

Minutes of the Business Meeting of the Herpetologists' League

10 August 2012

University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada

Spotila called the meeting to order at 18:08.

Announcements:

Judit Voros announced that the next European Congress of Herpetology will be held in Veszprém, Hungary from 22-27 August 2013.

Meetings Management and Planning Committee Representative's Report (Mahoney)

Future meetings include Albuquerque in 2013 and Chattanooga in 2014. The Chattanooga meeting will be the first JMIH to be shortened to four days. In 2015, SSAR will be meeting separately, and the rest of the JMIH societies (including HL) will meet in Reno.

President's Report (Trauth)

Trauth thanked Heatwole for his service as President, and he congratulated Spotila who is the Vice President/President Elect.

Trauth noted that there is a current downward trend in membership but an increase in society revenue. One possible idea for encouraging new membership is granting certificates of membership that would have the HL logo and be signed by the officers. Older, retiring members do not seem to be retaining their memberships, especially if they are not continuing to be active in research.

Long Range Planning/Membership Committee Report (Spotila)

Spotila suggested that HL can do more in the area of conservation which is especially attractive to young herpetologists. HL will also modernize communication by increasing the use of services such as Facebook and Twitter. Forming a relationship with *Herpetological Conservation and Biology* could increase membership. Any interested volunteers for helping with the work of the LRP/Membership Committee should contact Spotila.

Trauth indicated that HL's journals will all eventually be online. The LRP/Membership Committee will look at the implications of HL going completely online, how it will affect membership, and what HL would be like as a society. Spotila noted that there will continue to be more electronic ways to make journal information accessible.

Mahoney added that the membership money coming in is put toward the journals, much like a print on demand model. Most current members still want the paper journal. Online members pay somewhat less compared to print journal members. Spotila suggested that money not put towards printing on paper could be used for student awards and travel. Savitzky noted that costs are high due to archival quality printing. Costs would be reduced with print on demand that is not archival quality. The membership model could shift toward members only choosing to print certain articles that fit their profile. This would also reduce print costs.

Treasurer's Report (Mahoney)

Roughly fifty percent of HL's income is due to membership, and the other half is due to royalties. This past year HL's income was greater than its expenses. The cost of this year's meeting (and last year's) were high. The WCH is not covered under the JMIIH cost-sharing agreement, so meeting rooms constitute larger expenses than normal. HL's royalty income should continue to be consistent with past years.

Secretary's Report (Owen)

Owen requested that suggestions about how future electronic elections are conducted be directed to himself or to Breck Bartholomew.

Publication Secretary's Report (Mullin)

Mullin encouraged members to pre-order 2013 calendars at the meeting. Back issues of the journals are being purged, and the costs of storing them have been greatly reduced. A Spanish language mirror site may soon be created for HL. The HerpList discussion forum is underused and could use more message traffic. Mullin encouraged members to submit announcements for grants, specimen loans, research assistant needs, etc.

***Herpetologica/Herpetological Monographs* report (Moon)**

Herpetologica is still on schedule, and the submission rate has doubled. HL will use all available pages in the publishing contract. Impact factor is one of the highest of herpetology journals in the world. Submissions are 60% non-North American. Brazil is 2nd highest submitter next to U.S. The overall rejection rate is about 41%. Authors may now choose to publish pre-prints online.

The *Herpetological Monographs* impact factor has increased considerably this year. Michael Harvey became editor this year, replacing Reeder. The journal is now back on schedule, and there should be no delays in publishing articles.

Allen Press Publishing Report (Moon)

The AP contract has been very effective for HL's journals, and the current contract has been renewed for three years. AP has copy editors that help increase quality of manuscripts published and help with second language abstracts. Moon recommended maintaining a publishing relationship in the future, not just a printing relationship.

Archives Committee Report (Owen/Mullin)

HL archival materials should be sent to the Smithsonian where they will be catalogued by Ginger Yowell. Mullin noted that unsold copies of *Snakes of the World* (Vol. 1) will be transferred to the Publications Secretary, to the Smithsonian, or to Allen Press. Vol. 1 may become more desirable given the pending publication of Vols. 2 and 3.

Symposium Committee Report (Owen/Mullin)

Funding was approved for a symposium for the 2013 Albuquerque meeting: "Detectability and studying rare species: when cryptic natural histories defy both conventional and progressive statistics," organized by Andrew M. Durso and Richard A. Seigel.

