

THE SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION OF NATURALISTS
MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETING AT THE 63rd ANNUAL MEETING,
INSTITUTO DE BIOLOGÍA,
NATIONAL AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY OF MEXICO
MEXICO CITY, MEXICO
FRIDAY-SATURDAY 15-16 APRIL 2016

President Sudman called the meeting to order at 1024 h with a quorum present. The membership approved the minutes of the 2015 Board of Governors and Officers (BOG) Meeting and Business Meeting for the 62nd Annual Meeting at San Diego State University (published in *The Southwestern Naturalist* volume 61(2), and available on the SWAN webpage at <http://www.biosurvey.ou.edu/swan/>).

Secretary Deaton Haynes summarized the reports, discussions and action items from BOG meeting held on 14 April 2016. The summary read as follows: “The Board of Governors met yesterday, Thursday April 14th, 2016, from 1312 h until 1743 h in the Salón Pedregal at the Radisson in Mexico City. Nineteen Board Members were present.

There were six significant issues addressed in yesterday’s meeting, which I will briefly outline here. First, Juliann Waits has agreed to Chair the Conservation Committee. There are vacancies on this committee. Anyone interested in serving please talk to Dr. Waits. This committee is charged with choosing the Sutton Conservation Award, which is the best conservation paper published in a *Southwestern Naturalist* issue of the previous year.

Second, in an effort to modernize our financial management (for example membership management, registration, contributions, etc.), the board approved our hiring of a service management company for a period of three years and voted in favor of President Sudman to begin negotiations with a company run by Christy Classi.

Third, the board also approved the hiring of a new website design company, and voted in favor of President Sudman to negotiate this hire. The board has received one proposal—the same company that will restructure the University of Oklahoma website, which is the website through which SWAN is currently run. The service management company will be interfaced with the new website, all of which should come online within the next 6 months.

Fourth, for student awards, two significant changes will occur for 2017. First, any student receiving a McCarley Award through SWAN will sign a contract at the time of payment receipt, stating that they understand the stipulations and requirement of the grant. Students will also be required to submit a progress report on or before 1 March the following year after receiving their grant funds. The Student Awards Committee will prepare these documents and send to the board for approval.

Fifth, the Student Award Committee has three vacancies. If anyone is interested in serving on this committee, please see Raelynn Deaton Haynes. I would very much like to have one or more of the new members be native Spanish speakers. This position entails reviewing and making final decisions regarding McCarley Awards and the Hubbs poster competition. Late-stage PhD students are welcome to serve on this committee, as long as you are no longer submitting McCarley Awards proposals and/or entering the Hubbs competition.

Sixth, the 2017 SWAN meeting will be held at Cameron University in Lawton, Oklahoma, hosted by Mike and Mandy Husak. Mike Husak will present details of the 2017 meeting shortly. The 2018 meeting has been approved for the San Marcos/Austin area (exact location yet to be determined) and will be co-hosted by Paula Williamson from Texas State University, Raelynn Deaton Haynes from an unnamed university in Austin, Texas (I am here on personal leave and am not affiliated), and Flo Oxley from Austin Community College. The 2019 meeting has been approved to be held in Chihuahua, Mexico, and will be hosted by Jesus Fernandez. So, we have the next three years of meetings lined up for SWAN, which is exciting. If anyone is interested in hosting a future meeting, please talk to

President Sudman. Lastly, the BOG approved a balanced budget for 2017 as presented by Treasurer Mike Dixon, who will present the budget to the membership shortly.

Haynes then announced that she was in need of 2-3 more poster judges and to see her if you are willing to judge 7-8 posters tomorrow morning between 1015h and 1200 h. Additionally, she asked that all judging forms be returned to her no later than 1330 h on Saturday. The committee will meet at 1630 h. Anyone who judged posters is welcome to attend this meeting as well.

