

American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists

Board of Governors Meeting



Marriott Tampa Waterside Hotel

Tampa, Florida

6 July 2005



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30 May 2005

The ASIH Board of Governor's is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, 6 July 2005 from 1700-1900 h in Salon VI in the Marriott Waterside Hotel.

President Parenti plans to move blanket acceptance of all reports included in this book. Items that a governor wishes to discuss will be exempted from the motion for blanket acceptance and will be acted upon individually.

Please remember to bring this booklet with you to the meeting. I will bring a few extra copies to Tampa.

Please contact me directly (email is best) with any questions you may have. Please notify me if you will not be able to attend the meeting. I will leave for Tampa on 5 July 2005 so try to contact me before that date if possible.

The Annual Business Meeting will be held on Sunday 10 July 2005 from 1800-2000 h in Salon A/B. Please plan to attend the BOG and Annual Business meeting.

I look forward to seeing you in Tampa.

Sincerely,

Maureen A. Donnelly

ASIH BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2005

Past Presidents		Executive Committee	Elected Officers (not on EXEC)
Atz, J.W.	Hutchison, V.H.	Donnelly, M.A.	Armbruster, J.W.
Bailey, R.M.	Inger, R.F.	Frost, D.R.	Beaupre, S.J.
Burr, M.B.	McDiarmid, R.W.	Gregory, P.T.	Buth, D.G.
Cannatella, D.C.	Page, L.M.	Neighbors, M.A.	Cashner, F.M.
Cashner, R.C.	Pietsch, T.W.	Page, L.M.	Douglas, M.R.
Cohen, D.M.	Pough, F.H.	Parenti, L.R.	Fox, S.F.
Collette, B.B.	Rabb, G.G.	Savitzky, A.H.	Lannoo, M.J.
Dessauer, H.C.	Robins, C.R.	Schaefer, S.A.	Orr, J.W.
Gans, C.	Rosenblatt, R.H.	Warren, M.L	Quattro, J.M.
Gilbert, C.R.	Savage, J.M.		Reeder, T.W.
Greene, H.W.	Savitzky, A.H.		Taylor, C.M.
Greenfield, D.W.	Scott, W.B.		Wells, K.D.
Gregory, P.T.	Smith, G.R.		Wood, R.M.
Grobman, A.B.	Stewart, M.M.		
Highton, R.	Trueb, L.		
Hubbs, C.	Wake, M.H.		

Class of 2005	Class of 2006	Class of 2007	Class of 2008	Class of 2009
Brodie, E.D. III	Cole, K.S.	Burgess, G.H.	Allen, L.G.	Dorcas, M.E.
Crother, B.I.	Douglas, M.R.	Hollingsworth, B.	Buckup, P.A.	Green, D.M.
Cundall, D.L.	Fitzgerald, L.	Janzen, F.J.	Carpenter, K.E.	Johnson, G.D.
Echelle, A.A.	Fox, S.F.	Jewett, S.	Espinoza, R.	Kley, N.J.
Hartel, K.E.	Kearney, M.M.	Pezold, F.	Helfman, G.	McEachran, J.D.
Lundberg, J.G	Matthews, W.	Phillips, C.A.	Mushinsky, H.R.	Peterson, C.R.
Mayden, R.L.	McCormick, F.H.	Rodríguez, J.A.	Pechmann, J.H.K.	Piller, K.R.
Reeder, T.W.	McGuire, J.S.	Schultz, E.T.	Petry, P.	Sabaj, M.H.
Stiassny, M.L.J.	Ross, S.Y.	Turner, T.F.	Warkentin, K.	Wassersug, R.J.
Wilson, D.S.	Vitt, L.	Wild, E.R.	Wiens, J.J.	Winemiller, K.