Graduate Research Award Committee Report (Mahoney/Mullin)

For the 2011 competition, four awards were given out of a possible 5 (these had been previously announced at the 2011 JMIH banquet):

First place: Denita M. Weeks, California State University, Northridge (coauthor: Robert E. Espinoza) "When warmer isn't better: subzero thermal tolerances and performance eurythermy for the world's southernmost gecko"

First runner up: Steven Whitfield, Florida International University (coauthors: Kelsey Reider, Jacob Kerby, Lydia Gentry, Sasha Greenspan, Sonia Ghose, and Maureen Donnelly) "Pattern and process in amphibian and reptile declines at La Selva Biological Station, Costa Rica"

Second runner up: Robert Denton, Eastern Kentucky University (coauthor: Stephen Richter) "A comparison of amphibian communities between natural ponds and constructed ponds of multiple ages and construction types"

Third runner up: Rory Telemeco, Iowa State University (coauthors: Karen Abbott and Fredric Janzen) "Modelling the effects of climate change induced shifts in nesting date on sex ratios in species with temperature-dependent sex determination: a case study using Painted Turtles (*Chrysemys picta*)"

Espinoza is being asked to commit a full day and a half to the award process given the increasing number of applicants (there were 22 competitors this year compared to 11 last year). Espinoza will probably request restructuring the process.

Williams Award Committee Report (Owen)

Seventy-seven proposals were submitted this year. The winners of the 2012 Williams Award were:

Last name	First name	Category	Title
Wehrle		Behavior	Testing the role of sociality in transferring digestive microbes in hatchling Green Iguanas (<i>Iguana iguana</i>)
Ferreira	Rodrigo	Conservation	Investigating causes of bromeliad-dwelling frog declines in Brazil's Atlantic rainforest
Warner	Jason	Ecology	Cold-Hardiness of Liolaemid Lizards Living along an Elevation Gradient
Cohen	Kristina	Morphology/systematics	Mechanisms of environmentally cued hatching in anurans
Literman	Robert	Physiology	Using Next-Generation Sequencing to Explore the Molecular Mechanisms Underlying Temperature-Dependent Sex Determination: How do Embryos Sense Temperature?

Jones-Lovich Grant Committee Report (Rob Lovich)

The 2012 Jones-Lovich Grant in Southwestern Herpetology was given to Juli Goldenberg (San Diego State University) for her project: "Phylogenetic Inference and Species Delimitations within the Western Rattlesnake (*Crotalus viridis*) species complex using multilocus data". The award was for \$1000, and this is the second year that the award was given. There were 17 applications this year compared to 4 last year. More students from Mexico were encouraged to apply.

Conservation Committee Report (Kim Lovich)

The committee will be contacting Mullin regularly for email blasts, and it will be collaborating more with the Graduate Studies Committee. The Conservation Committee is examining strategies for decreasing the reaction time when there are legislative items and other issues that require input from the committee. The Conservation Committee would like to expedite the internal communication process by directly contacting the President for executive decisions on issues with later consultation from the Board of Trustees if necessary.

BioONE/AIBS Representative's Report (Savitzky)

BioONE makes HL's journals available country-wide to Brazil, and they are provided free to the lowest 25% GDP countries in world.

Herpetological Education Committee Report (Mullin)

Mike Dorcas was awarded the Meritorious Award In Teaching. The committee has continued to promote various outreach efforts. Henry Kaiser [correct??] has agreed to chair committee for next few years.

Graduate Studies Committee Report (Mullin)

Mullin encouraged everyone to purchase a calendar. Lori is looking for new co-chair for the committee.

Past President's Report (Heatwole)

There is continued cooperation between the JMIH societies. JMIH Long Range Planning Committee has been set up with Henry Mushinsky as HL's representative. Heatwole thanked Mushinsky for all of his work over past decade on this.

New Business

A point of view endorsement was solicited by Hinrich Kaiser. Heatwole noted that several Australian enthusiasts are proliferating nomenclature in an unprofessional way, publishing species descriptions that do not meet professional standards. The authors of this point of view would like HL's endorsement, and this has been tabled until the Board of Trustees can examine the final version.

HL has voted to support the National Center for Science Education (NCSE) for one year at \$500.

HL has voted to support the IUCN for one year at \$700.

HL has been asked to support putting 50+ species under Endangered Species Act protection. Dodd is not optimistic that this petition will induce the Fish and Wildlife Service to act. However, while most of these species will probably not get listed, the petition may be enough to encourage the agency to provide funding for conservation study. Kim Lovich noted that Conservation Committee has examined the petition, and it will continue to communicate its status to HL.

Trauth adjourned the meeting at 19:14.