

American Society of Zoologists
1992 Annual Business Meeting
December 27, 1992
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

President David B. Wake called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. A quorum of 250 members was present. He reviewed the past year's move of the ASZ management office from California to Chicago and thanked William Dawson and the Search Committee for recommending the management firm of Smith, Bucklin & Associates. He reported that the Society was faced with a situation of deficit spending since 1987, and that a clear financial picture was not available to the Executive Committee until ASZ's preliminary audit in October of 1992. At that time it was determined to increase the registration fee for the Vancouver meeting and eliminate unnecessary spending wherever possible. These steps were taken to ensure that the Vancouver meeting was a break-even event and would not further increase the debt to the Society.

He stressed the importance of the Society's dedicated member involvement and the strong subscriber interest in the Journal. However, President Wake stated that membership enrollment has decreased slightly over the last year and in 1993 ASZ will focus on reinstating former members and continuing to provide financial support to student members.

On behalf of the Society, he recognized Burton J. Bogitsh, Program Chairman from 1990 through 1992, and the 1992 Annual Meeting Co-Chairs John E. Phillips and Geoffrey Scudder for Vancouver's successful attendance of 1,047 members featuring the excellent theme of Biodiversity.

II. Secretary's Report

Secretary Mary Ann Ottinger called for a Motion to approve the Minutes of the last Business Meeting. It was MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED to approve as published the Minutes of the December 29, 1991 Annual Business Meeting.

Mary Ann Ottinger then reported the election results for 1993 Officers of the Society:

President	Peter R. Marler (1993)
President-Elect	Charlotte P. Mangum (1993)
Past-President	David B. Wake (1993)
Secretary	Mary Ann Ottinger (1993)

Treasurer	Mary J. (Kathy) Packard (1994)
Program Officer	Frank L. Moore (1995)
Managing Editor	Milton Fingerman (1995)
Members-at-Large:	Mimi A.R. Koehl (1993)
	Sharon M. Russell (1994)
	Jennifer L. Specker (1995)

III. Finance

President Wake reviewed the results of the Executive Committee meeting held the previous day and advised that because of the Society's financial situation, it was necessary to recess and consult with the membership on ways to reduce the deficit in 1993. Kathy Packard then gave the following financial report. He thanked Treasurer Kathy Packard for her tireless efforts in working with the new management staff in containing and reducing expenditures during the transition and developing a strict, working budget for the coming year.

Total Income Fiscal Year 1991/92	\$380,585
(less 1992 contributions of \$13,339)	
Total Expense for 10-month period ending 4/30/92	\$605,443
(less transition expenses of \$107,342)	
Average per month	\$61,000
\$61,000 x 12 months est. expenses for FY 91/92	\$732,000
(\$380,585) less (\$732,000) =	
Income/(Expense) at end of FY 91/92	<u>(\$351,415)</u>

Kathy Packard reported that in order to reduce the current deficit, the Executive Committee is recommending that the membership approve the following financial recovery plan:

- A. Implement a one-time 1993 assessment to provide operating funds.
- B. Reduce administrative publishing costs and postage by combining the ten divisional newsletters with the headquarters semi-annual publications; and
- C. Increase advertising and non-member subscription rates to the *American Zoologist*.

After a lengthy open forum discussion exploring all avenues to generate income, reduce expenses, and implement the suggestions offered by the Executive Committee, the following proposed Bylaw amendments were presented:

- A. Article I - Dues, Section 1. Current Wording: "The annual dues shall be \$65 for members, and \$30 for both student and student-in-training members." Proposed Wording: "The annual dues and dues for special categories of membership shall be determined by the Executive Committee."

(The Executive Committee was instructed to develop a financial payment plan effective immediately to generate 1993 operating funds.)

B. Article I - Dues, Section 2. Eliminate Section. "Members who pay dues of \$125 or more per year will be designated sponsors and have their names listed annual in the *American Zoologist*. The funds paid in excess of the annual dues will be applied to the Endowment."

C. Article I - Dues, Section 3. Current Wording: "Life membership is available to members who pay dues of \$1,000, either as a lump sum or as four installments of \$250 within four years." Proposed Wording: "Life membership is available to members who pay annual dues in an amount to be determined by the Executive Committee."