President Sudman called for nominations for the new class of the Board of Governors to replace the outgoing members. He asked the membership to vote for four new members, then he appointed the Wilks and Student Field Natural History Award finalists, Hollis Dahn, Luz M. Sil-Berra, Rocío Vianey Flores Flores, Edith Rivas-Alonso, and Skyler Stevens, to serve as tellers for the election of the new BOG members. Nominations by the membership included: David McNeely, Chris Taylor, Cornelio Sánchez-Hernández, Ricardo Ayala, Jason Strickland, Day Ligon, and Nicté Ordóñez-Garza. Nominations were closed and a ballot vote was conducted. The election results are to be announced at the banquet on Saturday evening, 16 April 2016.

President Sudman then announced that we would move on to brief committee reports. Treasurer Michael Dixon proceeded to give an overview of the income and expenses for 2015. He announced that a mistake was caught by the BOG and that the mistake had been fixed. The 2015 financial report was outlined as follows: total income was \$111,429, with expenses including \$7,000 for editorial costs, and \$78,794 to Allen Press for journal printing (this number was higher this year due to catching up on publishing issues of the journal), \$25,570 for editorial services to Allen Press (money that has not been spent before), \$20,450 for student awards (Wilks and Student Field Natural History = \$3,250, Hubbs Award = \$1,200, McCarley Awards = \$8,000 and student travel awards = \$8,300). There was also about \$4,885 for miscellaneous expenses that need to be subtracted from the budget, but has not been done at this time. Merchant card fees are high at around \$1,500. No expenditures went to the Treasurer's office or to the Historian in 2015. The end checkbook balance is \$44,268.

For the proposed budget for 2017, Dixon explained that there have been some changes in the Treasurer's expenses, and reductions in the back issues budget, webpage, and miscellaneous expenses. The biggest change to the budget will be for a professional company to run the business aspect of the management expenses for the society, costing approximately \$14,600. This leaves a proposed budget of \$136,860 for 2017. Approximately \$10,000 was cut from the budget from other sources. The society received \$24,000 in individual dues and institutional subscriptions, \$14,000 in page charges, \$54,000 from royalties, and \$44,860 from the endowment. Dixon reminded the membership that the Board of Governors voted in 2015 to spend up to 5% of the endowment to modernize the society.

Dixon then announced that Austin Osmanski assisted him with the budget and membership two years ago, and officially has taken over the job for membership. Austin then announced the new membership for 2016. President Sudman asked the membership to vote the new members into the society. A motion was put forth by Stan Fox, and seconded by Bob Edwards. With a unanimous vote in favor of new members, the motion carried. There was a round of applause by the membership.

President Sudman then announced that the treasurer's position would change somewhat with the initiation of a new management system. He stated that the Board of Governors is excited to make these changes and move SWAN into the 21st century (only 16 years late). This elicited a chuckle from the membership.

The Trustees report was given by R. Dowler in place of Chair Jake Schaefer. Dowler announced that the endowment is approaching \$1,000,000 and that the society is in good financial shape. He reiterated that this is how we are able to commit to student advancement in the society. He said the Trustees continue to invest in a fairly conservative manner. He also informed that membership that they, as individuals, can contribute to this endowment. President Sudman then reiterated that approaching \$1,000,000 is impressive and that the Board will continue to investigate how this money can best serve the society. He then thanked the committee for their work.

President Sudman announced that there was no activity for the Conservation Committee this year.

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. She thanked those in the audience for reviewing award proposals. She also stated that proposal numbers were down this year and pleaded to the membership to help get the word out about the McCarley Grant opportunity. She also announced that two members have stepped down from this committee, and she needed at least two, but preferably three, immediate replacements, and it would be helpful if one or two new members were bilingual. She told the membership to contact her if anyone is interested in serving on this important committee.

Phil Sudman gave the report for the Public Relations and Publicity Committee in lieu of John Hunt. Sudman asked that names of winners of awards get sent to Hunt, and stressed that it is important to get the word out about SWAN.

