

MINUTES OF THE HL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
26 MAY 2004
NCED MARRIOTT CONFERENCE CENTER
NORMAN, OKLAHOMA

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Bauer, Cooper, de Sa, Dodd, Fitzgerald, Ford, Given, Jaeger, Kearney, Lannoo, Mathis, Mitchell, Mushinsky, Phillips, Smith (Lora)
COMMITTEE CHAIRS IN ATTENDANCE: McDiarmid, Sheil
GUESTS: Craig Hassapakis, James O'Malley, Dawn Wilson
REGRETS: Beachy, Lannoo, Smith (Brian), Walls

President Mushinsky called the meeting to order at 1400 h.

Minutes of the 2003 Board of Trustees and Business meetings in Manaus, Brazil were approved unanimously.

Reports

President Mushinsky presented future meeting venues. Future meetings have been planned for 2005 (Tampa, FL, 6-11 July), 2006 (New Orleans, July), 2007 (Cornell University), and 2008 (Montreal). An invitation to participate in joint meetings in Vancouver, British Columbia in 2009 was approved unanimously. After 2009, there will be consideration of making decisions for future venues that meet in regions that have not recently been used, such as Southwestern US. Additionally, Mushinsky continues to seek an agreement among the three societies to share equally in all aspects of the meetings. Aaron Bauer announced that the 5th World Congress of Herpetology would occur in South Africa in June 2005.

The following reports were approved unanimously: President's, Past President's, Secretary's, Publication Secretary's, *Herpetologica* Editor's, *Herpetological Monographs* Editor's, HL Newsletter Editor's, Symposium Committee Chair's, HL Robert G. Jaeger Award for Graduate Research Committee Chair's, Herpetological Checklist Committee Chair's, Graduate Studies Committee Chair's, By-Laws Revision Committee Chair's, and BioOne Representative's. There were no written reports from Special Publications or Conservation. The AIBS Representative's report was combined with the BioOne Representative's report. The Treasurer's report was distributed at the meeting and is discussed below. Additional business related to these reports is presented below.

President's Report. A long range planning committee was formed consisting of Jaeger, Mushinsky, Phillips, Mathis and Smith (Lora).

Past President's Report. Past President Dodd commented that some of the resolutions passed in Manaus may have caused more harm than good. It is important that in the future both facts and language of resolutions get checked carefully with those directly affected. Dodd recommended reconstituting a resolutions committee.

Treasurer's Report. The annual report was incomplete due to some unresolved questions arising from the complexities of the transition to a new treasurer in the middle of a fiscal year. However, we started the 2003/2004 fiscal year with \$223,558 and ended at \$229,822. The report and proposed budget for 2004-2005 was approved pending modifications that will be distributed when complete. A finance committee will be established that will help the Treasurer make decisions such as how best to invest endowment funds.

Secretary's Report. There was general agreement that the Secretary, before annual meetings, should continue to mail hard copies of reports rather than using email. The monetary savings are negligible.

Publications Secretary's Report. Our ability to store back issues at Phillip's institution is going to end immediately. Assorted efforts to dispose of back issues (via special sales at meetings, Ebay, etc.) have had minimal impact on the total inventory. Additionally, the cost of storage and insurance of volumes since #41 at Allen Press has increased substantially. Phillips will investigate why this increase has occurred and suggest possible action. Also, Phillips and a number of trustees concurred that we should further cut the number of copies printed above the number of paid subscriptions. Phillips recommended that his functions should ultimately be transferred over to the Treasurer/HL Business Office. Joining JSTOR will virtually eliminate the need to keep back issues. The Board of Trustees unanimously recommended that the Publications Secretary remove inventory in any way that he sees fit. The Chicago Herpetology Society may be willing to accept a donation of this inventory.

Herpetologica Editor's Report. There is a need to replace Steve Tilley and appoint a new associate editor in the area of ecology. Mushinsky will send a letter to Steve Tilley thanking him for his many years of dedicated service. Mushinsky also announced that he would appoint an editorial board by the end of June 2004. Dean Adams accepted an invitation to serve as Associate Editor of Ecology.

Herpetological Monographs Editor's Report. Fitzgerald raised question about whether *Herpetological Monographs* needs an index, given that there is only one issue per year. There was general agreement to continue doing this as long as the current index editor is willing and to revisit the question when he retires.

Symposium Committee Chair's Report. Members voted unanimously to support and provide full funding of the proposal "Introduced Amphibians and Reptiles: Reaching Beyond Case Studies." Members voted unanimously to not support in name only the following two proposals: 1) "Ecology of Amphibian Larvae: Model Systems for Studies of Community Ecology and Conservation Biology" and 2) "Conservation Needs of Florida Turtles".

Checklist Committee Report. Darrel Frost is close to completing *Amphibian Species of the World*. The Board of Trustees was presented with two questions. The first was: What role does the HL want to have relative to production of the second edition? The

Board of Trustees moved unanimously to make a commitment, in principle, to support and underwrite the cost of the project. The second was: What role does HL want to have in distribution and future sales? There was a general sense that the business model used for the snake volume (hiring a fulfillment agency to handle storage and distribution) is satisfactory. McDiarmid will return to the board when he has an agreement on paper and will then request formal approval.

By-Laws Committee Report. There was general agreement that by-laws should continue to state that membership shall not be a prerequisite for publication, especially given that non-members must pay page charges. In Article IV, Section 3, there was a friendly amendment to change the deadline for mailing ballots to September 1 and the deadline for votes to 31 October. The current price of a life membership, \$1500, was reaffirmed. The by-law revisions were approved unanimously.

Jim O'Malley from Allen Press visited to speak and listen to discussion about the future of journal publications. He distributed a handout titled "Price per page surveyed specialized zoology and marine biology journals" that demonstrated that at a cost per page basis, *Herpetologica* and *Herpetological Monographs* are inexpensive compared with other journals (\$.17 per page compared to a range of \$0.06 to \$3.91 per page for the journals on the list). He suggested that if *Herpetological Monographs* was considered a 5th issue of *Herpetologica*, we could save substantially on postage. This will be explored with Allen Press. He also distributed spreadsheets showing financial projections of publishing hard copy journals versus producing the journals online. This session was informational. There was a discussion about decisions related to this that the HL will need to make in the near future. Could our journals live on without the Herpetologists' League by merging with other societies?

New Business

JSTOR. The invitation to participate in JSTOR was accepted unanimously.

BioOne Individual Online Access Program. Information about this program was in the packet distributed before the meeting. No decision needs to be made at this time.

Replacement of Roger Conant as Honorary Member. Recommendations for nominees will be requested at the 2004 Business Meeting. Over the year, short backgrounds on each nominee will be researched so that Board of Trustees can make informed decisions regarding nominations.

Mailing List. Members unanimously approved to sell our mailing list to John Lloyd from Taylor & Francis, academic publishers, for a one-time promotional mailing for their journal, *Systematic Biology*.

The board meeting was adjourned at 16:50 h.

Respectfully submitted,
Mac F. Given