Reports and Agenda for the 2005 Meeting of the Board of Governors of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists

Organization and Announcements

1. Call to order
2. Governors Sign In
3. Distribution of late reports or additions to reports
4. Messages of regret from absentee governors
5. Call for motion to approve minutes of 2004 meeting of the Board of Governors as published in Copeia 2004 (4):978-991 (see Appendix M).
6. Announcement of appointment of Resolutions Committee
7. Announcement of Stoye and Storer Award Judges (names withheld until banquet)
8. Future annual meetings

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Business Session

53. Call for blanket approval of BOFG agenda items and reports of officers, representatives, and committees, exempting those removed by EXEC and BOFG members for discussion
54. Discussion of reports exempted from blanket approval
55. Discussion of Old Business

56. Discussion of New Business
57. Call for nominations for election to NOMC: Nominating Committee (action item)
58. Election of HSFC member: Henry S. Fitch Award Committee (action item)
59. Election of RHGC member: Robert H. Gibbs, Jr. Memorial Award Committee (action Item)
60. Election of RKJC member: Robert K. Johnson Award Committee (action item)
61. Adjournment

PPRE: Past President - P.T. Gregory

My year as ASIH President was dominated by the issue of *Copeia*'s future in the digital age. With the change in editorship of *Copeia*, the time was right in 2004 for a review of all aspects of the journal (editorial policy, journal format, relationship with Allen Press, print vs. digital, etc.). I therefore appointed a *Copeia* Review Committee of five members, chaired by *Copeia* editor Scott Schaefer, to file a report to the ASIH Board of Governors in 2005. Al Savitzky served as an additional *ex officio* member to liaise with the Long Range Planning and Policy Committee, which also has been dealing with the issue of print vs. electronic versions of *Copeia*. The report of the *Copeia* Review Committee should provide a focus for discussion at the 2005 meeting in Tampa. A related question to that of the future of *Copeia* is the question of how we maintain (or, better, build) society membership. We need to stress the benefits of ASIH membership to current and prospective members. I also think that ASIH should find ways to make society membership more affordable to ichthyologists and herpetologists in developing countries; I had hoped to tackle this, but have not yet seen how to afford/accomplish it, given the society's finances.

In addition to the *Copeia* Review Committee, I also made required appointments to ASIH standing and continuing committees. In consultation with President-elect Parenti, I appointed David G. Smith to replace Margaret Stewart as society Historian. I also appointed Eileen Banach as Herpetological Information Coordinator. Based on discussions in the Executive Committee, I charged the Ichthyological and Herpetological Collections Committee with the task of undertaking a survey of collections of fishes, amphibians, and reptiles in the United States, focusing on holdings, priorities, and resource requirements. I charged the Special Publications Committee with investigating several options for better marketing and advertising our Special Publications. I also served on the Conservation Committee and on the Long Range Planning and Policy Committee. Business from the previous year completed in 2004 included several changes to the ASIH Constitution that were approved at the annual meeting.

The annual meeting, under the new heading of JMIH, continues to be the highlight of the ASIH calendar and remains a major benefit of membership in any of the participating societies. The current model for managing and running meetings is very efficient and financially sound. However, I have some concerns about lack of flexibility in meeting venues and about the role of the local host and local committee.

Overall, ASIH is in good shape and it has been a pleasure to serve as President. I thank my fellow members of the Executive Committee (especially Secretary Mo Donnelly, who keeps everyone on track) for all their help.

SECR: Secretary - M.A. Donnelly

Following the meeting in Norman, I worked on the summary of the meetings and submitted them to Editor Douglas for publication in *Copeia*. I also updated the announcements for the Gage, Raney, Gibbs, Fitch, and Johnson awards for publication in

Copeia. I worked with Editor-elect Scott Schaefer to update the inside cover information for *Copeia*. The summary of the meeting was published in *Copeia* 2004 (4):978-911. I sent out award certificates to those who were unable to attend the Annual Business Meeting or the Annual Banquet. I worked with Tracy Candelaria at Allen Press to arrange for all 2004 Stoye and Storer winners to receive a copy of all available back issues. I sent out resolutions approved by the ASIH to the appropriate parties. I sent the revised constitution to the webmaster so it could be posted on the site. I contacted the winners of the elections as well as those who ran and were not elected. I updated all of the award information to include the 2004 winners. I worked with Joe Nelson to revive a link on previous meetings.

