

**MINUTES: AMERICAN ELASMOBRANCH SOCIETY  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
Chattanooga, TN     July 30, 2014**

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Executive Committee Members: - Chris Lowe, President; Cathy Walsh - Treasurer; Jen Wyffels - Secretary; David Shiffman - Editor; Lara Ferry - Immediate Past-President

Invitees: Matt Kolmann - SAC chair; Ed Heist - JMIH Planning Committee

Call to order: 8:27 AM

- I. Approval of minutes from 2013 Executive Committee meeting (**Ferry/Shiffman, APPROVED**)
- II. President's Report
  - A. Continuation of Student Endowment Task Force with members Chris Lowe, Steve Kajiura, Mason Dean. Recommendations given below, Old Business
  - B. Updated by-laws with assistance from the Ex Comm to update policies and procedures, particularly in keeping with new record keeping requirements. Added Code of Ethics, Whistle Blower's Policy, and Document Destruction and Retention Policy
  - C. Website renovation under the guidance of Editor, David Shiffman
- III. Treasurer's Report (**Goldman/Ha, APPROVED**)
  - A. Review of 2015 Budget
  - B. Propose to move Central Florida Fund to be with all other AES accounts for simplicity. Jeff Carrier and Julie Neer serving officers at fund inception to contact about feasibility.
  - C. Cathy Walsh to build an endowment chart to track gains and losses
  - D. Chris Lowe proposes to supplement award funds rather than have a growing budget
  - E. Book line of budget to be transitioned to website development
- IV. Secretary's Report
  - A. Membership as of 1 July, 2014:
    - AES has 356 paid members with 80.9% MGS, an increase of 9.9% from 2013
    - 78.5% completed online renewals, an increase of 33.5% from 2013
    - 46 (12.9%) are new members, an increase in 3.9% from 2013
- V. Editor's Report
  - A. Review of website update and release
  - B. David Shiffman notes the need for members to generate content to keep the website active and relevant
- VI. JMIH Planning Committee Report – Ed Heist
  - A. Symposium need- no AES symposium for 2014 and in the future the AES President should be responsible for proposing a symposium topic in the event of a lack of member proposals. Information about how to propose a symposium should be added to the AES website.
  - B. Long Range Planning Committee meets on a need basis and Ed serves as AES representative
  - C. Need to gather information about member opinions for meeting in 2018 with Sharks International
- VII. SAC Report – Matt Kolmann
  - A. Membership  
2014 Members:
    - Matt Kolmann – Chair
    - Cheston Peterson – Auction & Corporate Donations
    - Jonathan Davis– Calendar
    - Jenny Bigman & James Knuckey – Store
    - Thomas Farrugia, – T-shirts

- Jo Imhoff – Workshop
- Christine Bedore - Post-doc
- Kelsey James- Webmaster
- B. Workshop
  - 2014: **Getting A Job: Preparing In Graduate School, Applying And Making The Transition**; panelists: Dr. Dean Grubbs, Dr. Chris Bedore, Dana Bethea and Sonja Fordham. Pizza on the menu for after.
- C. Calendar
  - 2014: ordered 100, selling for ~ \$17.00
  - Submissions up from last year
- D. Website & Newsletter
  - Make webmaster a dual position – guarantees up-to-date website and research highlights
  - Coordinate with Editor
  - Help coordinate spread of information across media (Facebook, website, Twitter, etc)
- E. Store
  - Running smoothly
  - Reordered classic items (bottle openers, wine-covers, etc)
  - New and improved items!
- F. Auction
  - 2013 = \$6509 (total – live & silent)
  - Microwave Telemetry, Plano, Wildlife Computers, Hammerhead Pool Cleaners, AES members
  - auctioneer: to chosen annually by students, Dovi Kacev
- G. Future Plans
  - Engage younger students in other labs to try and bring them into AES, mentor shadowing program with established student members

## VIII. Old Business

- A. Election Results (Jen Wyffels)
  - 47.6 % participation in electronic vote
  - Nominating Committee: Dovi Kacev, Lindsay Harris, Jeremy Vaudo, Andy Nosal, and Kady Lyons
  - Grant Fund Committee: Toby Daly-Engel
  - Board of Directors: Carl Luer and Lisa Whitenack
  - Editor: David Shiffman
  - Secretary: Jen Wyffels
- B. Committee on Maintaining Endowments (C. Lowe, M. Dean, S. Kajiura) Report (Chris)
  - Goal is 8% growth annually
  - Propose to do feature stories on award winners for outreach and to solicit additional funds
  - A web post award report should be a requirement for recipients
- C. Elasmol (Jeff Carrier)
  - defer to BOD meeting
- D. Committee Appointments (extending into this year):
  1. Chairmanships
    - a. Grant Funds Committee (Demian Chapman has taken over for Yannis Papastamatiou)
      - Nelson Fund (Steve Kajiura will continue as Chair)

- Henry & Anne Mollet Student Research Fund (John Morrissey will continue as Chair)
- b. Student Awards Committee (Carl Luer will continue as Chair)
  - Gruber Fund (Nick Wegner will continue as Chair)
  - Carrier Fund (Kara Yopak will continue as Chair)
  - Elasmollet Fund (Carl Luer will continue as Chair)
- c. Publication Fund Committee (Steve Holman will continue as Chair)
- d. Conservation Committee (Sonja Fordham will officially co-chair with Jack Musik)
  - Thorny skate
  - Smalltooth sawfish recovery
  - US finning policies, state and national
- e. Conference Planning (Ed Heist will remain)
- f. Student Affairs (see Matt's Report)
- g. Captive Elasmobranchs (Beth Firchau will continue)
- h. Shark 'Attack' (George Burgess will continue)

IX. New Business

- A. Membership Process and Categories (Jen Wyffels)
  - Need to clarify category requirements
  - Propose to discontinue foreign category, combine with regular
- B. Society Awards (Jen Wyffels)
  - Gift of Lifetime membership for AES Fellows
  - Plaques for service to be accompanied by banquet ticket or free annual membership
- C. Reduce membership limit for student award eligibility from a member in good standing for 2 years to 1 to increase the number of research award applications, note NOT travel awards (Chris Lowe)
- D. AES support of the Meritorious Teaching Award in Ichthyology with ASIH and Lara Ferry and Ed Heist serving as AES representatives
- E. Clarify Bylaws verbiage for retaining the two most recent past presidents on the BOD

Motion to Adjourn – **Wyffels/Walsh, APPROVED, 13:10.**