

Minutes of the Business Meeting of the Herpetologists' League

14 July 2017

Renaissance Austin Hotel, Austin, Texas, USA

David Green called the meeting to order at 18:01 CT.

Green banged the gavel for last time, will transfer gavel to Dave Sever (President elect) at end of meeting.

1. Announcements:

HL Secretary

John Herman diagnosed with cancer and subsequently submitted resignation. Ann Patterson served as Interim Secretary until replacement was found. Renata Platenberg has been appointed as acting Secretary and will stand for election this year.

2. Change to structure of Board: Replacement of "Publications Secretary" with "Communications Secretary"

To better meet need of consolidating and increasing efficiency of electronic communications, Board voted to retire office of Publications Secretary at the end of 2017 and open new office of "Communications Secretary". D Green appointed Wendy Palin for this new position, who will run for election. This requires a change in constitution that must be ratified by the membership.

MOTION: to approve the change in constitution to retire publication secretary and institute office of communication secretary (Moved by D. Sever, seconded by S. Trauth). No discussion.

Motion approved by unanimous vote.

3. HL Finances.

L. Mauger: finances are good, up from last year; Semlitsch Fund is complete now at \$100,000.

4. Joint Code of Conduct for JMIH.

ASIH has developed Code of Conduct that needs to be expanded across all JMIH Societies.

D. Sever (Member of Code of Conduct Committee): Committee consists of one member from each society in JMIH; committee recommends that this be an ongoing standing committee of JMIH to help in adjudicating any problems with code of conduct —should be approved by HL membership. Currently only one Joint Committee (Meeting & Planning Committee). Code of Conduct should be developed by end of this year.

Action: approval for standing joint committee will be requested from HL membership on receipt of joint code of conduct. No further discussion.

5. HL Publications

BOT have approved policy giving respective editors discretion on publishing color plates.

S. Mullen (*Herpetologica* Editor): Rejection rate is at 51%, number of submissions has increased from last year, number of days between submission to first acceptance has decreased (continuing trend), and impact factor has increased for both journals.

Request to students who competed in HL session: please submit your manuscripts for consideration for publication. Also stick around for group photo to be published in *Herpetologica*.

6. Meeting Symposia

BOT identified a goal to increase number of scientific-based symposia at JMIH. Funds are available to support speakers. Good opportunity to explore interesting topics and interact with professionals in these fields.

Request to membership to submit ideas for symposia to Mary White (Symposium Chair).

7. Long-range Planning Committee: mostly about membership, items that came out of that:

- a. New research award for post-docs: already have graduate student award, have semlitch award, but have not targeted post docs and recent graduates—HL would like to propose a prestigious award at the post-doc level for ~ \$5000 for excellence in research. Chris Peterson & Stan Trauth have been appointed to develop terms of reference. **Request** for volunteers for this committee. To promote good research and further careers of promising new scientists.
- b. Multi-year memberships
- c. Use of JMIH platform to promote collaborative research (e.g., lightning talks or other)—Mary White and Carol Spencer have volunteered to develop strategy

8. New Award: Distinguished Service to the Profession of Herpetology Award: Recognizes service to promoting the science and study of herpetology and societies, here in US and elsewhere. Requires ratification from membership.

MOTION: to approve the Distinguished Service to the Profession of Herpetology Award (Moved by D. Sever, seconded by L. Mauger)

Discussion: Sever: how is this different from distinguished herpetologists award? Distinguished Herpetologist gives talk, and the award is different in the criteria for selection.

Motion approved by unanimous vote.

9. Meeting Planning Committee

Plan was to meet in Sacramento in 2019, although some setbacks for this year: raise in room rates, more expensive and construction of convention center. So having another think about meeting location, committee will bring suggestion forward when there is one.

Rochester NY next year, AES will not be there but Canadian Society of Herpetologists will be there. No site for 2020, SSAR was going to meet separately in Ann Arbor, but have now have decided to

meet in An Arbor in 2021. Next year will decide, have option to meet with ASIH in joint meeting, or with SSAR. No need to make decision now, options will be brought forward in due course.

10. AWARDS

- a. William's award: changes in categories: Physiology into physiology and functional morphology; morphology/systematics is now diversity and evolution. Better match for submission.
- b. Semlitsch Award: recognizes **Amanda Zelmer**. \$5000 award is a Research Award
- c. HL Student Awards: four speakers
 - i. Changes from previous years, lay summary is now included in competition, rules are in *Herpetologica* and website.
- d. EE Williams award winners: Hannes Schraft, Kenzie Periera, Meaghan Gade, John Capano, Benjamin Johnson

11. Graduate Students: Chelsea Clyde-Brockway:

Request to student members of HL to come pick up their calendars. Email solicitation of photos for next year photo for selection by committee will come in the fall. Students wanting to be more involved in the society can do so through the Graduate Council (calendar, JMIH workshop, also field trip). Workshop is tomorrow morning on peer review process.

12. Other business or reports: none

13. New Business

- a. HL Honorary Members:
 - i. S. Mullen requested D Green to open floor for nominations for new honorary members in the wake of the loss of Ernie Chao.
 - ii. D. Green opened floor for nominations, S. Mullen nominated Walter Hödl, University of Vienna
 - iii. Qualification: prestigious record of scholarly research, usually emeritus. Procedure (from bylaws): elected by simple majority of votes cast by the general membership, no more than ten at any one time, no more than 5 from US/Canada). Current compliment is at 4 Honorary Members (several voids to fill)
 - iv. D. Green proposed to request that membership identify North American and foreign herpetologists and forward to D. Green for voting on an "as received" basis until all slots are filled.
 - v. Question—how do you get the general membership to vote? DG responded that nominations can be vetted through BOT email discussion and brought to next year's meeting as a slate.

MOTION: to accept by acclamation Walter Hödl as an HL Honorary Member (Moved by Stan Trauth, seconded by Steve Mullin)

Motion approved by unanimous vote.

- b. Format consistency for EE Williams Award submission
 - i. Recommendation that in order to qualify for award, submissions have to follow the journal's Instructions to Authors to improve format consistency.

- ii. D Green agreed this is a good idea and can be approved within the EE Williams Award Committee
- iii. **Action:** submit suggestion to Ann Paterson for committee consideration
- c. Nominations for Officers
 - i. Erin Muths is nominations chair
 - ii. Slate of Candidate: Vice President (President Elect)
 - 1. Greg Watkins-Colwell
 - 2. Kristine Grayson
 - iii. Executive Council (3 positions)
 - 1. Brian Halstead
 - 2. Steve Richter
 - 3. Sara Corey-Rivas
 - 4. Denita Weeks
 - iv. Positions that will run unopposed
 - 1. Secretary—Renata Platenberg
 - 2. Treasurer—Laurie Mauger
 - 3. Communications Secretary—Wendy Palin
 - 4. Herpetologica Editor—Steve Mullin
 - 5. Herpetological Monographs Editor—Michael Harvey
 - v. Nominations from the Floor
 - 1. Stan Trauth nominated Richard Vogt (accepted)
 - 2. No other nominations, nominations from the floor closed.
 - vi. No additional business

Motion to adjourn meeting unanimously approved

Gavel ceremoniously handed to Dave Sever

David Sever adjourned the meeting at 18:43 CT.

Meeting was attended by 21 members.

Minutes prepared by RPlatenberg