

MINUTES OF THE HL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
6 JULY 2005
MARRIOTT TAMPA WATERSIDE HOTEL AND MARINA
TAMPA, FLORIDA

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Bauer, de Sá, Dodd, Ford, Given, Jaeger, Kearney, Mitchell, Mullin, Mushinsky, Phillips, Smith (Lora), Walls
COMMITTEE CHAIRS IN ATTENDANCE: Campbell, McDiarmid
REGRETS: Beachy, Lannoo, Mathis, Sheil

President Mushinsky called the meeting to order at 1400 h.

Minutes of the 2004 Board of Trustees and Business meetings in Norman, Oklahoma were approved unanimously with one change: M. Lannoo was in attendance.

Reports

The following reports were approved unanimously: President's, Vice-President's, Treasurer's, Secretary's, Publication Secretary's, *Herpetologica* Editor's, HL Newsletter Editor's, Symposium Committee Chair's, Jaeger Award Committee Chair's, Herpetological Checklist Committee Chair's (verbal), Conservation Committee Chair's, AIBS/BioOne Representative's, Herpetological Education Committee Chair's, Graduate Studies Committee Chair's, and Nomination Committee Report. There was no report from the Editor of *Herpetological Monographs*. Additional business related to these reports is presented below.

Meeting Sites. President Mushinsky discussed future meeting venues. Future meetings have been planned for 2006 (New Orleans, July), 2007 (St. Louis), and 2008 (Montreal). The intended 2007 meeting at Cornell University was cancelled because of economic considerations. The 2008 JMIH meeting in Montreal will not be held in concert with a World Congress of Herpetology, as originally planned. Patrick Gregory is considering a JMIH and WCH meeting in Vancouver in 2009. Finally, Mushinsky continues to seek an agreement among the three societies (ASIH, HL and SSAR) to share equally in all aspects, including financial, of the joint meetings.

President's Report. Four motions were approved regarding JMIH Meeting Planning Committee (MPLC) business. These are presented under New Business.

Vice-President's Report. Refer to HL Graduate Studies Committee Report.

Treasurer's Report. We started the 2004/2005 fiscal year with \$246,000 and ended at \$269,000. Smith presented a motion to shift to a fiscal year that begins 1 January instead of 1 May, making our financial practices consistent with the society's by-laws. This was approved. The Independent Auditor's Report of April 30, 2004 recommended that all checks be signed by two, instead of one person. Instead of adopting this approach, it was agreed that the Treasurer will send to the President a monthly report of all checks that

have been written. Finally, Treasurer Smith distributed copies of the Independent Auditor's Report.

Secretary's Report. Transition of the secretarial role to Patrick Owen will begin in August 2005.

Publications Secretary's Report. Secretary Phillips moved that we reduce the press run of issue 1 to 100 copies beyond the number of members and subscribers at present and the press run of issues 2, 3, and 4 to 50 copies. He also moved to transfer \$4,000 from the Publications Secretary account to the Treasurer's account. Both motions were approved. Steve Mullin was welcomed as Secretary Phillip's replacement.

Herpetologica Editor's Report. President Mushinsky reported for Alicia. He moved to give Alicia permission to pay an hourly worker 2-3 hours per week if needed at \$7 per hour. This was approved.

HL Communications. Chris Beachy has resigned as editor of HL Communications. There was general agreement that the newsletter has become obsolete and should be replaced with a bulletin board as part of the HL web site. President Mushinsky was encouraged to continue conversations with an individual who is interested in herpetology and may be willing to offer his web design services. The board voted to allow Mushinsky up to \$1,000 to use toward upgrading the HL website.

Symposium Committee Chair's Report. The committee consisted of Rafael de Sá (chair), Aaron Bauer and Christopher Austin. Members voted unanimously to support and provide full funding for the proposal "A Celebration of the Life of Joe Slowinski."

HL Robert Jaeger Award Committee Report. There were only three participants in the 2005 competition. The relatively low number of participants may reflect, in part, a lack of communication stemming from problems with the HL web site and newsletter.

Conservation Committee and Herpetological Education Committee. Both groups were encouraged to be proactive in their activities for the upcoming year. Steve Mullin reported for the Education Committee. Todd Campbell reported for the Conservation Committee.

Herpetological Checklist Committee Report. Roy McDiarmid reported that publication of *Amphibian Species of the World* will be delayed because three major publications that will potentially affect its content will be coming out over the next year. A proposal for scheduling and funding will be presented to the HL Board of Trustees next year.

HL Graduate Studies Committee Report. Bob Jaeger reported for Brian Smith and Michael Lannoo. He recommended that his report (Vice President's), which features innovative ways that the American Phytopathological Society involves graduate students, be referred to the HL Graduate Studies Committee.

New Business

Alliance Communications Group proposal. Theresa Pickel, Director of Publishing of the Alliance Communications Group (the Publishing Division of Allen Press, Inc.) gave a short overview followed by one hour of discussion on a proposal for a cooperative publishing arrangement with the HL to produce *Herpetologica* and *Herpetological Monographs*. A copy of this proposal can be requested from President Mushinsky. Following the discussion, we agreed to create a subcommittee to study the proposal in greater depth and make specific recommendations to the HL Board of Trustees. The subcommittee will be chaired by Vice President Jaeger and will include, at minimum, the President, Treasurer and journal editors. A separate proposal was received from Allen Press Marketing and Management for handling membership services. This will be revisited after decisions about the Alliance Communications Group proposal are made.

Meeting Management Committee (MPLN). Four motions regarding the management of future joint meetings were approved. President Mushinsky made the following motions: 1) limit number of oral presentations to 700 on a “first-come, first-served” basis; 2) that each society makes final decisions on symposia that they want to sponsor by 31 March of the year before the proposed seminar; 3) that each joint meeting will be limited to no more than eight symposia, and 4) that there be a process for proposing workshops. The specific details of each of these motions can be found in President Mushinsky’s report.

Acknowledgements. The following individuals were acknowledged for their services to the HL: Ron Brandon (Index Editor), Joe Mitchell (Past President), Mac Given (Secretary), Chris Phillips (Publishing Secretary), Chris Beachy (HL Communications) and William Cooper, Rafael de Sá and Maureen Kearney (Executive Council Class of 2005).

Nominations for 2005 Election. Susan Walls presented the slate of nominees for the 2005 election. The slate was approved with the exception that it is not necessary to have Lora Smith on the ballot. Additional nominations may be made at Friday’s Business Meeting.

Honorary Member. Nominations were received for Jim Dixon and Ernest Liner. Additional nominations may be made at Friday’s Business Meeting followed by an election.

The board meeting was adjourned at 16:49 h.

Respectfully submitted,
Mac F. Given