My long-term ASIH office manager, Carla Duffoo, left in July 2004 to begin medical school. Carla still works occasionally for the office during school breaks to file materials, archive old materials, and provide valuable assistance. I hired two students (Kimberlee Arce and Rodolfo Eckard) on a part-time basis for the rest of calendar 2004. They work primarily on turning email correspondence into word files, sending out letters of gratitude to committee members, and other tasks. We sent out letters to those that served the ASIH in 2004 on behalf of President Gregory; we sent out letters to those who agreed to serve in 2005 during the spring of 2005.

I worked closely with Tracy Candelaria of Allen Press. Tracy recently changed jobs and our new representative is Jason Gilbert. Jason is doing very well in his new job and we seem to have a good working relationship.

The website continues to be a challenge. Our webmaster Tim Wilson was replaced by Tim Keefer. Tim Wilson has been keeping our Bulletin Board "clean" but this stopped when he left Allen Press. Tim Keefer gave me the password to go in and clean up items. Kim, Rudy, and I did our best to try and keep the bulletin board functional but the drug vendors were a force that overwhelmed our abilities. We shut the site down when we could no longer clean it. The website issues are under consideration by EXEC and will be discussed during the 2005 meetings. Tim Keefer has left Allen Press and I continue to work with Susan Dunavan to post materials to our site. Once the bulletin board was disabled, I sent a message to the membership to alert them to the fact that I would use the ASIH list server in lieu of a functional bulletin board. This generated substantial communication between my office and some members that wanted to be "removed" from the list. I used the list server to circulate a survey being conducted by researchers from the natural history museum at Oklahoma.

I served as a member of the Meetings Planning Committee and worked with Sharon Brookshire from Kansas State Conference Services during 2004 to prepare for the Norman meeting and the Tampa meeting. I negotiated the contract with Allen Press for abstract submission for the 2005 meeting. Although Allen Press has changed the site substantially, we secured the contract for the 2004 price. The new site is improved but I had to work extensively with Mike Beasterfeld to modify the presentation of data. I developed instructions for submission and "tested" the submission site and instructions prior to opening the site late in 2004. Abstract submission was extended one week

because the original close date coincided with a computer maintenance activity at FIU and I was not willing to risk loss of materials. Once the abstracts were received, we printed hard copies, corresponded with submitters about errors, contacted student competitors who submitted multi-authored papers, and prepared materials for the planning meeting held in April of 2005. I also prepared the abstract book and posted those to the ASIH website and the meeting website hosted by Kansas State Conference Services. Once the schedule was prepared during the planning meeting, I checked it by comparing abstract numbers in the schedule to a master list of numbers to ensure that none of the abstracts were lost. There were one scheduling error that was corrected. The submission process is not as smooth as it could be and we decided to decrease the number of paper and poster categories. Once the schedule was posted on the ASIH website and the Meeting website, I turned it and the abstract book over to Sharon Brookshire of Kansas State Conference Services. I sent a list of all Stoye-Storer competitors to Jason Gilbert so that he could verify membership. I also sent lists of student competitors to the other societies (AES, HL, and SSAR).

The Board of Governors was asked to vote on the four constitutional changes and the dues increase during 2004. This was the only vote taken during the calendar year.

I volunteered my personal collection of *Copeia* to be used for the JSTOR scanning project. While I could provide most of the issues needed, I did not have them all. My journals were supplemented by volumes from Larry Page and the ASIH collection. The JSTOR scanning has been completed and all issues of *Copeia* will be available online in July 2005. With BioOne and JSTOR all issues of *Copeia* are available electronically which is important because we no longer have paper copies of all back issues. We shipped the issues from FIU to JSTOR in December 2004.

I worked with Steve Beaupre, chair of the Herpetological Animal Care Committee, to get a final copy of the new guidelines. These were posted on the website and will also be published by BioOne as an Open Access document.

I handled all correspondence for the society during the calendar year. Electronic correspondence continues to overwhelm the office (4416 messages from January 1 to December 31, 2004). I sent out letters on behalf of the Conservation Committee. Regular mail is sent to former secretaries (Burr, Gilbert, Hendrickson) and that mail is forwarded to me. The electronic correspondence demands year-round attention. I handled all requests for copyrighted materials.

I worked with the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Brooks Burr to develop the candidate information and ballot for the 2005 election.

