

THE SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION OF NATURALISTS
MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETING, 61ST ANNUAL MEETING,
OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY, STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA, USA,
FRIDAY-SATURDAY, 18-19 APRIL 2014

President López-González called the meeting to order at 1021 h with a quorum present. The membership approved the minutes of the 2013 Board of Governors and Officers (BOG) Meeting and Business Meeting for the 60th Annual Meeting at McNeese State University (published in *The Southwestern Naturalist* volume 58(4), and available on the SWAN webpage at <http://www.biosurvey.ou.edu/swan/>).

President López-González appointed Wilks Award finalists Matthew Mauldin, Adam Ferguson, Reed Morehouse and Matthew Troia to serve as tellers for the election of the new BOG members. Treasurer Michael Dixon reported on the 2013 income, expenses, and checkbook activity as summarized in the minutes of the 2014 Board of Governors and Officers meeting. Dixon thanked Austin Osmanski for his aid on the report. He then reported a summary of the 2015 proposed balanced budget of \$129,000 (up from \$93,000 due to addition of both a new student research award and the online journal submission service) that was approved at the meeting of the BOG on Thursday 17 April 2014. Dixon explained that last year's income was around \$80,000, with almost \$8,000 in individual contributions including over \$3,000 in the silent auction. Income also included dues, page charges, and royalties through the journal (e.g., last year \$40,000). Consequently, he encouraged the membership to read the journal online. SWAN made approximately \$80,000, and expenditures equaled around \$53,000. This left a profit of about \$30,000. Dixon explained that, while we appear to be ahead, we actually are not. Since the largest expenditure for the Society is publishing the journal, and due to the delay on some issues, some bills that were anticipated last year will be paid during 2014, as we catch up with journal publication. Finally, he closed by announcing that we have added to the budget the expenses of the new Student Field Natural History Award by adding \$250 per finalist for travel to the meeting (\$500 total), in addition to the \$1,000 award for the winner. The minutes of the BOG meeting summarize the discussion and proposal of the new budget in more detail. Dixon then announced that membership in the society is down, and explained that the society has a continual declining membership. He encouraged everyone in the audience to come to the annual meetings, become a member, get the journal, and maintain their membership. Dixon asked to table the report for new members.

López-González accepted nominations for President-Elect and nominations for the BOG, class of 2017. Nominations for the new BOG included: Susana Perea-Fox, Cornelio Sánchez-Hernández, Todd Reeder, John Hunt, Chris Taylor, Loren Ammerman, David McNeely, Alice Echelle (who respectfully declined), Monte Thies, Michael Husak, Mandy Husak, and Michelle Haynie. At that time, Gary Schnell moved the nominations be closed, which was seconded by Michael Kennedy. A ballot vote was conducted and the election results are to be announced at the banquet on Saturday evening 19 April 2014.

López-González then moved to committee reports, asking chairs to give brief summaries.

The Trustees report was given by Jake Schaefer. Schaefer gave an update on how the trustees are managing investments for SWAN. SWAN assets in 2013 grew 23%, slightly better than the average in the market, which went from \$670,000 to \$876,000. Monies go to the Endowment Fund, Life/Patron Member Fund, Wilks/Student Awards Fund, Howard McCarley Student Research Fund, and the Student Naturalist Fund. M. Kennedy suggested a round of applause for the Board of Trustees for their success.

Flo Oxley gave the report for the Conservation Committee. Oxley announced that the committee is looking for individuals interested in conservation who would like to serve on the committee. David McNeely asked about the Sutton Award, and Oxley informed the membership that there were no nominations this year. He expressed concern and reiterated that an important function of the conservation committee is selecting a Sutton awardee, and that the committee chair should see that that this is done.

Raelynn Deaton Haynes gave the report for the Student Awards Committee, stating that eight winners for the Howard McCarley Student Research Award will be announced at the banquet, as well as first, second and third place winners for the Clark Hubbs Student Poster Award.

John Hunt gave the report for the Public Relations and Publicity Committee. Hunt urged members who are award winners to please inform the committee of news outlets where they would like press releases to be sent.

Michelle Haynie presented the report for the Membership Committee, and began by summarizing the history of the free student memberships. She encouraged the membership to nominate students who are not currently members of SWAN for these awards. She noted that 30 free memberships can be given. Last year, 11 were given out, and 4 of those members renewed for this year. She announced that the committee needs to refocus on how to get those memberships used. Some possibilities include a joint outreach effort with the public relations and publicity committee to get more people involved in SWAN, coming to meetings, etc. She also announced that they need volunteers for the Membership Committee.

