

MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETING
OF THE HERPETOLOGISTS' LEAGUE

Marriott Tampa Waterside Hotel and Marina
Tampa, Florida
8 July 2005

President Mushinsky called the meeting to order at 1800 h. He gave a brief overview of future meeting venues and acknowledged the Distinguished Herpetologist plenary presented by Roy McDiarmid.

Vice President Jaeger led a discussion focusing on getting more graduate student involvement via inclusion in important society affairs. He used as an example the American Phytopathological Society where graduate students organize, working with the board of the organization, a symposium for each annual meeting. He argued that one benefit would be providing opportunities for graduate students to network among themselves and established herpetologists. Others identified reasons why graduate students choose to join particular professional societies: monetary awards for research and travel, perception of journal quality and breadth (noting that HL publications have a higher impact factor than other herpetology journals), and coercion from thesis advisors.

Treasurer Lora Smith reported that the HL is in good financial shape, having started the year with \$246,000 and ended with \$269,000. There was a 5.6% decrease in domestic membership but this loss was offset by increased revenues from BioOne.

The HL Newsletter is defunct and will most probably be replaced with information posted electronically. A professional web designer who is a turtle enthusiast may be willing to upgrade the web page.

HL in 2006 will sponsor a symposium titled "A Celebration of the Life of Joe Slowinski" that will be chaired by Carol Spenser (Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California Berkeley).

New Business

Alliance Communication Group Proposal. The HL Board of Trustees is now actively considering a joint publishing arrangement with the Alliance Communications Group of Allen Press to produce *Herpetologica* and *Herpetological Monographs*. Robert Jaeger is chairing the committee to make a recommendation to the full Board.

Announcements from the Meeting Management Committee. HL BOT voted to accept motions to 1) limit total number of oral presentations to 700; 2) modify the deadline and process by which symposia are supported; 3) institute a process for organizing workshops. The HL is continuing to explore cost sharing arrangements with ASIH and SSAR for joint meetings.

2005 Election of HL Officers. Nominations for the 2005 election were presented to the floor. Nominees for President are David Cannatella, Brian Crother, Linda Ford and David Sever. Nominees for Executive Council are Dean Adams, Reid Harris, Fred Janzen, Lee Kats, Karen Lips, and Joseph Pechmann. The nominee for Secretary is Patrick Owen and for Publications Secretary is Steve Mullin. There were no additional nominations from the floor and the nominations were approved unanimously.

The Board of Trustees forwarded the recommendation that either Jim Dixon or Ernest Liner be elected an honorary member of the Herpetologists' League. There were no additional nominations from the floor. At the close of nominations, paper ballots were distributed. James R. Dixon has been elected an honorary member of the HL.

Christopher Sheil reported for the Jaeger Award Committee. This year's judges were Carl Anthony, Christopher Beachy, and Christopher Sheil. There were three participants in this year's competition who were all identified as finalists: Margaret S. Gunzburger (USGS, Florida Integrated Science Center), Nathan Windel (Southwest Missouri State University), and Jayme Waldron (Clemson University). All were treated to dinner and will each receive a \$200 travel grant. The winner, Nathan Windel, will receive all available back issues of *Herpetologica*, an additional \$300, and an invitation to submit an expanded full-length manuscript to *Herpetologica/Herpetological Monographs* (which will be subject to normal review) as a lead article identifying the author as winner of the Award.

The meeting was adjourned at 1840 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Mac F. Given, Secretary