I prepared all certificates for Raney and Gaige winners and will prepare certificates for Stoye-Storer winners during the 2005 meeting. I worked with Chris Phillips and Cheryl Wilga to verify membership for Raney and Gaige applicants.

TREA: Treasurer - M.A. Neighbors

This report is based on the account statements and cash flow information given to Richard D. Garman and Associates, Certified Public Accountants, Fountain Valley, California for the 2004 audit. At this time the audit has not been completed. The audited financial statements will be posted on the ASIH web site when available. The audit will list ASIH income and expenses on an accrual basis rather than the annual cash flow basis of this report.

Income and expenses are divided into those associated with programs of the society (awards, annual meeting, dues, subscriptions, and publications) and those related to management and general operation (Appendix A). Income received exceeded expenses paid in 2004 by \$9,131. After increases in the dues and subscription rates for 2005, revenue from annual memberships increased by \$32,034 in 2004 compared to 2003 and subscription income increased by \$33,829, in spite of decreases in the numbers of both groups (Appendix B). ASIH's annual revenue share from BioOne, an online source for *Copeia*, continues to increase; \$14,994 was received for 2003 and \$21,337 for 2004. Expenses for the Editor's Office doubled because both the 2004 funding for Michael Douglas and 2005 funding for Scott Schaefer were paid in 2004. Expenses for the Secretary's Office decreased with the elimination of a month of summer salary. A gift of 100 shares of Exxon Mobile stock valued at \$4,231 at the time of receipt does not appear in the cash flow report. These shares of XOM were sold as instructed by the ENFC, and the proceeds deposited in the Smith Barney FMA Account. At the request of the donor, the gift was used in part to support the Collette Symposium and the remaining \$2,468 credited to the General Endowment Fund.

On 31 December 2004, ASIH funds as Cash & Cash Equivalents and Investments were held in three accounts and totaled \$726,275 (Appendix C). Investments in both equity (76.0%) and fixed income (24.0%) mutual funds are held in the professionally managed Smith Barney Citigroup TRAK Account. The net cumulative performance of the TRAK Account portfolio between its inception on 5 January 2001 and 31 December 2004 was 4.02%, with an increase of 9.43% occurring in 2004. Since inception, the annualized performance of the account after fees was 0.99% (31 Dec. 2004 TRAK Quarterly Review). For comparison, the S & P 500 Index increased 10.87% in 2004 and had an annualized value of -1.41% since January 2001. The TRAK Account portfolio was worth \$547,256 on 31 December 2004 (Appendix D).

ASIH is in excellent financial condition now that income exceeds expenses after the increases in the dues and subscription rates for 2005.

Margaret A. Neighbors, Treasurer
11 May 2005

EDIT: Editor - M.E. Douglas

It is with a mixture of relief and sadness that I step down as Editor of *Copeia* at end-of-year. The relief stems from the fact that the job occupies a serious amount of one's waking (and often somnolent) time. There is simply no slack – responsibilities and responses never diminish and opportunities for catastrophe are legion. Yet, at the same time, there is some sadness as well because the job allowed me to interact with numerous members of the society. This aspect will be missed. But, at the same time, the job becomes a part of oneself, indeed it seems to grow on you (...much like terminal cancer).

So, one could ask, “how did I ever get into such an unenviable position?” I can still remember being solicited in 1989 by the ASIH Nominating Committee, following a recommendation by C. Robert Shoop. Bob had the (erroneous) idea that I had done a solid job for him when I was one of his young Associate Editors at *Systematic Zoology* (a.k.a. *Systematic Biology*), and he quickly pointed this out to the Nominating Committee. I can still hear Marvalee Wake telling me, “...you come very well recommended.” I also remember how positively alone I felt once my head ceased to reverberate with all the accolades and the dust of the election settled around my ears. I remember grousing (in a bastardization of Oliver Hardy's famous saying): “Here's another fine mess I've gotten myself into.” Luckily for me, the retiring Editor was Robert Karl Johnson, and he immediately invited me to Charleston SC, where I spent several days learning what was involved with being the *Copeia* editor. Bob was a great resource for me and I will always be grateful for his advice, encouragement, and hospitality. He died far too early and his departure left many holes in the fabric of our society. His obituary (authored by David Greenfield) is published in *Copeia* 2000(4): 1148 – 1149.

