

**2015 AAS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
AGENDA & MEETING NOTES WITH ACTION ITEMS
SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2015
DAKOTA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY, MITCHELL, SOUTH
DAKOTA**

Members Present: Marshal Hedin, Paula Cushing, Brent Opell, Bob Suter, Rick Vetter, Charles Griswold, Jon Coddington, Mike Draney, Jan Weaver

Regrets: Karen Cangialosi, Jeff Shultz, Alex Sweger, Al Cady, Lenny Vincent

1. Approval of minutes from 2014 Executive Committee Meeting-

Charles Griswold

--minutes were approved

2. Reports:

- Membership –Jeff Shultz: *Paula presented in proxy*
- Treasurer – Karen Cangialosi (presented by Cushing): *Paula presented in proxy. Finances are healthy. We are getting interest from Schwab investment acct. We have begun to pay out for SNAIM revision.*
- JOA – Bob Suter: *Bob presented his report. We are up in # of submissions – ahead of last year this time. The submission-publication time has been reduced; however this is a limit to reducing it even further since there are only 3 issues so late submissions will be delayed until the next year. Impact Factor just came out. 2014 IF is down from last year to 0.62 (same kind of variability that we've seen in the past). Cost of publication and direct costs now being covered completely by JStor & BioOne Royalties.*
- Future meeting sites – Marshal Hedin: *2016 Golden; 2017 Yucatan Mexico; 2018 Eastern Michigan; 2019 possibly UC Davis or Auburn University.*
- Spiders of North America: an Identification Manual – Paula Cushing: *SNAIM is being fully revised. The EC felt that the phylogeny chapter should be sent out for external review. SNAIM revision expected to be completed by Jan 2016.*
- Common Spiders of North America – Rich Bradley: *Paula lost his report. [Report subsequently found and read by Rich at Business meeting: As of 27 May 2015 total sales at 3,341 copies plus 296 e-books including 692 paper and 154 e-books this fiscal year. Sales have slowed slightly for the hard copy and increased slightly for the e-book.]*
- Travel Grant Committee – Rick Vetter: *Two people applied; we funded both.*
- Student Research Grant Committee –Deb Smith (presented by Cushing)

- Schlinger Fund update – Lenny Vincent: *Schlinger gave another \$2K to AAS last year. Lenny felt that they can procure another 3K this year to add to emeriti travel fund.*
- Archivist Report – Lenny Vincent: *Had few inches of material that has been sent to him. Barbara Roth has more material (mostly Vince Roth's) that will eventually be going into AAS Archives (which are held by Smithsonian Archives).*
- Website update – Jan Weaver: *Need clarity on whether or not we will retain Jan as webmaster. Thinks we should have page for each annual meeting.*
- Grad Student Representative report – Alex Sweger: *No report.*
- Election Results – Paula Cushing: *Rich Bradley is new President Elect, Andy Roberts is new Director, Karen Cangialosi stays as treasurer. Very close results.*

3. **Old Business:**

- Research support for non-US American members – Rick Vetter: 0 requests from non-US American members. Last year we had 4 applicants. May be because of venue.
- Press Relations Officer – Paula Cushing: *Presented. Press releases have gone out highlighting a single article from each JoA since Press Officer position initiated. One PR received great press coverage.*
- Updates to Student Presentation Award documents – Jan Weaver: *This form has been updated. Jon pointed out a typo that Jan will correct. Paula will check on pagination.*

4. **New Business:** *Proposal made to go to committee as a whole*

- Deb Smith requests reviewers for student research grants: *Deb is willing to stay as chair person for the grant process if a panel of ad hoc reviewers can be formed to help review proposals. EC unanimously thanks Deb for her service and would appreciate a continuation of this service. EC recommends that Deb, Al, and Bruce reach out to a panel of ad hoc reviewers to help with the process.*
- Change deadline for Student Research grants as per Smith's recommendation from January 15th to end of December so that the deadline coincides with mid-terms: *EC recommends changing deadline to Feb 15th. And further suggests that her committee of three (Al Cady, Bruce Cutler & Deb Smith) develop standardized guidelines that can be provided to ad hoc reviewers. EC suggests that guidelines be streamlined and that required grant proposal length be significantly reduced.*

Motion made to approve the above regarding AAS Research Grants. Motion made by Paula Cushing. Motion approved by EC.

- Being more selective regarding meeting venues and Decrease in membership – what to do? Maybe change guidelines for JoA papers?

