

**Student Development Working Group  
Executive Board Meeting: Meeting Minutes  
26 March 2013, 7:00pm MST**

**PRESENT**

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

**ABSENT**

Michel Kohl, *Treasurer*

**CALL TO ORDER**

Fricke called the March executive board meeting of the Student Development Working Group to order at 7:03 p.m. 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**

No activity has taken place since the last SDWG executive board meeting.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Spring newsletter:** The SDWG executive board members are looking for articles for *The Student Chronicles* spring newsletter. Potential articles by SDWG officers include: "Where do your dues go?", "Creativity and critical thinking as an undergraduate", "How to fund your own graduate research", and "Connectivity and networking in the wildlife field." The newsletter will also have updates on this year's student conclaves. Articles should be approximately 500 words. If you have an article idea or would like to submit an article to be published in the *The Student Chronicles* please email ([students@wildlifesociety.org](mailto:students@wildlifesociety.org)). The deadline for article submissions is 15 April.

**Student Activities Committee (SAC) update and discussion:** Gramza informed the SDWG executive board members that the SAC has a field trip planned for undergraduates at the 2013 TWS Annual Conference in Milwaukee, WI. They're currently in the process of planning the final details for the field trip.

**Symposium and workshop proposals updates:** Fricke is currently working with the Early Career Professional and College Education Working Groups on preliminary work for the symposium and discussion panel proposals including identifying speakers. Auriel Fournier has volunteered to help out with conference sessions (amvander@uark.edu, Arkansas Fish & Wildlife Coop. Unit)

- **Submitted and Accepted (any changes required by 22 April):**
  - **Discussion Panel: *Uncertainty of an Undergrad: Navigating the maze of employment and career opportunities.***

The SDWG executive board members are in the process of identifying and asking speakers for the discussion panel.

- **Symposium: Professional Development within The Wildlife Society: Are we doing enough?**  
Fricke is in the process of organizing the symposium.
- **Behind the Scenes Workshop:** The SDWG executive board members had another meeting to identify the direction that we would like the workshop to head. We decided that the section the SDWG will be leading will focus on how to critically think and review someone else's work versus your own. Our next step is to contact speakers to lead the various sections of the workshop. We will have additional meetings with the other working groups in designing the direction of the workshop.

**Working group liaisons:** Little sent out a description of the position to the Early Career Professional, International Development, and Wildlife and Habitat Restoration Working Groups. To date, the following suggestions have been made regarding the working group liaison position: 1) SDWG promote students from our membership to seek the working group liaison position to increase participation and lessen the burden for other working groups during this pilot study; and 2) discuss the liaison position at the Working Group Board Members meeting at the 2013 TWS Annual Conference in Milwaukee, WI.

**Student Travel Award:** The executive board members have agreed to wait until after 22 April, which is the deadline for changes to discussion panel, symposium, and workshop proposals, to determine how much money will be allocated to those events and will be available for this year's student travel award.

**Council / Student Liaison update:** Fricke attended the spring TWS Council meeting in Arlington, Virginia on March 24 and 25. Overall it was a cordial process, and everyone was impressed with Dr. Ken Williams, the new TWS Executive Director, who had only been on the job for two weeks. He provided Council with ideas to help improve and make TWS more efficient. Ideas included transferring the TWS database into a new administrative management system. Doing so would allow all membership information to be synced and flow more smoothly. Once the information has been transferred, it will allow TWS to move forward into other areas needing improvement.

Council approved the new Range Management Working Group for interim status while the Renewable Energy Working Group was approved and gained official status. The Native Peoples Wildlife Management Working Group is in the process of finding funding for their professional development program. Previously, they were funded through federal money, but because of budget cuts they may lose that source of funding. The Leadership Institute, however, has been re-funded by sections and state chapters. Tom Roberts was also approved and added to the TWS certification board. Council is also looking to approve a bylaw change that will move TWS voting from paper ballots to online ballots. Doing so will reduce cost and increase efficiency of

the voting process. Council also discussed issues regarding deer breeding and voted for new TWS fellows.

Publishing: *The Wildlife Professional* is losing more money than it makes, but is still being published as it's a staple of TWS membership benefits. *The Wildlife Professional* is also looking for student articles. If you're interested in writing an article, please contact a SDWG officer. Paul Krausman and Bruce Leopold have recently co-authored a new book entitled, "Essential Readings in Wildlife Management and Conservation," which contains historically important readings of the field of wildlife management. Other books published by TWS include *The Wildlife Techniques Manual* (Research and Management) and *Human Dimensions of Wildlife Management*. There was also discussion about the status of technical reviews. Currently, they are free on line while hard copies are sold, however, due to the fact that of the high quality in which they are printed they are becoming too expensive to produce. As a result, Council will discuss the direction in which technical reviews will take at the Fall meeting. Past president Tom Ryder informed Council of the status of his participation in a conservation leaders round table discussion.

Overall there was little that involved student involvement. It was emphasized to Council that reviewing the Strategic Action Plan will take place at the fall meeting which the student liaison will have a role in developing. The SDWG executive board members are also interested in asking Council at the fall meeting to allow the Student Liaison, who already attends Council meetings, to be given a voting position on Council.

**Website update:** The Wildlife Society is transitioning into the new website format, Drupal. As a result, our website committee is in the process of updating the website. If you have any ideas as to what should be included on the website, please contact our website committee chair, Jerod Merkle ([jerod.merkle.1@ulaval.ca](mailto:jerod.merkle.1@ulaval.ca)), or a SDWG officer as soon as possible.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Nominations for Student Advisor of the Year Award - Deadline 15 April:** The SDWG is looking for nominations for the *Student Chapter Advisor of the Year Award*. If your adviser has helped advance your student chapter and other undergraduate students please fill out the nomination form [here](#) and email it to [yanin@wildlife.org](mailto:yanin@wildlife.org). The SDWG executive board members will be in charge of selecting the advisor of the year and will provide a recommendation to TWS staff by 15 June.

### **REMINDERS:**

Please post and participate on the OSCN. If you have ideas or proposals you'd like to see us develop or implement, or an article idea for the newsletter please submit them to a SDWG executive board member.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm MST.