My first obligation as editor was to quickly hire a copy editor (Bob's wife had filled this position previously), and I was lucky enough to hire Ms. Jean Bann, who served in this position throughout my tenure as editor. My second imperative (one suggested by Bob himself) was to initiate an electronic database for all submitted manuscripts. This would effectively eliminate the paperwork that dutifully pursued every manuscript and which had to be shipped from one editorial office to the next. One could understand why Bob suggested this innovation – he was in the midst of packaging and shipping his own paperwork and was (I'm sure) by then sick of it. However, I had to develop the database quickly, since a change of editorship does not stem the influx of submitted manuscripts. I accomplished this task using WordPerfect's™ DataPerfect, and while it took some time to most effectively establish the design and its format, the database was a godsend. It allowed us to dump raw data for each submitted manuscript into various WordPerfect™ template letters, thus allowing us to acknowledge receipt of manuscript, solicit a Sectional Editor, etc. When a manuscript was ‘accepted,’ we could easily edit title, pagination, numbers of figures/tables, etc. and transition it to an ‘Accept’ database from which similarly generated letters documented its change of status. We also designed a library of macros to represent the most common formatting and editorial problems, then applied these in editorial letters by simply typing the acronym of the respective macro, which then dumped into the developing letter the necessary text. We

would then enter page/ paragraph/ line number of occurrence for the error. It worked seamlessly and allowed us to deal more professionally with corresponding authors, sectional editors, Allen Press (AP), etc. While these innovations were tremendous time savers, they pale indeed when compared with our current capabilities.

One of the first difficulties I encountered as Editor was the looming *Copeia* backlog. There was much excitement early on in my tenure regarding this topic, and my efforts to correct it revealed many of the systemic flaws I would be forced to deal with during the remainder of my tenure. I reported in 1992 that accepted manuscripts in *Copeia* had (on average) a 15 month delay in publication due to our accumulated backlog. I then asked permission to simply print additional pages the following year to correct for it. What a naïve thought. Although most all realized the problem, there was still much reluctance to publish additional pages to correct for it, and the arguments in the Board of Governors (BOG) raged back and forth with regard to strategies that could rectify the issue. Resolution seemingly could not be obtained and finally (at Vic Hutchinson's insistence), the decision was pushed to the Executive Committee, where 200 additional pages were quickly approved. By 1995, the backlog issue had evaporated never to return. In fact, the turn-around time for accepted manuscripts in *Copeia* is now a mere 6 months, eclipsed only by non-print journals.

My tenure as Editor spanned some 15 years (probably far too long) yet it was punctuated by a series of technological leaps for the journal that, in many ways, kept my job interesting and fresh. Designing an electronic database was the first of these. Additionally, in 1994 we converted *Copeia* to electronic submission of manuscripts (via floppy disk). This was done not only to move our editorial procedures forward, but also to save the society some \$8,000./year in publication costs, because if indeed we could accomplish this, AP would no longer need to input accepted manuscripts by hand. This endeavor began slowly, in that we first asked authors merely to return their accepted manuscripts to us on a floppy disk. Jean Bann then electronically copy-edited and compiled them onto one (or more) floppies for mailing to Allen Press. This worked well, and more importantly, it was but a short jump to requiring that 'submitted' (rather than merely 'accepted') manuscripts be provided in both hard-copy and floppy disk format (the former to ease the transition a bit for those more more inclined to an historical approach). Jean also started imbedding the AP print-codes into 'accepted' manuscripts, thus saving the society additional monies. Again, after a short acclimation, we upped the ante once more by transitioning to the requirement that all manuscripts be submitted on floppy disk only. Although these initiatives (typically) caused much consternation in BOG, they worked extremely well and, at last tally, had saved the society over \$98,000.

