

**Transactions: American Arachnological Society Executive  
Committee meeting  
THE Ohio State Univ., Newark Ohio, June 21, 2014**

**Attending:** Charles Griswold, Marshal Hedin, Karen Cangialosi, Alan Cady, Jeff Shultz, Robert Suter, Rick Vetter, Brent Opell, Paula Cushing

Griswold called meeting to order **15:45**

Review of transactions from last AAS EC meeting at Johnson City, TN, 2013. Accepted and approved.

**Reports**

**Membership** – Shultz reported AAS losing Regular members slowly, but there is a big boost in student members. However, many students do not continue on to become Regular members. Institutional membership is down 10%. JSTOR & BIO1 are providing access to publications for these entities.

**Treasurer** – Cangialosi reported AAS is at high point with their finances. The Schwab investments are doing well, and ~ \$37K came in from JSTOR & BIO1. There was a question about seed money for the upcoming Congress; it always is made available.

**Journal of Arachnology** – Suter stated that a ‘hybrid’ issue of the Journal is upcoming, consisting of Congress and ‘regular’ papers. The acceptance rate is statistically rising, but is not interesting. There are no new impact factors available yet. The cost of publishing is steady and revenues are up. It may be possible in the future that the Journal could cover all costs and actually make money.

**Future Meeting Sites** – Hedin stated:

2015: Brian Patrick, Dakota Wesleyan Univ., Mitchell SD

2016: Paula Cushing, Golden, CO – AAS + ISA Congress

2017: Fernando Alvarez, Yucatan, Mexico

2018: Cara Shillington, Eastern Michigan Univ., Ypsilanti, MI

2019: Joel Ledford @ UC Davis or Auburn Univ.

It was agreed that hosts should be asked not to schedule meeting dates which conflict with other national meetings which AAS members tend to attend

**Election** – Cady reported the ballots had not yet been counted (determined later that Paula Cushing is Secretary (replacing Alan Cady) and Mike Draney is Director (replacing Ingi Agnarsson))

**Spiders of North America, an Identification Manual (SNAIM)** – Cushing stated that revisions have started. A ‘drop-box’ for authors has been established. Revision deadline

is mid-August 2014, with the new version slated for January 2015. E-publishing will be allowed. It was suggested that the cover be made stronger.

- The Field Guide has done well. 2,649 sold as of June 2014.

**Student Research Awards** – Cady reported there were 15 submissions; 15 awards of \$200-\$300. \$4K was spent altogether. There was a short discussion of raising the amount of money available for student research which was tabled until New Business.

**Marketing Committee** – Cushing suggested that the Marketing Committee be dissolved due to clear lack of purpose and activity. This issue was tabled until New Business.

**Website** – Cady and other members reported on and discussed various issues surrounding the AAS website. The changes made by Jan Weaver since the 2013 meeting have mostly satisfied concerns raised at that time. Thus, the transition to a professional web firm proposed in 2013 did not happen.

Specific items:

- Officers need to be updated
- JOA materials need to be posted on time
- Use the AAS website as a ‘portal’ to other professional society websites
- It was stated that Weaver does not seek information on additions/changes/updates, but expects these to be reported to her
- The website is an investment, and important for marketing the Society.
- The website needs to be made easily accessible for mobile devices. This would require a professional web designer.

Since content updates are vital, it was suggested that a specific agreement be produced establishing timing of updates, liaisons with EC members, and other webmaster responsibilities. Griswold will have a conversation with Weaver about these issues. It was moved to form a committee of Paula Cushing, Marshal Hedin, and Karen Cangialosi to oversee website operations. The motion was seconded and **PASSED**.

**Student Presentation Awards** – Motion to create an application form for students explicitly outlining qualifications, rules, requirements, and guidelines. This is to put online. Seconded & **PASSED**.

#### **NEW BUSINESS: Moved into a Committee-Of-The-Whole**

**Support for South American Members** – Griswold suggested considerations be given to support those from the Americas south of the US seeking to attend AAS meetings. It should be explicitly stated this support is for Central & South America. It was moved that \$500 be made available to 6 students (total of \$3K) from the Americas south of the US. The motion was seconded and **PASSED**.

**Student Research Awards** – It was decided that the total amount available for 2015 remain at \$4K.

**Marketing Committee/ Press Relations Office** – It was moved and seconded to disband the Marketing Committee. The motion **PASSED**.

In order to handle AAS publicity, it was moved and seconded to establish a Press Relations Office. The motion **PASSED**.

It was determined that Paula Cushing and Bob Suter will initially comprise the Public relations Office. The Office is charged with writing press releases about the Journal of Arachnology and other AAS activities of interest to the general public, then sending these to appropriate outlets.

**Adjourn – 17:58**

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**ACTION ITEMS:**

- **Create online application form for annual Student Presentation Awards.**
- **Establish and publicize travel support (6, \$500 awards) for students in Central and South America.**
- **Create and implement Public Relations Office to create and distribute press releases about the Journal of Arachnology, and other AAS activities of interest to the general public.**