Phil Sudman gave the report for the Membership Committee, in lieu of Michelle Haynie. Haynie sent apologies for the committee not being as active as it had hoped and that it would do more next year.

Phil Sudman gave the Development Committee report in lieu of Co-Chairs David Heins and Jake Schaefer. The committee stresses recruitment and retention in the organization. Sudman stated that SWAN is a close group, but needs to expand its membership through both recruitment and retention of members into the society. The committee also stressed the increase of silent auctions and raffles to raise money for the Trustees to invest. Finally, the committee pushes for lifetime memberships and donations.

President Sudman gave the report for the Program Committee in lieu of Beth Leuck. Sudman announced the locations for the next three meetings: Lawton, Oklahoma, for 2017, San Marcos, Texas, in 2018, and Chihuahua, Mexico, in 2019. He encouraged faculty members to consider hosting meetings, and reminded them that this would be good exposure for your university.

Karen McBee gave the Historian report, beginning by stating that she has the distinction of chairing the smallest SWAN committee, but explained that in reality it's the largest committee because it consists of the entire membership. She reminded the membership that the archive collection is housed at University of Oklahoma. She charged members to make sure to get any materials that may be of historical significance to her to be filed in the archives.

Stan Fox presented the report of the International Relations Committee. Fox announced that the committee had their annual meeting, and made various suggestions to the local committee on how to facilitate international exchange. One of the main tasks of the committee is to review applications for the Bruce Stewart Student Travel Award. This year, all recipients came from outside of Mexico as stipulated by the travel grants. There were 20 applications, and 16 awards were initially granted, but since one student could not attend, 15 awards were actually given. All of the recipients have Bruce Stewart Student Travel Award on their nametag. Fox asked the membership to notice and recognize those students. This year the committee is instituting a consolation prize for those who did not get funded. Fox told those students to come find him to get their trinket. Treasurer Dixon interjected for the funded students to come find him later and he will give them their money. President Sudman then announced that this award has been instrumental in assisting student travel to meetings over the years, and that we miss our friend Bruce Stewart and honor his legacy.

President Sudman reported for the Website Committee in lieu of Dan Hough. Sudman announced that Hough sent in a proposal by a professional company to update the society's website. The Board approved negotiations with the company Pixel Mongers. He asked that if anyone has suggestions about the website to please let him know. He also stated that he would send an email to the

membership, asking for input regarding the website. He then stressed the need to update our website and modernize our look.

Austin Osmanski presented the Student Advisory Committee (SAC) report. He announced the student workshops and tomorrow's lunch with faculty. He said they still need faculty to sign up and reminded folks that the SAC would pay for lunch for faculty and students. There is a student social on Saturday night at 6pm before the banquet. Enrique Santoyo-Brito also mentioned a need for more diversity on the committee and to expand our student representation. He asked people to help recruit. Finally, he announced that the SAC is working on a pamphlet on benefits of being a member of SWAN for recruiting. S. Fox announced to the membership that there are forms for new honorary members at the registration table and asked members to please go fill out a form if you wish to nominate a new member for a free one-year membership. President Sudman stressed again that the organization is here for students; thus, we need to get them more involved. He finished by stating that the SAC is doing a great job and we appreciate all the work they are putting into the organization.

Susana Perea-Fox gave the report for the Wilks Committee. There were five finalists chosen to compete out of 17 applications, which is a record number of submissions. The five finalists presented this morning during the plenary session. Winners will be announced at the banquet. President Sudman thanked Dave and Bonnie McNeely again for starting the Student Field Natural History Award.

Robert Dowler gave the report for the *ad hoc* Disposition of Back Issues Committee, stating only that the issues are available and contact him if you are interested in obtaining any.

Mandy Husak presented for the *ad hoc* Auction Committee, announcing that there will be an auction at the 2017 meeting and to please give her any items that you wish to donate (or bring with you if you are coming).