(Until a balanced budget can be established, a set amount of dues paid by Life members cannot be determined.)

D. Article I - Dues, Section 4. Eliminate Section. "A person may become an inactive member for a specified period of time on written request to the Secretary at least one month before the end of the business year ..." (The Executive Committee recommended that all dues are payable in full at the beginning of the fiscal year and that suspended memberships be eliminated.)

E. Article I - Dues, Section 5. Eliminate section. "A person who shall be two years in arrears of payment of dues shall be dropped from membership." (The Executive Committee recommended that this amendment be eliminated because it is an administrative and accounting function. Members must pay annual dues and will be given sufficient time for mailing dues payments.)

F. The following six proposed changes would eliminate the sentence indicating the Officers will be reimbursed from Society funds for expenses incurred in attending meetings of the Society"

Article II, President, Section 1. Current Wording: The President shall preside at all general scientific sessions and at the business meetings and shall assume overall concern for the affairs of the Society. The President shall be reimbursed from funds of the Society for expenses incurred in attending meetings of the Society. **Delete last line.**

Article III, President-Elect, Section 1. Current Wording: The President-Elect shall preside at sessions designated by the President. The President-Elect shall be reimbursed from funds of the Society for expenses incurred in attending meetings of the Society. **Delete last line.**

Article IV, Past President, Section 2. Current Wording: The Past-President shall be reimbursed from funds of the Society for expenses incurred in attending meetings of the Society. **Delete.**

Article V, Secretary, Section 4. Current Wording: The Secretary shall be reimbursed from the funds of the Society for expenses incurred in attending meetings of the Society. **Delete.**

Article VI, Program Officer, Section 5. Current Wording: The Program Officer shall be reimbursed from the funds of the Society for expenses incurred in attending meetings of the Society. **Delete.**

Article VIII, Treasurer, Section 7. Current Wording: The Treasurer shall be reimbursed from the funds of the Society for expenses incurred in attending meetings of the Society. **Delete.**

G. Article IX - Section 1: Current Wording: "The Executive Committee shall serve as the governing Board of the Society and shall review and establish policies and procedures of the Society in line with the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws. In issues or on questions, involving major changes in policy or procedure, which are submitted to the membership of the Society for mail vote, a majority of votes cast shall suffice for passage." Proposed Wording: "The Executive Committee shall serve as the governing Board of the Society and shall review and establish policies and procedures of the Society in line with the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws. The Executive Committee is responsible for the conduct of the affairs of the Society during periods between annual meetings."

H. Article IX - Duties of the Executive Committee, Section 4: Current Wording: "The Executive Committee is empowered to appoint two persons as the executive staff of the Society, each for successive periods, not to exceed three years, and to fix the annual salary of each. The duties and titles of these officers will be established by the Executive Committee. The duties assigned to the Executive Staff may include some duties identified as those of the Secretary, Program Officer, and Treasurer as defined in Articles V, VI, and VIII of the Bylaws." Proposed Wording: "The Executive Committee is empowered to establish a business relationship with individuals or organizations to perform the executive functions of the Society within the framework of the budget approved by the Executive Committee."

After discussion of each of the above proposed amendments, it was MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED to approve all as presented.

IV. Special Assessment

After approval of the above Bylaw amendments, discussion ensued regarding the amount of the 1993 member assessment to reduce the deficit. It was MOVED and SECONDED to empower the Executive Committee to implement a 1993 assessment and membership dues increase for 1994. The Motion CARRIED.

David Wake announced that the membership will receive an explanatory letter and assessment form following the annual meeting.

V. Education Committee Report

Committee Chair Linda Mantel reviewed recent activities of the Educational Council and reported that she will make a constitutional change proposal which will be mailed to the membership.

VI. Date and Location of Future Meetings

Mary Ann Ottinger reported that annual meetings will be held as follows:

1993	December 26-30, 1993	Los Angeles, CA
1994	January 5-8, 1995	St. Louis, MO
1995	December 26-30, 1995	Washington, DC

VII. Adjournment

David Wake thanked the members in attendance for their input and support. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.