

International Relations Committee

Committee Members: B. H. Blake, J. Campos, I. Castro-Arellano, S. Gardner, L. C. Hester, C. A. Iudica (Chair), W. Z. Lidicker, Jr., A. V. Linzey, I. Martinez-Serrano, S. Reeder Carroll, R. K. Rose, K. Rowe, D. A. Schlitter, A. T. Smith, S. Solari, J. M. Taylor, R. G. Trujillo, J. A. Wilson, S. M. Wisely.

Mission:

The Board of Directors established the International Relations Committee in 1960 to maintain and enhance communication between members of the Society and mammalogists outside North America. The mission of this committee is to advance the field of mammalogy by encouraging and facilitating international collaboration among members of the ASM and mammalogists from other countries.

Information Items:

(1) On-going initiatives:

(a) The Sponsored Membership Program: In collaboration with the Membership Committee, a number of sponsored memberships and subscriptions have been awarded since this program started. The Committee has continued to receive nominations and requests, and has worked towards expanding the geographical distribution of these memberships. Currently we have created a subcommittee charged with the task of developing a set of guidelines to manage the program and maintaining a waiting list of potential recipients. This program started under the visionary guidance of Enrique Lessa, and now is continuing with Serena Reeder Carroll, Mike Gannon, and Kevin Rowe. These individuals are coordinating this initiative and are working on developing formal guidelines for this program to grow into the next phase. Once these guidelines are ready, they will be posted on our website.

(b) The Buddy System: The Committee has worked in using a "buddy system" to help international authors prepare their manuscripts for submission to the *Journal of Mammalogy*. An *ad hoc* subcommittee for this program continues working on finding better ways to advertise this service and to coordinate efforts. We are very fortunate that Barbara Blake, Bill Lidicker, and Alicia Lindsey are working to promote and coordinate this great program.

(c) Links to Mammal Societies of the World: Committee members have continued to serve as links with mammal societies throughout the world and providing information on mammal meetings that appear in the *Journal of Mammalogy* and other international publications as well. A specific subcommittee maintains an updated list of international mammal societies and their web pages, which will be posted on our website soon. This is an on-going task. Ivan Castro-Arellano has been leading this group and we are looking for

volunteers to assist in this interesting and important task (collecting and maintaining an up-to-date list of links [on the web] to the mammal societies of the world). Please, contact the IRC-chair if interested.

(d) International Meetings and the International Federation of Mammalogists (IFM): Bill Lidicker (IFM president) is taking the lead on coordinating and keeping us informed about the next IMC (10th, in Argentina, 2009) and Winston Smith will be doing the same on the ASM/AMS meeting schedule for 2011. Also, very exciting times as the IFM has established a new organization under the leadership of a group of fantastic people. See the separate report of the IFM representatives, below.

(e) ASM Student Membership Award: In 2008, the SAREM (Argentina Mammalogist Society) and the ASM Board established an annual award for the best student presentation at the SAREM annual meeting. The award, ASM publications, is presented to “a student - developing country – online only”. The student is chosen annually by a SAREM committee.

(2) New Initiatives:

(a) The committee is drafting a new resolution on “access to international biological resources” with the Resolutions, Systematic Collections, and other committees.

(b) The Committee welcomes new initiatives as new task forces may develop in the future. The Chair would like to thank the support and commitment of all Committee members. Thanks to all!

Action Items:

(1) The addition of \$20/year to the 2010 ASM Budget for the annual “ASM Student membership Award” at the SAREM (Argentina) annual meeting (to pay for a student from a developing country, online membership).

Respectfully submitted,
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Report of the ASM delegation to the International Federation of Mammalogists

April 2009

(1) It has now been almost two and a half years since the Federation has been operating in its new format. The new structure became official in the summer of 2006, and this was followed by a necessary transition period when officers were elected and other

infrastructure established. We became fully operational on 30 December 2006. Much has been accomplished since that time, the most obvious manifestation of which is that we are looking forward to the International Mammalogical Congress no. 10 to be held in Mendoza, Argentina from 9 to 14 August 2009. This will be the first Congress in this series to be held in South America.

The IMC-10 Organizing Committee is chaired by Ricardo Ojeda, and all signs suggest that a very successful congress is in the works. At the Congress, we anticipate that there will be two or more invitations for hosting IMC-11 in 2013. Last February, we sent a message to the entire ASM Board asking everyone to consider hosting this event which has never been held in the USA. Not a single response has been received to date. The Federation Board has loaned the IMC-10 committee \$6,000 to help it get started with its organization. Later we made an unprecedented grant of \$12,000 to help support student attendance at the Congress, especially from Latin American countries.

(2) The Federation website (www.mammalogyinternational.org) has been greatly improved since a year ago. In addition to a link to the IMC-10 website, we now have links to almost all of the 15 member organizations (including ASM). The host server has also been successfully moved from Belfast, N. Ireland to La Paz, Baja California, which has greatly improved the efficiency of site maintenance. The Board adopted a new logo, now proudly displayed on the website, which creatively expresses the international character of the IFM.

(3) Three other items of interest are: 1) With the recommendation of the Federation's Committee on Nomenclature (Judith Eger, Chair), the Federation has agreed to affiliate with the International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN); 2) The Federation Board has had preliminary discussions with new mammal societies in Peru, Portugal, Taiwan, Korea, and a possible Baltic Mammal Society, but so far none of these has applied for membership; 3) For the second year now, IFM is described in the *Yearbook of International Organizations* (www.ula.org).

(4) At the annual meeting in Fairbanks, the ASM Board will have to appoint or re-appoint its three delegates to IFM. These representatives serve on the IFM Board of Directors and in this capacity are eligible for election as Federation officers. The new delegates will take office at the close of the Congress.

Respectfully submitted,
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