Robert Dowler gave the report for the Long Range Planning Committee. He announced that the committee attempts to foresee problems with the organization and how to fix them. Problems the committee has identified in recent years include: membership decline, need for updating the website, and need for modernizing the journal. Two of these items have come to fruition. The journal is more efficient and getting caught up, and SWAN is now moving to a new website and management for the treasurer's office. He stated that it is nice that all of those things are starting to come together.

President Sudman gave the report for the Budget Oversight Committee in lieu of P. Kennedy, reiterating the need to get things to Phyllis early so that she can do the proper job of the budget oversight. He also announced that the oversight committee is in favor of using endowment money to update the website and journal and to implement a new membership management system.

Loren Ammerman gave the Managing Editor's report. First, Ammerman touched on some highlights over the past year regarding the journal. The journal has three new associate editors-Ray Willis, Mike Husak, and Roger Rodriguez. Clay Green and Jennifer Frey have stepped down. Ammerman acknowledged Mandy Husak as editor and Citlally Jiménez for handling invoicing and page charges. She proudly announced that they just mailed the last issue of 2015, and showed the actual journal to the membership. The first issue of this year will be out this month. This elicited a big round of applause from the membership. She stressed a need for more associate editors, especially in the areas of birds and invertebrates. There also is a need for photographs for the cover, as the journal is short on those. Pictures submitted for the cover need to be in landscape. Finally, she briefly reviewed the statistics of submissions and acceptance rates for last year for the journal. S. Fox asked when the journal will be fully back on schedule. Ammerman explained that that will happen this year, and stressed that we need more papers submitted. G. Schnell called for a round of applause for the editors. President Sudman then stated that we all need to advertise that the journal will soon be back on a normal schedule of publication and he asked the membership to encourage colleagues to submit papers to *The Southwestern Naturalist* and encouraged the membership to do the same.

C. López-González gave the report for the Honors Committee, stating that one nomination for the Tinkle Award was made, and will be announced at the banquet. President Sudman mentioned that

there are several awards handled by this committee. The organization needs to make nominations and honor our amazing members. If you know anyone who is worthy of any of these honors, get in touch with Dr. López-González. S. Fox clarified that the distinguished awards do not have to be members of the society. D. McNeely asked whether this was true for all distinguished awards. The conclusion was that it is true for all but the service award, for which that recipient must be a member. R. Dowler clarified, however, that the nomination for the distinguished awards must come from a member.

Cornelio Sánchez-Hernández, local host, was asked if he wanted to make any announcements, and said that the meeting was proceeding along nicely. There were a few questions regarding logistics about the meeting (directions to the banquet, etc.), and then M. Kennedy formally thanked the local committee, which elicited a big round of applause from the membership.

Then, to clarify earlier discussion regarding the distinguished awards, S. Fox announced that the W. Frank Blair Eminent Naturalist Award is the only award that doesn't require membership in SWAN. So, to correct the earlier statement, the Tinkle Research Excellence, Packard Outstanding Educator, and Choate Meritorious Service award nominees all must be members.

President Sudman closed old business and moved on to new business.

Mike Husak presented information pertaining to the 64th Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Association of Naturalists, to be held in Lawton, Oklahoma, and hosted by Mike and Mandy Husak. Mike gave a brief overview of the meeting, including the highlights.

Following a motion to do so, a second, and approval, the Business Meeting recessed at 1138 h to reconvene at the banquet. The membership gave a round of applause.

The Business Meeting reconvened at the Annual Banquet on Saturday 16 April 2016 at 1900 h with Past President Celia López-González giving her SWAN song "Why Everybody Should Be a Naturalist". This stellar SWAN song elicited a big round of applause by the audience.

President Sudman then announced that a tie occurred in the vote for the new class of Board of Governors, and passed out ballots to re-vote. The tie was between David McNeely and Ricardo Ayala, and President Sudman asked that each member vote for one name.

