

## Student Development Working Group Minutes

18 January 2018

16:00 Eastern Time (via Skype)

### Present

Phillip Stephenson, *Chair*, Colleen Hartel, *Chair-elect*, Laken Ganoë, *Secretary*, Brenna Hyzy, *Treasurer*, Kristi Confortin, *Past-chair*, Summer Higdon, *Newsletter Committee Chair*, Meredith Hoggatt, *International Committee Chair*

### Call to Order

Stephenson called the January Executive Board meeting of the SDWG to order at 16:00 EST.

Agenda for this month's meeting was accepted by the SDWG Executive Board members.

Meeting minutes from November and December 2017 were accepted.

### Treasurer's Report

- Hyzy reports
  - Checking: \$1,014.82
  - Savings: \$425.21
  - No pending transactions

### Old Business

- **Facebook Page**
  - Confortin reports
  - January update – up to 1107 likes!
  - She has been privately messaging new people to get features for the Facebook page
  - Reached out to committee members that signed up at the Conference and has gotten two students really involved with helping Confortin keep the Facebook page up
  - Hartel also has some more names to add to the list for committee members
- **Google Group**
  - Stephenson reports
  - Still people joining slowly
  - Goal for the month: put in new updates now that the holidays are over
  - Focus on job post portion
  - May add information about the survey
- **Newsletter**
  - Higdon reports
  - Stephenson sent Higdon list of names that would be interested in helping write articles
  - Study Abroad, Taking Risks, Preparing for Internship/What to Expect
  - Word limit has been established to try and fit articles onto one page
  - Emailed 5 students interested, and 2 have responded
  - "Notes from the Field" column about field work and research
  - Brainstorm other ideas of what they would like to see in the newsletter

- Trying to get newsletter out by end of February
- Want to incorporate a section about international students every newsletter
- **2018 Student/Professional Mixer**
  - Confortin/Ganoe reports
  - Met with Lara Pacifica yesterday over a phone call and discussed ideas about a networking event and symposium
  - Came up with a list of topics that do not overlap with what Lara had planned
  - Lara thinks we should submit our proposal for a 5-talk symposium with a possible panel discussion at the end
  - Student/Professional Mixer is all on us – we need to get this figured out, so we can work with Lara
  - We have a small budget as well for the mixer – not sure the exact number yet
  - Not sure about room size, time frame, or food/drink
  - Half students make up conference registration and then a little more than half would come to the mixer (~400 students)
  - Ideas for potential speakers need to be sent by Feb 21<sup>st</sup>

### New Business

- **Student/Professional Networking Event**
  - First 30-min with Network Coaching
    - Professionals will be able to help students learn how to network best and how to approach a professional in a setting like the National Conference
  - Divided tables and structure to help people find other people
  - Animal/Plant stickers for on nametags
  - Need to know how many tables we need and how we want to divide tables (agencies, state, federal, nonprofit???)
- **Student Membership Survey**
  - Hartel reports
  - General analysis – haven't had time to critically analyze it yet
    - Hopefully get it done within a week or so
  - Awareness for the newsletter were really lot
  - Response rate =  $318/2493 = 12.8\%$
  - Comments on other activities:
    - Interest in stronger professional development effort on our part – job board, job search committee (outside our capacity)
  - High satisfaction with the online journal access
  - Finances and travel to conference was an issue – need to advertise financial resources as much as we can
    - Some students might not know you can be awarded more than one scholarship to attend the conference
  - Council will probably be really interested in the open-ended responses
    - Majority apply to TWS as a whole
  - Hartel will work on getting the information into an overview of results to submit to council

- **2018 TWS Proposals Due Nov. 13 – Mar. 21**
  - Need to complete our proposals for symposium ideas
  - Keep everyone together in emails so we all know what is going on
- **Honor Society Stance**
  - Is there really a gap that needs to be filled?
  - Council may have different intentions with this than we see
  - Students are already confused with TWS as an entity and are unsatisfied with the financial burden
  - Trying to make an honor society that is equivalent to the forestry honor society
    - Forestry Honor Society is one-time fee of \$15
    - Participation was extremely low – sent invite to 35 and only 3 accepted
    - Not very realistic unless it is a one-time fee and no meetings
  - Our certification is having a hard time being recognized as valuable, how is this supposed to be seen as credible
  - We should maybe give Darren a call and discuss our concerns before we send in a denial letter
  - Put more emphasis on AWB and CWB – represents a similar thing
  - Stoles and cords would be a sticky situation, maybe should just be on the Student Chapter level
  - Stephenson, Confortin, Hartel, and Zummo-Strong (ECPWG) will call Darren and recap thoughts about the Honor Society
- **New Ideas**
  - Report to Council
    - Dropbox in google has all our previous reports to council
    - General outline everything we have done since the fall meeting
    - Survey results and other suggestions that would benefit Council or things that we see could be an issue
    - Written by Secretary and edited by everyone
    - More detailed, the better it is for them to review
    - Discuss events at the conference and forward from there
      - Committees, newsletters, Facebook page, Student Leaders Lunch etc.
    - Look at 2017 Spring Report to Council for reference
    - Draft due by Feb 9<sup>th</sup>
  - International Committee
    - Formed by previous officer
    - International meeting next year – Chile
    - Wanted to connect students around the world with wildlife
    - Featured in one of our newsletters
    - Meredith is connected with people who have already signed up and has a list from Mariah of international students
    - Main focus right now is contacting students
      - Would like to start international highlight on the Facebook Page
    - Want to put information out about jobs, internships, Master's positions, etc.

- Communicate with Art Rogers (Canadian Section) to integrate them a little better

Meeting adjourned at 17:30 EST