Jake Schaefer gave the Development Committee Report. Schaefer brought attention to the silent auction and called for participation in this event. He announced that the BOG has approved moving to an online-only journal subscription for membership, and this will substantially cut the cost of printing journals.

Beth Leuck gave the Program Committee Report. She announced that next year's meeting will be held in San Diego hosted by Todd Reeder, who will present later to the membership. She also added that in 2016 the meeting will be in Mexico City, and in 2017 the meeting will come back to Oklahoma (Cameron University).

Karen McBee gave the Historian Report, and announced that she will be catching up with materials to be sent to the OU archive.

Lulú Romero-Almaraz presented the report of the International Relations Committee. She announced that there were 19 applications for the Bruce Stewart Travel Award. Eleven awards were granted from Mexico and Central America. She also announced that to receive this award students will be given preference if they are presenting a paper or poster and are current SWAN members. Finally, she spoke about the difficulty of getting students in Mexico to become members and called for attention to this matter.

Dan Hough reported for the Web-Site Committee. He summarized the committee's activities for 2013. He announced that both the online abstract submission and registration are doing well. The SWAN website also has seen increased traffic this year. He called for a need to modernize the webpage, as it is now 10-11 years old, and stated that now would be a good opportunity as OU is updating their servers. He announced that there is money for website development set aside in the budget.

Adam Ferguson presented for the Student Advisory Committee. Ferguson announced that there are now several students involved on this committee coming from diverse groups of interest. However, there is a need for both a plant and fish person on this committee. He updated the membership on the outcome of the workshops held during this meeting, one being the Spatial

Modeling Workshop that took place on Thursday afternoon. He announced that there were 23 students signed up, but only seven actually attended. This was, however, a better turnout than last year. He asked the membership to think about ideas to improve attendance at the student workshops. The second workshop on CV Improvement was sponsored by the Zoology Graduate Student Society (ZoGSS) at OSU. To date, 47 students were signed up. Ferguson gave the location for the workshop - Classroom Building North Room 102. He also gave updates for the peer review system, announcing that 48 students requested reviews by other students, whereas 35 students volunteered to serve as peer reviewers for other students. Ferguson announced that SWAN has 130 student members this year, an increase from last year. He reminded students about the Lunch with a Scientist activity and encouraged them to sign up if interested. Finally, he announced that both he and Nicté Ordoñez-Garza will be stepping down as co-chairs, and is formally asking for replacements. There was a round of applause for the Student Advisory Committee.

Phil Sudman gave the report for the Wilks Committee. He encouraged students to apply for the award, announced that there will be two awards next year, and that details of the new award will be discussed under new business.

Robert Dowler gave the report for the *ad hoc* Disposition of Back Issues Committee, announcing that back issues of the SWN are being maintained at Angelo State University. He noted that two complete back issue sets of the journal will be in the silent auction.

Mandy Husak presented for the *ad hoc* Auction Committee, reporting that the auction went well last year with over 100 items donated mostly by members. She gave examples of items, including Sherman traps, art, and back issues of the journal. Husak noted that this year lots of great items were donated, including many handmade items. She also announced that PayPal will be used this year for the auction. Finally, she announced that she is looking for more help for the auction committee.

Dowler gave the report for the Long Range Planning Committee, stating that four things are worth addressing. First, he noted that we need to solve the long-term problems with the journal, which will aid in sustainability of the organization. He gave the example of finding new editors and making sure the journal stays up-to-date. Second, his committee intends to work with the Membership Committee to increase membership in the organization. Third, he announced that the update and modernization of the website is key to sustainability of the organization. Finally, he noted that ensuring host institutions for upcoming meetings also is essential to long-term planning. Dowler added that SWAN now has hosts through 2017. He also announced to the membership that Allen Press presented their proposal for the online submission system to the BOG, and that the Board is acting on this, with editorial assistance from Allen Press.