C. López-González, Chair of the Honors Committee, presented the Donald W. Tinkle Research Excellence Award to Neil Ford from the University of Texas at Tyler.

Stanley Fox, Chair of the Bruce Stewart Student Travel Awards Sub-Committee, presented the Bruce Stewart Student Travel Awards. The 2016 awards were granted to: Justin Agan, Lynne Beaty, Hollis Dahn, Jacob Hall, Lucas Hall, Patricia Citlally Jiménez, Brandon Lingbeek, Mary Kristine Jones, Nicté Ordóñez-Garza, Alejandra Osorio, Samantha Phillips, Brittany Pope, Kelsey Richards, Adam Simpson, and John Stuhler.

Raelynn Deaton Haynes, Chair of the Student Awards Committee, thanked the SWAN members (and external reviewers) who helped evaluate the applicants for the 2016 student awards. She announced the eight recipients of the Howard McCarley Student Research Awards (\$1,000). Awards were given to one undergraduate student, two Master's students, and five PhD students. Awardees were (in no particular order): 1) Juan Jiménez, PhD student, "Genetic variability and biochemical characterization of metalloproteinases of the Mojave toxin of *Crotalus scutulatus scutulatus* and *Crotalus molossus nigrescens* of the Mexican Chihuahuan Desert," Universidad Juárez del Estado de Durango, Advisor, Rebeca Pérez Morales;

2) Luz Sil Berra, PhD student, "Structural assemblies and bat habitat preference in relation to the degree of disturbance in the coast of Jalisco, Mexico," Instituto de Biología, UNAM, Advisor, Cornelio Sánchez Hernández; 3) Andrew Mason, PhD student, "Elucidating selective forces and molecular mechanisms driving venom evolution in palm pit-vipers," University of Central Florida, Advisor, Chris Parkinson; 4) Gina Calabrese, PhD student, "The evolutionary process of adaptation to variable habitat in a range expansion," University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Advisor, Karen Phennig; 5) Tim O'Connor, PhD student, "Host plant polyploidy and the diversification of creosote bush insects," University of California, Berkeley, Advisor, Noah Whiteman, 6) Carmina Martínez González, MS

student, “Genetic differentiation of island populations of iguanas *Ctenosaura hemilopha* and *Sauromalus varius* using new generation sequencing (RADseq),” Instituto de Biología, UNAM, Advisor, Víctor Hugo Reynoso Rosales; 7) Amanda Driscoe, MS student, “Genetic divergence of a specialized herbivore as a function of host plant and geography,” Texas State University, Advisor, James Ott; and 8) Pamela Cisneros, Undergraduate Student, “Friend, foe, or enemy? Testing the Dear Enemy hypothesis in a sex role reversed pipefish, *Syngnathus scovelli*,” St. Edwards University, Advisor, Raelynn Deaton Haynes.

Deaton Haynes then thanked the numerous poster reviewers and announced the 2016 recipients of the Clark Hubbs Student Poster Award: First place (\$600), Alejandra Osorio, Hollis A. Dahn, Jason L. Strickland and Christopher L. Parkinson, “Concatenation vs. coalescence: Determining evolutionary relationships within the snake tribe Lampropeltini,” University of Central Florida; Second place (\$400), Dafne Gri Zárate-Martínez, Ricardo López Wilchis, Alejandra Serrato Díaz, Irene Barriga Sosa and Luis Manuel Guevara-Chumacero, “Intraspecific relationships of *Pteronotus personatus* (Chiroptera: Mormoopidae),” Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Iztapalapa; and Third place (\$200), Kathryn Michelle Benavidez, Madison Torres, Hahn Dittmar, David Rodríguez, Joseph Veech, Adalberto Pérez de León, and Iván Castro Arellano, “Leptospira prevalence in small mammals on Puerto Rican dairy farms,” Texas State University.