The next big shift-in-gears was circa 2000 when I began seriously investigating the possibility of establishing a website to accommodate electronic submission of manuscripts and reviews. I can remember how intimidating this was, with web software to command, firewalls to establish and portals to designate. I can also remember how reluctant Arizona State University was to step forward with such assistance (and rightfully so). There was simply too much responsibility involved. Luckily, Allen Press [in conjunction with The Geological Society of America (GSA)] had just worked through

the concept of establishing such a website and, at that point, was now engaged in software development. Once GSA came on-line with its electronic submittal website, the process would then be opened for any of the remaining scientific societies whose journals were published by AP. ASIH was next in line, and starting 1 January 2002, we became the second society to establish an 'AllenTrack' site for submittal and review of manuscripts over the web. The portal is accessed through a link on the society's web page, and our transition went seamlessly. All members were appraised of the new submit/review situation via the ASIH list server, and during 2002 there were only eight submittals received via hard copy. These authors were simply asked to resubmit electronically using the *Copeia* link on the society's web page.

This obviously had great ramifications for how we did our editorial business. For one, it completely eliminated our current electronic database in lieu of one that was build and maintained by AP. It also greatly facilitated future changes in editorial staff, for there were no longer files to port. The new system also provided an electronic history of all submitted/resubmitted manuscripts, as well as a continually updated electronic database of reviewers. Not only did the process facilitate submittals, queries, and editorial decisions, but more importantly, it made reviews and subsequent editorial decisions transparent to all involved. While some BOG members were initially rather skeptical of these changes and thus a bit reluctant to move forward with it, the vast majority saw the utility of these endeavors and readily got aboard. Al Savitzky and Larry Page, in particular, were very supportive of these endeavors and helped to move the initiative forward. I greatly appreciated their prescience with regard to this issue. The membership also responded enthusiastically and there were remarkably few difficulties involved with implementing these innovations.

Two other interesting innovations I helped move forward during my tenure were to make 'shorter contributions' a more significant aspect of the journal, and to advance the 'Historical Perspectives' section of the journal (as initiated by Meg Stewart, in her role as Society Historian). With regard to 'shorter contributions,' we began (in 1998) to print these at full page (rather than in single column) format, started each on a new page included an abstract. The latter was an important addition because it allowed our 'shorter contributions' to be recognized by various abstracting services. The 'Historical Perspectives' section was conceived by Meg (with assistance from Bill Anderson) as a mechanism to "...preserve the oral histories of those members who were becoming 'threatened and endangered' over time." The best aspect of the 'Perspectives' series was that senior individuals could discuss, reminisce with, and directly respond to queries posed by Meg and colleagues regarding the early days of their own careers and the immediate past history of the society. What better way to have these data recorded than as direct quotes from the individuals in question? It was truly an innovative idea and many societies are indeed envious of our endeavor. Reading these entertaining accounts in *Copeia* makes one realize what a rich tapestry our society is composed of. Meg and Bill are certainly to be congratulated for bringing this endeavor forward.

Finally, in closing, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge those sectional, book review, index and subject editors who worked with me during my tenure, and

whose expertise made my job easier. Their camaraderie made our professional interactions a *bona fide* pleasure. These were: W. Anderson, J. Armbruster, S. Beaupre, T. Berra, R. Bowker, D. Buth, J. Caldwell, F. Cashner, R. Cashner, D. Cundall, M.R. Douglas, S. Fox, R. Gatten, W. Gibbons, J. Gold, C. Guyer, M. Horn, F. Irish, M. Lannoo, W. Matthews, R. Mayden, J. McEachran, W. Montgomery, J. Orr, T. Pietsch, G. Pregill, A. Price, J. Quattro, T. Reeder, S. Ross, S. Schaefer, J. Spotila, C. Taylor, G. Ultsch, L. Vitt, R. Wassersug, K. Wells, R. Winterbottom, and R. Wood.

Now we must move on to more prosaic editorial business: the yearly Editorial Report. Here, I note that two sectional editors [S. Fox (Ecology and Behavior) and T. Reeder (General Herpetology)] were granted absence during 2004 to engage in sabbatical leaves. The manuscripts they would have been responsible for were instead processed both by their fellow sectional editors and by the editor.