Stanley Fox gave the report on the *ad hoc* Committee for the new Student Field Natural History Award. Fox announced that David and Bonnie McNeely initiated the award with a donation of \$10,000 to be endowed. Sudman encouraged members to donate, and announced that SWAN will match those donations to have this award completely endowed. Fox explained that if the award is completely endowed, SWAN will never have to draw from SWAN assets, and the award will be covered by interest from the endowment. He further explained that the award can include research with a laboratory component, but the primary objective must be centered on field work. He added that this is a prestigious award, ranking at the same level as the Wilks Award. He noted, however, that this award does not devalue the Wilks award, but stands with it, and that both awards should be cornerstones of this society. The Wilks Award for best student paper presented at the meeting will remain, and the new award will be granted to the outstanding

student paper with a substantial field component presented at the meeting. He announced that all logistics are to be handled by the Wilks Committee (Chair Phil Sudman). He also noted that the same student cannot win both awards in either the same or subsequent years. In other words, he noted, a student can win only one of these awards in his/her lifetime. The first Student Field Natural History Award will be presented next year at the meeting in San Diego. Several questions were asked by the membership, including how much money is needed in donations to fully fund the award. Fox noted that \$5,000 would make a sound contribution, and \$10,000 more would put us in a very good position financially. Vic Hutchison then pledged \$500 to this award and challenged the membership to match. There was another question regarding when the competition would take place during the meeting. Fox explained that the talks will be incorporated into the Wilks competition in the plenary session with five or six talks and two awards. He also noted that the competition will have the same \$250 travel stipend to each finalist to help offset travel expenses to the meeting. Bill Matthews then suggested a formal round of applause for David and Bonnie McNeely, who received a standing ovation from the membership. Finally, López-González asked the membership to thank Fox and committee for working very hard to put together the logistics of this award. There was another round of applause, and Fox then acknowledged the rest of the award committee (David McNeely, Day Ligon, and Loren Ammerman).

Phyllis Kennedy gave the report for the Budget Oversight Committee, announcing that the committee is in full support of the Board of Trustees.

Michael Kennedy gave the Managing Editor's report. Kennedy thanked all Associate Editors for their service, and announced those who have already stepped down or are stepping down this year (Janis Bush, James Kennedy, and Robert Edwards). The membership gave a round of applause. Kennedy announced that finding reviewers is a big problem and that the organization needs help from the membership. He then announced new Associate Editors Fredrick Govedich (Aquatic Invertebrates), Clay Green (Birds), Eddie Lyons (Birds), Jesse Meik (Herps), James Moore (Plants), and Charles Watson (Herps). He updated the membership on number of submitted manuscripts, up to 110 submissions, compared to 107 submissions last year. The current rejection rate is 36.1%, also up from last year. He stated that the journal is in good shape with regard to numbers and that page charges are \$80 per page. The journal is doing well in JSTOR and BioOne, with revenue over \$30,000. With regard to the future, the BOG voted to move forward with Allen Press as soon as new Editors are in place. He also announced that there will be an Editors' meeting immediately following the Business Meeting. He asked Associate Editors in the audience to stand for a round of applause. He reiterated that the journal is in good shape. While it is currently a little behind, they are working hard to catch up. He finished by stating that the future of the journal looks bright. Sudman announced that the membership should thank Mike Kennedy, Phyllis Kennedy and Troy Best for their hard work. Sudman also called for the membership to step up and find a new Editor or Editors. Kennedy then noted that the organization needs more people to serve as Associate Editors and that the journal is not in trouble but also not at the top of its game. The current focus must be to get caught up and minimize the time to publication. With long delays to publication, we run the risk of losing important papers contributed by young investigators. There was a round of applause for the Editors.

Mark Eberle gave the report for the Honors Committee, announcing that no nominations for any award were made for this year, and encouraged the membership to make those nominations in the future.

Stanley Fox gave the report for the Local Committee (also Susana Perea-Fox and Karen McBee). This year there are 106 talks, 67 posters, and 300 people registered for the meeting. The opening social was held last night and earlier this morning the plenary session with the Wilks competition was held. There are four concurrent sessions for oral presentations that will start after lunch. There is a picnic tonight at Lake Carl Blackwell. The first thirty cars will get in free, but need to say they are there for SWAN. After that, there will be a \$5 per car charge to get into the park. There will be a shuttle service to the picnic. The poster session will be held tomorrow in the exhibit hall. That is also where the silent auction will be held. Dowler also will give his SWAN song at the banquet. On Sunday, there is an all-day field trip to the beautiful Tall Grass Prairie Preserve. A round of applause was given to Fox and the Local Committee.

President López-González closed Old Business and moved on to New Business by holding elections for new Board of Governors members. López-González explained that five new members will be elected; one extra for a 2-year term will replace Raelynn Deaton Haynes, formerly a member-at-large of the class of 2016, who took the secretary position. Sudman announced the members whose terms on the BOG were up, and explained that the 2014 BOG members are eligible for another term. López-González thanked Haley Gillespie, secretary for the past 3 years, and Gillespie was given a round of applause.

Todd Reeder then presented on the 62nd Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Association of Naturalists, which is scheduled for 2-5 April 2015 at San Diego State University in San Diego, California. Several questions were asked of Reeder regarding the meeting, in terms of logistics, locations of events, etc.