Paula passed along email discussion regarding reduction in membership and the list of things that might be causing a reduction in membership as expressed by Jeff Shultz. Two of these items had to do with Journal items. Maybe one of reasons is that we had some minor venues for meetings. Another was that editors may be being too strict about letting in small taxonomic papers into JoA and disgruntleness regarding certain Editorial Board members. Bob pointed out that the 10% reduction in membership actually just reflects steady reduction in membership rather than a sudden change and the pattern has existed since 2008. So we should look at what has happened over a longer period of time. Paula pointed out that the EC last year approved providing hosts with up to \$2000 grant to support and improve the quality of the annual meeting. The EC did not feel that the society should dictate or request certain people to serve as meeting hosts simply because of where they are located.

Jon asked if we should consider modernizing how we provide arachnological research to arachnologists. Jon suggested a paywall site and all arachnological literature would be tagged as a way to offer the world a highly curated guide to arachnid research. A curated intelligent guide to what's current in arachnology (not just in JoA).

Jon asked why we can't change JoA to be a continually published model. Bob said that Allen Press was asked this question & said that this would be a messy situation for the press and for institutional subscribers.

Rick & Marshal suggested sending questionnaire out to former members and/or to all membership regarding either why they left or what they want the society to provide.

Jan mentioned that the new generation is not a generation of joiners so drop in membership may simply be a reflection of that trend.

Bob is not convinced we have a crisis in membership. The idea of sending an open-ended survey that asks membership what they like or get out of membership seems to be less useful than a proposal that we are thinking of doing for membership.

Jan asked whether rate of people leaving is increasing or that rate of people joining is decreasing?

- *Increase amount for student research grants – up to \$1,000 per grant?: Paula proposed increasing amount of funding. Bob and Charles suggested higher amount per award. Jon suggested that combination of research and travel award grant pool be set at \$10,000. The EC suggested that we cap the per research student award at \$1,000 per award. EC would like to*

know from our treasurer what is the maximum amount we can afford to spend out for grants, membership support, etc.

- Proposal to initiate AAS Small Research Grant program for AAS members with need – Paula Cushing proposal. Amount per grant? \$2,000?: *Paula read proposal. Charles opened to questions. Mike Draney suggested adding question about whether they are Assistant, Associate, Full Professor, or other. Brent suggested that we ask about # credit hours you teach each year? EC requested that we ask Treasurer for a bottom line amount that we can afford to expend each year. Jon suggested instead of asking about credit hours ask about non-teaching hours invested. Charles thought that was a slippery slope. Brent agreed. Paula agreed.*

The EC authorized Paula to distribute survey gauging research fund needs of membership and to share results of survey to EC.

Jon proposed that President will contact treasurer and will ask for fiscal scenarios for expenditures. What can the Society afford to spend out each year to support membership via various grants: travel, student research, newly proposed research grant, and any other kinds of support.

- Selection committee needed for student, emeritus, and researchers-in-need travel grants to 2016 ICA meeting. *Mike and Rick will find committee to help evaluate travel grant award requests.*
- Student paper award – 1B – Marshal requested that we create an online form for student to fill out and to attach the CV. *The new Pres Elect can work with Jan to make that happen.*
- Discussion about website: *we will maintain status until ISA launches their new website.*

5. Agenda items for Business meeting

- Approval of 2014 Business meeting minutes
- Reports – Membership, Treasurer, JOA - given by various officers
- Future meeting sites – Hedin
- Election results – Cushing
- Deaths – Griswold: *Herb and Lorna Levi, Ev Schlinger*
- Field Guide update – Bradley
- SNAIM update -- Cushing
- Other Old Business items?
- New Business from EC meeting
- Business from the Floor
- Adjourn

ACTION ITEMS – Please act on these items before January 2016

- **Paula:** Update Student Paper Award forms. [Done as of 26 June 2015. Sent to Jan Weaver.]
- **Paula:** Create online form for students participating in student awards to fill out to replace requirement for President Elect to contact student participants to gauge status. [Done as of 26 June. Sent to Jan Weaver.]
- **Deb Smith:** Change deadline for Research Award grant program, change committee make-up, increase award amounts (up to \$1000) all as per “New Business” above.
- **Charles Griswold:** President will contact treasurer and will ask for fiscal scenarios for expenditures. What can the Society afford to spend out each year to support membership via various grants: travel, student research, newly proposed research grant, and any other kinds of support.
- **Paula:** Draft and distribute survey to gauge research fund (new proposal) needs of membership – particularly faculty at non-research focused institutions.
- **Mike Draney & Rick Vetter:** Find committee members to help evaluate travel grant award requests for upcoming 2016 ICA meeting – requests will come in from students, emeriti, and from researchers from developing countries with little travel support from home institutions.