

**Student Development Working Group**  
**Annual Meeting: Meeting Minutes**  
**8 October 2013**  
**12:15 – 13:30**  
**Hyatt-Lakeshore B, Milwaukee, WI, USA**

**PRESENT**

**Executive Board:** Kent Fricke, *Chair*, Ashley Gramza, *Past-Chair*, Andy Little, *Chair-Elect*, Matt Gould, *Secretary*, Krysten Zummo, *Newsletter and SRIP Committee Chair*.

ABSENT: Michel Kohl, *Treasurer*

**Members:** Erin Saunders, David Walker, Kara Campbell, Heather Nenninger, Danielle Boston, Aaron Hildreth, Randy Knapik, Sara Mueller, Abby Lawson, Auriel Fournier.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Fricke called the 2013 TWS annual meeting of the Student Development Working Group (SDWG) to order at 12:29 p.m. CST.

Agenda for this meeting as well as the minutes from September's meeting were accepted by the SDWG executive board and members.

The executive board members and the student members present then introduced themselves.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**Conference Activities:**

- **Student Research in Progress poster session:** 104 posters were presented at the conference. Winners were selected from 3 categories: Undergraduate, Master's, and Ph.D. Winners were:
  - Undergraduate:
    - 1st Place- co-authors Sloane Wiggers, Gillie Croft, and Cady Etheredge
    - 2nd Place- Julia Johnson and Rebecca Eckroad
    - 3rd- Sarah Weiskopf
  - Masters:
    - 1st Place: Christopher Bottom
    - 2nd- Alexander Cohen
    - 3rd- Tie between John Pokallus and Jeremy Dertien
  - PhD:
    - 1st Place- Alison Paulson
    - 2nd Place- Kristina Dunn
    - 3rd Place- Tie between Rebecca Kirby and Chris Latimer
  
- **Student Leaders Breakfast:** Fricke, Little, and Gould attended the breakfast. The breakfast was a success, and there was good discussion between the student chapters regarding various issues each chapter faces. One recommendation that participants suggested was after everyone arrived to mix up the student chapters so there's more interaction between the attendees.
  
- **Workshop / Discussion Panel Sponsorship:**

- **Behind the Scenes of Scientific Publication and Critical Review:** Gramza and Gould represented the SDWG and ran the workshop. The workshop was a success with 11 participants. Unfortunately, Dr. Courtney Conway was unable to attend because of the restrictions caused by the federal government shutdown. Participants completed a survey at the end of the workshop and submitted recommendations to improve the workshop and help determine if it should be hosted again. Overall the participants gave a positive review.
  - **Undergrad Panel Discussion:** The panel discussion was successful even with the absence of federal employees due to the federal government shutdown. Suggestions to improve the event included: more variety of speakers and clarifying answers in how they relate to the speaker's organization as advice from some speakers sometimes contradicted others.
  - **Professional Development in the Wildlife Profession:** Symposium had not yet taken place.
- **Student Chapter Advisor of the Year Award:** The SDWG board selected Dr. Cary Chevalier from Missouri Western State University. Discussion of the award also brought up a problem of a lack of communication between student chapters and TWS headquarters. Many student chapters are unaware of the award and therefore do not nominate their advisors. They are also unaware that they are required to send their officers' emails to TWS headquarters. Dave Walker suggested creating a YouTube video about the benefits of TWS as another way to reach out to students. The SDWG executive board will be contacting Dave for help with this project.

**ACTION ITEM (Little):** Contact Dave Walker.

**Council Update:** Fricke attended Council meetings before and during the annual conference. Council reviewed the 5 year Strategic Action Plan with the main focus being on TWS's finances. Council approved a budget for the upcoming year to help reduce TWS's financial burdens.

#### **Committee Updates:**

- **Awards:** Zummo was able to obtain prizes from conference vendors through collaborating with the Quiz Bowl organizers. Prizes included donated books and merchandise from TWS's Conference Store. Rhys Evans has offered to help find sponsorship for the awards in the upcoming years so that prizes can be purchased and obtained before the conference.
- **Communications:** Fricke communicated with SDWG membership via email throughout the last year leading up to the annual conference.
- **International Liaison:** Gould is now the Student Liaison to the International Wildlife Management Working Group. He is working with the International Wildlife Management Working Group to implement the student exchange program and look for other opportunities for collaboration.
- **Newsletter:** Zummo will finish the newsletter after the conference. The SDWG executive board hopes that more members will take the opportunity to publish their own articles in future issues.
- **Website:** Jerod Merkle will continue to be the chair and maintain the SDWG website.

- **Working Group Liaisons:** Little pitched the “Working Group Liaison” position at the All Working Groups meeting on Sunday. The working groups that attended were enthusiastic about fostering student relations as they have little or no student membership and participation. One concern that arose was meeting overlap at the conference, thus prohibiting attendance of more than one working group meeting by many TWS members. Nenninger also voiced her concern that many students don’t even know that they can join a working group. She suggested that working groups insert a sentence such as “Students welcome” into their working group meeting announcements, which may improve student participation.
  - **Relationships with other Working Groups:** Because of the positive support to better coordinate working groups, a TWS Coordination Working Group (name not official) has been formed. The goal of this coordinator/working group is to connect with all TWS working groups and promote collaboration between working groups that are be working on similar projects.

**Official Student Communication Network:** It was hard to gauge if the OSCN was useful to membership or not as members in attendance had not heard about the website. The executive board has decided to try to increase communication with student chapters and advertise the OSCN more before making a decision on the future of the website.

**Student Travel Award:** The Student Travel Award was presented to Randy Knapik, a Master’s student at Ohio State University. We received 20 applications for this year’s award.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**SDWG Marketing:** At the All Working Group meeting, Little stated that the SDWG is working on better marketing strategies and introducing our working to more members. The other working groups are also interested in this topic. As a result, Little and Loren Chase (Human Dimensions Working Group) will develop a survey to send out to the TWS membership with questions pertaining to how to increase working group participation.

**2014 Symposium Ideas:** Little asked members to consider submitting an idea for a symposium for the 2014 TWS Annual Conference in Pittsburgh, PA. Zummo suggested a symposium on how to run a successful student chapter, or how to transition into The Wildlife Society from a student to a professional.

**Open Discussion:** Because of the apparent lack of communication between student chapters, the SDWG, and TWS at the national level, the executive board asked if there are other social media outlets that may be beneficial to use. LinkedIn and Twitter were suggested as possible candidates.

Gould mentioned the idea of TWS creating a teaser membership for students to show them the benefits of becoming a national member. He also mentioned that members bring their old issues of *The Wildlife Professional* into their student chapters to show the benefits of TWS.

Little asked members if increasing dues from \$5 to \$7 would be reasonable to increase the financial resources of the SDWG. Members felt that as long as the amount was under \$10 that it wouldn’t affect their decision to join or remain members. This increase in dues will be brought up to the entire membership at a later date.

The executive board is looking for more participation from membership on SDWG sponsored activities.

Currently, the executive board members are unable to commit to any more activities as they are already too busy with the amount that SDWG sponsors. With more member participation, the SDWG would be able to create more events and reduce the workload for each member. If you’re interested in helping plan and organize events please contact an executive board member about signing up for a committee.

## **REMINDERS**

Please post and participate on the OSCN. If you have ideas or proposals you'd like to see us develop or implement, please contact a SDWG executive board member.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 2:07 p.m. CST.