

## **Student Development Working Group Minutes**

27 April 2018

17:30 Eastern Time (via conference call)

### **Present**

Phillip Stephenson, *Chair*, Colleen Hartel, *Chair-elect*, Laken Ganoe, *Secretary*, Kristi Confortin, *Past-chair*

### **Call to Order**

Stephenson called the April Executive Board meeting of the SDWG to order at 17:33 EST.

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

Meeting minutes from March 2018 were accepted.

### **Treasurer's Report**

- Checking: \$997.10
- Savings: \$450.25
- No money going toward workshop or conference so no new transactions

### **Old Business**

- **Early Summer Newsletter**
  - Stephenson reports
  - Newsletter on pace to be out this month
  - Want to push a Canadian edition
- **Facebook Page**
  - Confortin reports
  - Had a few more likes the past few weeks
  - 1128 likes
  - How can we reach even more students?
    - Maybe we can reach out to advisors with our information
  - We have 20 more followers (1190)
  - Ran out of students to feature on Motivational Mondays
  - Tribal Tuesday has also slowed down but is anticipated to pick up again after the conference
  - A lot of content going out
  - Other state chapters and groups are sharing our information – really good to see!
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- **Instagram Option**
  - Stephenson reports
  - Potential option
  - Admins have option to select Instagram to post from Facebook onto Instagram
  - This might help get the content out to multiple platform

- Not sure if it will translate our lengthy Facebook posts fully, but maybe the more simple posts would be fine
- **Spring Council Meeting Update**
  - Stephenson reports
  - Council really likes our engagement with information we bring to Council meetings and how we are working
  - Council is trying to lump additional misc. budget items that are not “necessary” and the idea is that these additional funds will be an endowment
    - We cannot really tap into these, but possible changes may be made
    - Struck a deal that conference registration has only increased \$10 for students and double that for professionals
    - Topic being discussed to figure out what needs to happen to find a happy medium for conference registration
  - Dues are being raised \$1
    - Inflation has not been accounted for in the past couple years
  - 2020 conference will be in Louisville, KY
  - 2019 in Reno, NV – Joint with AFS
  - So far Mexico Conference was brought up but not acted upon
    - Most Council members were in support
  - Honors Society was brought up as well
    - Determined that this would not create anything new, and was struck down
  - Things to focus on:
    - Push for nominations for awards
    - Push for Give Back Program
      - Get more students sign-up for this
      - What is the cost - \$2 per each TWP
      - Table at the conference letting people know about it and allowing people to nominate someone on site
        - Staff is busy – want people recruited
          - Push for volunteers
          - Or built in to the registration desk
    - Need to really think about our goals for the newsletter – is it worth the extra effort and is it being read
      - We will keep sending it to Council
      - Could send it to advisors to post on bulletin board
    - Increase Canadian presence
- **Symposium Submission**
  - Ganoie reports
  - Our symposium was accepted!
  - Ganoie will be in contact with speakers to make sure they submit abstracts
  - Because this symposium was a little different than other symposiums (speakers are not presenting articles/research), if there are more than one speaker during a session, they will be listed as a “co-author” by the lead speaker
  - Abstracts for sessions are due by May 18<sup>th</sup>

- There was a little mix up with submissions and they did not have two of our sections listed: Student Chapter of the Year Presentation and the Student Chapter Advisor of the Year presentation.
- Do we know when the awards will be given out? Ganoe can possibly write up draft abstracts for both sections and just remain in touch with Tricia Fry to make sure the names get updated when the awards are given
  - Need to enter agreement with Council to get that information to Tricia as soon as it is available so we can get the individual in on our symposium
- For our group talks, it might be best to work on PowerPoints together and share our own presentations with each other to proofread
- Send abstracts to each other by May 6
- **Northeast Conclave Update**
  - Ganoe reports
  - Ganoe attended the NE Conclave in Starksboro, VT from April 13-15
  - >150 students were in attendance representing 14 student chapters all the way from WVU – U Maine
  - John McDonald attended and talked to students about things going on in headquarters
  - Ganoe gave a brief speech about the SDWG (elections coming up, nominations for awards, committees, etc.) and handed out business cards to all attendants
  - Students displayed interest in the working group and several wanted to know more
  - Ganoe also gave a brief plug for the NE Section (where she serves as Student Rep)
    - She is vacating the undergraduate position and moving into the graduate student position, and nominations are going to open for new undergraduate student rep in the next month or so
    - Many students have displayed interest in the position
    - This would be a great example of a framework for other sections to take up to gain student representation at the section level and a student liaison between the SDWG and TWS Sections
- **2018 Student/Professional Networking Event**
  - Confortin reports
  - Detailed email from Lara about our event
  - Separate room for leaders lunch
  - Asked to do Resume Workshop from 1-4
  - We have a date and food and a cash bar!
  - Structured activity first
    - It would be good to focus our energy on this event since we are hosting it
      - Have a separate call focused on this
    - Think of topics/groups for the speed dating and professionals that would be interested in helping out

### **New Business**

- **Student/Professional Networking Event**
  - Anticipate a separate call focused on planning this
- **Meeting Minutes Uploading**
  - 3 year time frame for minutes up on the TWS page

- Hartel will touch base with Mariah and make sure she has access to our minutes
- **Mexico Conference Update**
  - Bruce proposed that some subunit come up with \$2,500 and TWS would match that
  - Stephenson will keep us up to date on this
- **Student Advisor of the Year Award**
  - Confortin reports
  - Pushing this once a week via Facebook
  - It has been entered in the eWildlifer every once in a while
  - Try to see a ballpark on how many student chapters have applied and when we will know the winner
  - Dropbox “grad sheet” for judging submissions
- **Awards Committee**
  - Confortin reports
  - Student abstracts/judging
  - Kristin Zummo-Strong has been running the awards for over 5 years and has decided to move on
    - Need someone to step into this position
    - Confortin can help transition and co-team with new student (Sarah)
    - Maybe get the new student to look at the Advisor applications as well
- **International Committee**
  - Confortin reports
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- **New Ideas**
  - Confortin is sitting on the WOW (women of wildlife) group
    - Have submitted a proposal on Me Too for a symposium that got accept
    - Confortin will send out information and will be representing the students and giving a talk during this symposium
    - Anonymous google forum where students could share their experience
    - Talk about the change in demographics in wildlife field in the past several decades
  - TWS is starting a diversity initiative
    - Confortin is sitting on the college sub-group
    - How to incorporate diversity in a college setting
    - More people involved in this would be great – Currently have 5 members
    - Working on a two-page report for what the sub-group suggest to do
    - Contact Confortin for how to get involved
  - Officer Elections
    - Confortin has been in charge of posting about elections and has been contact for this
    - Hartel has offered to take this over
    - Recruit more individuals to run
      - Officers send blurbs about what we like about being a part of the working group and what we have gotten out of our positions
        - Send picture along with it

- Need dates when students send in their information and when we want to vote
    - Call for nominations July 1 and open vote on August 1
  - Transition period?
- Student Leader's Lunch
  - We have a date and time
  - Email Council now to let them know far in advance to get members to attend the lunch
  - Tuesday October 9 from 12-2:00pm

Meeting adjourned at 19:10EST