Several announcements were then made by Local Committee representative Fox regarding updates for the meeting.

Following a motion to do so, a second, and an approval, the Business Meeting recessed at 1141 h to reconvene at the banquet.

The Business Meeting reconvened at the Annual Banquet at 2036 h on Saturday 19 April 2014 after Immediate Past President Robert Dowler delivered his SWAN Song speech entitled, "Just what is a naturalist? My quest for clarity." Dowler's flavorful presentation on differences between "naturists" and "naturalists" received many laughs among the audience, and he closed on a serious emotional note.

President López-González announced the new members elected to the BOG: David McNeely (replacing Raelynn Deaton), and for the class of 2017 Michelle Haynie, Mandy Husak, Michael Husak, and Susana Perea-Fox.

Fox accepted the Donald W. Tinkle Research Excellence Award that he was granted in 2012, as he was not able to accept the award at the 2013 meetings.

Romero-Almaraz and Perea-Fox presented the Bruce Stewart Student Travel Awards. The committee received 19 applications from seven institutions in Mexico, one in Guatemala, and two in the US. The committee granted 11 awards ranging from \$530 to \$1,072 USD, for a total of \$10,000. The 2014 awards were granted to Ali Ituriel Villanueva Hernández, Oscar Fernández Barrera, Perla Alejandra Román Torre, Jairo Rosas Carlín, Mónica Farrera Hernández, Fernanda Ochoa Sánchez, Uriel Alejandro Jiménez Vargas, Ariadna Ivette Villa Carmona, María de Guadalupe López Garduño, Candy Anzaldo Reyes, and Fernando Salgado Mejía.

Raelynn Deaton Haynes, Chair of the Student Awards Committee, thanked the SWAN members (and external reviewers) who helped evaluate the applicants for the 2014 student awards. She announced the eight recipients of the Howard McCarley Student Research Awards

(\$1,000). Awards were given to two undergraduate students, two Master's students, and four PhD students. Awardees were (in no particular order): 1) PhD student Denise Thompson from Oklahoma State University for her research entitled "The influence of social networks on population genetics in the alligator snapping turtle." Her advisor is Ron Van Den Bussche; 2) PhD student Jason Strickland from the University of Central Florida for his research entitled "Venom evolution in rattlesnakes of the southwestern United States." His advisor is Chris Parkinson; 3) Catherine Bell from Texas State University for her research entitled "The exploration of the evolutionary landscape of chemical sequestration using a model system from the southern United States." Her advisor is Chris Nice; 4) PhD student Scott Clark from the University of Southern Mississippi for his research entitled "The evolution of movement strategies in a closely related group of topminnows." His advisor is Jake Schaefer; 5) Master's student Erin Adams from Angelo State University for her research entitled "Nightly and seasonal movements of Mexican long-nosed bats." Her advisor is Loren Ammerman; 6) Master's student Laura Stewart from the University of Southern Mississippi for her research entitled "The influence of local thermal adaptation on stream fishes." Her advisor is Jake Schaefer; 7) Undergraduate student Holis Dahn from the University of Central Florida for her research entitled "Examining specific and subspecific diversity within two monotypic snake genera." Her advisor is Chris Parkinson; and 8) Undergraduate student April Navarro from St. Edward's University for her research entitled "The effects of ART on female aggression in a sex role reversed pipefish." Her advisor is Raelynn Deaton Haynes.

Deaton Haynes then thanked the numerous poster reviewers that helped judge, and announced the 2014 recipients of the Clark Hubbs Student Poster Award: First place (\$600) Donald T. McNight from Missouri State University, for his poster with Anne C. Jones and Day B. Ligon entitled, "The omnivorous diet of the western chicken turtle (*Deirochelys reticularia miaria*)." Second place (\$400) Marie-Eve Jacques from Oklahoma State University for her poster with Stephen W. Hallgren entitled, "Maintaining low basal area in oak-pine forests of southeast Oklahoma alters small mammal communities." Third place (\$200) Laura Stewart from the University of Southern Mississippi for her poster with Jake Schaefer entitled "Influence of local thermal adaptation on temperature preference across a latitudinal gradient."

Phil Sudman, President-Elect and Chair of the Wilks Committee presented the 2014 Wilks Award (\$1,000) to Adam W. Ferguson for his research entitled "Skunks at the crossroads: assessing the interplay between environmental, morphological and genetic variation in the American hog-nosed skunk (*Conepatus leuconotus*)." Adam is a PhD candidate at the Department of Biological Sciences, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas.

