

Date: April 3, 2000

To: Board of Directors and President O. James Reichman, American Society of Mammalogists

From: Education and Graduate Students Committee (Members: Bryon Clark, Terry Doonan, Elmer Finck, Christine Hice, Hopi Hoekstra, Glennis Kaufman, Jill Kruper, Eileen Lacey, Susan Loeb [Chair], Robert Manson, Brock McMillan, Thomas Nupp, Morty Ortega, John Peles, Lottie Peppers, Cynthia Rebar, Ryan Rehmeier, Wendy Sera, Paul Stapp, Robert Swihart, Michael Tannenbaum, Ginny Turner-Erfort, Gregory Wilson)

Re: Annual Report

Information Items:

- 1) The Committee continues to organize the evaluation of student oral and poster presentations. The popularity of this program continues to grow among students. In 1999, 113 student oral presentations and posters were evaluated by 64 evaluators. We thank all the volunteers who have participated in this program throughout the years and encourage everyone, particularly those who have students being evaluated, to volunteer in the future. We would also like to remind all evaluators that the purpose of the evaluations is to help students improve their future presentations by providing them with constructive comments and suggestions. Many thanks to Robert Swihart and John Peles for continuing to organize the evaluations.
- 2) The 2000 annual Meeting marks the 6th year of “Breakfast with a Scientist” which is currently being organized by Eileen Lacey. The program has been well received by both students and scientists. We particularly thank all the scientists who have participated in this program over the past 6 years. This is also the 6th year the Committee has sponsored a luncheon for Plenary session speakers hosted by the President.
- 3) Bryon Clark mailed 266 copies of the informational brochures “Careers in Mammalogy” and “Science of Mammalogy” to 90 people (several requests for multiple copies) in 1999-2000. Only a few copies of the Grant List were requested by mail. We presume that most people are now accessing this list from the ASM web site. The revised edition of “The Science of Mammalogy” is expected to be completed by August 2000.
- 4) The committee is sponsoring a workshop entitled “How to get the most out of your ASM membership”. The objectives of the workshop are to: 1) provide information on the services and programs offered by ASM, 2) provide information and guidance on how all members can become more involved in the Society, and 3) provide a forum for discussion to find out how the E&GS Committee and the Society can be more responsive to the needs of its members. Although this workshop will be primarily targeted towards students and new members, it will provide valuable information to all members on a variety of topics including networking; research, grant, and award opportunities; serving on committees; the importance of the Members Meetings; publishing in the Journal; and the ASM web page. Chris Hice has done an excellent job organizing the workshop with the assistance of Ginny Turner-Erfort and the rest of the committee.
- 5) Terry Doonan, Jill Kruper, and Hopi Hoekstra are working on the Committee’s web page. The initial focus of the expanded web site will be to provide more information to students who want to become involved in mammalogy on such things as internships, volunteer opportunities, assistantships, and post-docs.

Action Items:

Undergraduate Research Award

At the 1999 Annual Meeting, the Ad Hoc Awards Committee recommended that an ASM Undergraduate Award be established after consideration by the Education and Graduate Student Committee. The E&GS Committee in conjunction with the Honoraria Committee has designed a set of guidelines for the Award. Two actions by the Board are necessary: 1) Approval of the Award proposal, and 2) Designation of funding source for the awards.

1)

PROPOSAL FOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARDS

Objective -- To encourage participation of undergraduate students at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists. These awards are designed to recruit students early in their career decision-making to the science of mammalogy; to provide students with the opportunity to interact with colleagues; and to recognize student involvement at a professional meeting.

Eligibility - Undergraduate students currently enrolled in an undergraduate degree program or who have not graduated prior to May of the preceding year and who have not received a previous Undergraduate Research Award from the American Society of Mammalogists are eligible for consideration. Students applying for the awards must present an oral or poster presentation at the Annual Meeting.

Application - Students should submit an abstract of their presentation, a curriculum vitae, and a letter from the research advisor to the Honoraria Committee by 15 February. The Committee will review applications and give up to three awards. Students will be notified of results by 15 March.

Award - Students awarded an Undergraduate Participation Award will receive:

1. a certificate and recognition at the Annual Banquet;
2. registration costs;
3. tickets to the Picnic and Annual Banquet; and
4. a cash award of \$100.00 for expenses.

2) Based on current registration and event costs, the total costs of the Award would not exceed \$1,000 per year. The Program Committee cannot provide Registration or tickets out of their budget. Other potential sources of funding are:

- a) General Operating Account
- b) Future Mammalogists Fund
- c) Assess an additional \$1 to every participant's registration fee which will be designated for the Awards.