Susana Perea-Fox, President-Elect and Chair of the Wilks Committee asked the five student finalists to come forward and gave them each a check for \$250 to offset travel costs to the meeting. She then presented the 2016 Southwestern Association of Naturalists Student Field Natural History Award to Luz Sil Berra (\$1,000) for her talk entitled “Postnatal growth and development of *Balantiopteryx plicata* (Chiroptera: Emballonuridae) in artificial roosts in western Jalisco, Mexico,” and the 2016 Wilks Award to Hollis Dahn (\$1,000) for her work entitled “Comparative phylogeography of *Arizona elegans* and *Rhinocheilus lecontei*: two perspectives on North American desert biogeography.”

President Sudman then announced that the run-off election was again a tie, and asked the membership if anyone rejected the idea of including both candidates into the new class of the Board of Governors. With no objections, Sudman announced the new class as follows: David McNeely, Ricardo Ayala, Nicté Ordóñez-Garza, Chris Taylor, and Cornelio Sánchez Hernández. President Sudman congratulated the newly elected members of the Board of Governors.

President Sudman graciously thanked the Local Representatives and Local Committee for a job well done. They received a round of applause from the membership.

Austin Osmanski read, and the membership adopted, the following resolutions, which were authored by Austin Osmanski, Jared White, Mandy Husak and Mike Husak. P. Citlally Jiménez followed Osmanski with the Spanish translation for each resolution.

“I hereby present the resolutions of the 63rd annual meeting of the Southwestern Association of Naturalists,

Whereas, the 63rd annual meeting of the Southwestern Association of Naturalists was held in beautiful Mexico City, Mexico, over 13-17 of April, 2016,

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

And whereas, after numerous years of discussion and debate by the Board of Governors, the general membership was excited to hear that the internal finances and website design will be officially

outsourced to professionals, until the membership realized they were now relying on companies going by the name of “Wild Apricot” and “Pixel Mongers,”

And whereas, at the Thursday night Reception Mixer, servers were so overwhelmed by liquored up biologists that the cooks started throwing cheese and salsa on everything just to see if the wild animals would eat it.... and all the stats showed it was delicious,

And whereas, this environmentally conscious association realized that they had been consuming more bottles of water at this year’s meeting than the entire town of Flint, Michigan,

And whereas, it took a bilingual presentation over the small carnivores of Utah this afternoon for most people to understand what Stan Fox’s nickname means... “El Zorro,”

And whereas, we offer our sincerest wishes to members who could not make it to this year’s meeting because they are, at this very moment, still stuck in Mexico City traffic,

And whereas, depending on the outcome of November’s U.S. presidential election, the 64th annual local committee may or may not be required to keep Donald Trump out,

And whereas, some of the U.S. members have gone from zero Spanish, to learning the three essential words in Spanish, “Sí, cerveza, gracias”... in that exact order,

And whereas, multiple SWAN members visited UNAM’s botanical gardens and got lost on the winding trails through the plants, which were so complicated that even El Chapo wouldn’t be able to escape,

And whereas, the revealing of an Imperial Woodpecker in the UNAM natural history collection lead to the squealing of many ornithologists,

And whereas, numerous inebriated SWAN members attempted to count every plant in the atrium, with most results coming back as, “I don’t know.... A lot man.” or “I’ve got vertigo.” But it was settled by a Bob Dowler platinum-certified estimate of 2037.92,

And whereas, Sara stole the show with el Cielo rojo... A performance brought to you by mexihandicrafts.com, the only place to buy your Mexican handicrafts and artisanry,

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 and lay naturalists 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 Cornelio, Sara, and Lulú and multiple students from UNAM,

Therefore, be it resolved, we thank all volunteers and supporters of SWAN and UNAM for allowing us to convene in your beautiful city and hold our 63rd annual meeting of the Southwestern Association of Naturalists.”

President Sudman then thanked everyone for coming to the meeting, invited the membership to the 64th Annual Meeting in Oklahoma and declared the meeting adjourned at 2230 h.

Respectfully,
Raelynn Deaton Haynes
Secretary