investment account and represents about 40% of our total assets. No questions from audience.
- **Director's Report:** Eileen Hebets – Committee developed a rubric for decisions. 6 of 8 applicants received funding. Students in audience who received travel grants were asked to stand and be recognized to applause. Also announced about elections. Asked Nadia Ayoub and Chris Brown to be recognized for agreeing to run as new Director on the ballot. Acknowledged committee members. Asked for questions. None. See report for other details.
- **Student Research and Travel Grant Reports:** Andy Roberts – Changed approach to research grants committee to divide into two subcommittees in order to accommodate the increased # of applications. Acknowledged the members of the two subcommittees and asked for rounds of applause. Had 32 submissions and an increased budget from \$5K to \$15K for expenditures. Spent out all but \$100 of the \$15K for awards this year. Had 22 submissions to Arachnological Research Fund and 10 to Vince Roth Fund. See report for other details. Rich acknowledge the work of the student research grant committee for all their hard work.

- **Herb Levi Memorial Fund for Arachnological Research (HMFAR) Report:** Petra Sierwald – This fund is only in its 3rd year. Committee was recognized. In 2017 there were 7 applications and funded three. They only have \$5K to allocate. In 2018, there were only three applications and all were provided funding. Applications are either postdocs or early career faculty. Nearly all applications ask for \$2000. Reduce grant allocations so can provide at least some support for all applicants. May want to provide more info later about funding.
- **SNAIM Report:** Paula Cushing – the 2nd edition was published in 2017. We printed 2000 copies and have sold (or distributed) about 780 copies thus far. AAS is selling the 2nd edition at a greatly reduced rate of \$50 to members. It otherwise retails for \$95 but can be purchased via online dealers (e.g., amazon.com) for about \$65 so AAS is still providing a true discount to members for this edition. Minor corrections will be implemented once the first print run is out and the book goes into 2nd printing. There are still plans to produce an e-version but that will require quite a lot of work on the part of the editors so it has been tabled temporarily.
- **PR report:** Paula Cushing – three PRs based on JoA articles in 2017 and 2018 (thus far): Summer is the Time for Love: Ménage à Trois in Spiders (Aug 2017); Subterranean Spider Engineers: Sand Castles Underground (Dec 2017); Daddy Longlegs Battle for Territory (Apr 2018). Of these, Matt Person’s article got good press but it received press coverage when the article was accepted (prior to publication) so my PR did not generate much renewed interest. Subterranean spider engineers got good coverage in sciencemag.org, nature.com, and livescience.com. The 2018 PR on daddy longlegs got a bite from one news source but they did not follow up. I opted to forego a PR for the 2nd issue in 2018 since Deb Smith and I felt there were no articles that might be of general enough interest.
- **Election results:** Paula Cushing – Nadia Ayoub and Chris Brown agreed to run for Director; Nadia Ayoub won. Merging Constitution and Officers Duties document: membership voted for this ballot issue. Having Secretary instead of Committee Chair of Election Committee tally election results: membership voted for this ballot issue. Reinstating two issues of society newsletter, *American Arachnology*: membership voted for this ballot issue. Remove webmaster as voting member of Executive Committee: membership voted for this ballot issue. Waive registration fee for Executive Committee members to attend annual meeting (cost to be covered by society, not host): membership voted for this ballot issue. Paula pointed out that this year more members participated in AAS election than we have ever had: 168 out of 403 members submitted ballots. Paula acknowledged Rich Bradley for instituting the new online ElectionBuddy voting system and for all the other work he has done as president. Rich received an ovation.
- **New Business – Richard Bradley**
 - Website Update: Jan Weaver plans to step down. Rich has formed committee to investigate how to proceed in creating renovated website.
 - Notification of Privacy Policy Issue (European rules changes): Rich mentioned about new European Society. He will explore what (if anything) this means for AAS.
 - Schlinger Travel Grants Update: Recent \$10K donation is the last donation from this fund. When this money is spent out, there will be no more donations made from Schlinger Foundation for travel grants or other support.

- Membership Survey: Brian Patrick is working on membership survey to explore various membership issues (why people do or do to renew membership).
- Use of newly revised *American Arachnology* Society newsletter as venue for society updates: If you have items, please send them to Secretary.
- Membership/Journal Access via calendar year from now on and password will be distributed to members in January.

Other New Business from the Floor:

Reminder to bring money and check books for auction items at Banquet.

Rich Bradley acknowledged meeting hosts and they received standing ovation.