López-González thanked the Local Representatives and Local Committee for a job well done. They received a round of applause from the membership.

Osmanski and Perea-Fox read, and the membership adopted, the following resolutions, which were authored by Austin Osmanski and Clint Morgan of Angelo State University, Michael Husak of Cameron University, Jared White of Emporia State University, and Raelynn Deaton Haynes of St. Edwards University. Perea-Fox followed Osmanski with the Spanish translation for each resolution.

Whereas, the 61st Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Association of Naturalists was held in Stillwater, OK 17-20 of April 2014 on the magnificent campus of Oklahoma State University,

And whereas, we were treated with abundant sunshine and fair weather in the midst of a most schizophrenic winter,

And whereas, scientific discoveries from multiple continents were exchanged from a wide array of biological disciplines spanning morphology, physiology, genetics, demography, reproduction, phylogeography, behavior, ecology, and conservation,

And whereas, we would like to again praise the generosity of David and Bonnie McNeely for their generous donation of \$10,000 for the Student Field Natural History Award,

And whereas, there was an unprecedented, but appropriate, resurgence of Darwinian inspired facial hair which helped put the true meaning of natural in naturalists,

And whereas, we recognize that the incorporation of technology is integral for a successful organization, but if you ask Siri to navigate to the Wes Watkins Center at Oklahoma State University you will inevitably end up driving down a dirt road and find yourself in the middle of a cow pasture,

And whereas, we recommend to all future Local Committees that sleep apnea masks be handed out at the registration table to reduce accounts of snoring during presentations,

And whereas, if such individuals are caught committing torpor transgressions, they will be awakened and asked to finish the presenter's talk themselves,

And whereas, we applaud the local construction company for having faith in SWAN members near delicate worksites, however any SWAN members found wearing concrete shoes in the future must put on a hard hat and reflective vest and wear them for the rest of the day to correct their sidewalk travesties,

And whereas, presentations will only be held in rooms where the PhD:light bulb ratio is greater than 10:1; that way it will take only 5 minutes to find the light switch.

And whereas, we recognize Stanley Fox as the chair of the committee to start the SWAN field-obtained scar competition. For more information about this competition, feel free to ask "What does the Fox say?"

And whereas, during the Board of Governor's meeting, Bill Matthews, after continually adding his \$0.02, has graciously donated close to a net of \$500.

And whereas, the 2014 Annual Meeting Local Committee can acclaim the prestigious award for the largest canned goods drive in the history of SWAN, sequestering over 700 cans in donations, which subsequently were all used to hydrate a flock of SWANs at Lake Carl Blackwell,

And whereas, for once, Cameron University arrived to a meeting without engine troubles, however their IACUC representative dropped the ball this year after he picked up some

estranged, hitchhiking primates in Lawton, OK, which happened to run wild through the trees at the picnic,

And whereas, the two student vigilantes of the Densmore's lab at Texas Tech helped rescue a misguided lady from the creek at 2:00AM last night, yet another example of why Okies wouldn't survive without Texans,

And whereas, the amount of hot air brought in by the Board of Governors converging on Stillwater last Wednesday was enough to set off the local tornado sirens,

And whereas, the San Diego, CA Starbucks Coffee franchise should be prepared to invest in tanker trucks as they will be needed to fulfill the copious per daily intake of Southwestern Naturalists,

And whereas, immediately following the banquet this evening a plasma sample will be taken from everyone in attendance and those who possess over the legal limit of caffeine will be receiving a letter from Coffee Drinkers Anonymous next week,

And whereas, SWAN continues to demonstrate their dedication to students,

And whereas, SWAN also continues to promote international collaborations and reach across the border to uphold the universality of naturalism.

And whereas, academic families enjoyed the opportunity to reconnect annually,

And whereas, governmental agencies, academics, lay naturalists and even a high school student were able to come together and discuss biology,

And whereas, every member of SWAN has enjoyed the hospitality of a superb Local Committee spearheaded by Karen McBee, Susana Perea-Fox, Stanley Fox, and an ambitious Zoology Graduate Student Society chaired by Lynne Beaty.

Therefore, be it resolved, we thank all volunteers and supporters of SWAN and the Oklahoma State University Administration for allowing us to convene on their beautiful campus and hold our 61st Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Association of Naturalists.

President López-González thanked everyone for coming, invited the membership to the 62nd Annual Meeting at San Diego State University, San Diego, California, in 2015 and declared the meeting adjourned at 2100 h.

Respectfully submitted,
Raelynn Deaton Haynes
Secretary