

**Student Development Working Group  
Executive Board Meeting: Minutes  
14 January 2013, 2:30am MST**

**PRESENT**

Kent Fricke, *Chair*, Andy Little, *Chair-Elect*, Ashley Gramza, *Past-Chair*, Michel Kohl, *Treasurer*, Matt Gould, *Secretary*.

**OPENING**

Fricke called the January executive board meeting of the Student Development Working Group to order at 2:28pm MST.

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

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Kohl reported on a slight change in the SDWG bank account. The account has been changed to a savings account. By doing so, the SDWG saves \$30 per year in bank fees. The current SDWG bank account balance is \$1,053.37.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Symposium and workshop proposals update:** The TWS deadline to submit proposals for symposiums and workshops was 18 January 2013. Notification of approval for symposiums and workshops will be in March.

- "TWS's Role in Professional Development" symposium: As mentioned earlier, Fricke was developing a symposium proposal that would focus on TWS's role in professional development for students and early career professionals. Fricke has finished and submitted the proposal.
- "Behind the Scenes of Scientific Publication and Critical Review" workshop: The Student Development and Early Career Professional Working Groups will again host and co-sponsor the workshop at the annual conference in Milwaukee, WI. Kerry Nicholson from the ECPWG has submitted the proposal.

**Workshop lead from SDWG:** The planning of the, "Behind the Scenes of Scientific Publication and Critical Review" workshop will be co-chaired by the two working groups. The SDWG chair will be held by Gramza. The committee planners will include the executive board members from the SDWG.

**Job and Career panel discussion:**

- SDWG helped co-sponsor the, "Early Federal Career Opportunities" discussion panel at the annual meeting in Portland, OR. The Western Section of The Wildlife Society has decided to sponsor and run the event again this year in Milwaukee, WI. The SDWG has been invited to co-sponsor it again and the executive board members have accepted the invitation. There will be no monetary commitment, and the SDWG will not have a direct

hand in running the panel. Rhys Evans from the Western Section is again in charge of the panel discussion and has submitted the proposal.

- Fricke proposed the idea of creating a discussion panel specifically for undergraduates. After graduation many students are wondering, “What’s next?” The discussion panel would be comprised of a variety of speakers including those employed as field technicians, graduate students, state and federal biologists, and professors. The goal is to provide undergraduates the opportunity to ask questions to help relieve some of this uncertainty as they prepare for their next step in life. The SDWG executive board members supported the panel, and as a result Fricke developed and submitted the proposal.

**ACTION ITEM (Fricke):** Fricke will develop a proposal on a discussion panel for the annual TWS meeting in Milwaukee, WI. Executive board members will research potential speakers for the panel.

**Working group liaisons description:** The SDWG is in the process of establishing liaisons between working groups in an attempt to increase communication. A working group liaison would be beneficial in not only linking working groups, but also providing more opportunities for members to be involved with other working groups’ executive boards. The SDWG executive board members have decided to continue in this direction by establishing a pilot program. The board plans on approaching working groups with which the SDWG and its members have prior relationships with. Little has developed a description detailing the goals and duties of a working group liaison. This description will be sent to the selected working groups and further communication will continue in hopes of establishing future working group liaisons.

**SDWG Flyer:** Gould developed a flyer detailing the opportunities and benefits provided by the SDWG. The flyer will be distributed to student chapters across the country to encourage membership with the SDWG.

**TWS Subunit Directors and Officer Insurance:** As discussed in the November meeting minutes, the SDWG discussed the possibility of obtaining officers insurance. It was decided that no decisions would be made until we received clarification on pricing and coverage. After Fricke talked with Daryl Walters, it was determined that for subunits with total annual revenue of less than \$50k (such as the SDWG), and a liability limit of \$1m, the premium range is \$500-600 annually. The SDWG executive board members decided that the price of coverage was too expensive. Therefore, the SDWG will not further pursue officers’ insurance.

**Council / Student Liaison update:**

- Fricke provided an update on recent Council activities. Ken Williams has been selected as the new executive director of TWS. As a result, Council has postponed its review of the strategic plan from the March Council meetings until October at the annual conference in Milwaukee to allow Ken Williams to familiarize himself with the position. The review of the TWS strategic plan provides the SDWG with a unique opportunity to

insert student ideas and thoughts into the new plan. If you have any ideas, please contact a SDWG executive board member.

- Fricke is a member of the Future of TWS Conferences ad hoc committee. This committee is developing the ideas for providing child daycare options at the annual meeting. Daycare options would facilitate the annual conference as a more family friendly event, and enable members to attend who would otherwise have childcare responsibilities. Fricke is also a member of the Membership Committee. This committee is exploring avenues for increasing member diversity within TWS and the wildlife profession.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Spring newsletter article ideas:** The executive board would like to encourage student members to contribute to the SDWG newsletter by submitting member articles as well as updates of student chapter activities to the executive board. Please submit your articles to a SDWG executive board member by June.

### **Student Activities Committee update and discussion:**

- The SDWG executive board members are discussing possible ways to improve the Student Research in Progress poster session and Student/Profession Mixer. One potential idea includes having the poster session first and then the mixer second or vice versa instead of concurrently; however, no ideas have been formally submitted and the board is still discussing new avenues. The SDWG executive board would appreciate any input from its members on how to improve the event.
- Student Leaders' Breakfast: The SDWG has received comments from participants of the various student chapters that they would like to have more of an opportunity to talk and ask questions to other student chapter officers. In the response, the SDWG executive board members are implementing a student only mixer session on the Saturday before the conference that will allow students to meet students from other chapters before the conference.
- Student travel grant: As mentioned at the annual conference, the SDWG executive board members will be looking into providing a travel grant to a student for the annual conference in Milwaukee, WI. Currently, the executive board members are researching the feasibility of providing both the travel grant as well as sponsoring the, "Behind the Scenes of Scientific Publication and Critical Review" workshop.

### **REMINDERS**

Please post and participate on the OSCN. If you have ideas or proposals you'd like to see us develop or implement, please propose them to a SDWG officer.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Gramza motioned to adjourn, seconded by Kohl and Little. Meeting adjourned at 3:49pm MST.