During 2004, 1,020 pages of *Copeia* were published over four issues: 9 February (198 pages), 5 May (248 pages), 20 August (282 pages), and 15 December (290 pages). These four issues comprised 57 major articles (570 pages or 56% of the volume) and 44 shorter contributions (290 pages or 28% of the volume). The remaining 16% was distributed as follows: 18 book reviews (eight ichthyological, 10 herpetological for a total of 41 pages), five historical perspectives (32 pages), six obituaries (26 pages), a 2004 index (17 pages), a 2004 volume index (16 pages), a 2004 meeting summary (14 pages), 19 articles in "editorial notes and news" (seven pages), seven "books received" (three pages), four societal award notifications (three pages) and six pages of back-matter consisting of non-paginated societal ads.

Of the major articles published in *Copeia*, 74% (n=42) were in ichthyology (comprising 388 pages), while the remaining 26% (n=15) were in herpetology (182 pages). Of the shorter contributions, 61% (n=27) were in herpetology (at 190 pages), while 39% (n=17) were in ichthyology (100 pages). When major articles and shorter contributions were combined, 58% (n=59) were ichthyological (spanning 488 page), while 41% (n=42) were herpetological (at 372 pages). Herpetological submissions in 2004 mirrored those for 2003 in all categories, and reflected a downward trend that has not sustained in years prior to 2003. Thus, the two most recent volumes of *Copeia* must be considered 'off-years' with regard to herpetological submissions.

There were 552 new or revised submissions in 2004. Of these, 324 (59%) were in the first (or 'new') category, a 13% increase from that recorded in 2003. With regard to our new submissions, 196 (61%) were submitted from the United States (an increase of 12% over 2003). The remaining 128 (39%) were of international origin and represented a 15% increase from that in 2003. It is clear from the above that fluctuations in domestic and international submissions are seemingly correlated, but causation is unclear. International submissions were distributed as follows: 32 (25%) from Brasil, 14 (11%) from Australia, 9 (7%) from Canada, 7 (5.5%) from México, 6 (5%) from Japan, and 5 from Argentina, Chile, Germany, and India, respectively (each 4%). Two countries (i.e., Belgium and Spain) had four submittals each, while three countries (Colombia, Italy, and Taiwan) had three submittals. Five countries (i.e., China, Jordan, South Korea,

Switzerland, and Turkey) had two each, while Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Portugal, Russia, South Africa, and Sweden had one each.

Of the 324 new submittals, 55% were major articles, 35% shorter communications, and 10% were “other” (i.e., Book Reviews, Obituaries, Historical Perspectives, etc.). Major articles averaged 132 review days, shorter communications 86 days, while “others” averaged but six days in the system. The latter are reviewed and edited solely by the managing editor and consequently have a much more rapid turn-around. March and December were our most active months for new submittals, with 43 and 29, respectively (13% and 9% of total). In 2003, April and May were our busiest months, with $n=31$ and 37 manuscripts submitted. In a similar vein, September was our least active month in 2004, with 22 submits, whereas August and October (19 each) were least busy in 2003. Yet, we note new submissions were again distributed relatively uniformly over the year, and averaged 27 per month. In 2003, they averaged 23/month and 26/month in 2002. It is interesting that our busiest months seemingly fluctuate from year-to-year, with no apparent trend in peaks or declines.

Some 57 (18%) of the 324 new submits were editorial rejects (a total similar to the 16% recorded in 2003) and represented a joint decision by Editor and SE. The remaining 267 manuscripts were processed, and of these, 218 (82%) achieved a decision before end-of-year. Another 13 (5%) remained in review and 41 (15%) remained in revision at end-of-year. The average time that elapsed from manuscript submittal to SE assignment was a mere 4 days. Average time from submittal to securing of first reviewer was 14 days, with 20 additional days required to finalize all reviewers. Once the final review was obtained by the SE, an average of 13 days was required to produce an initial decision. Thus, on average, 47 days elapsed from initial submittal to initial decision. Those new submits for which a decision was reached during 2004 can be split into 114 accepts (= 52%) and 104 rejects (= 48%).

Statistics (i.e., number/average review time) for Sectional Editors with regard to handling new manuscripts are as follows: J. Armbruster (20 handled/75 days average); S. Beaupre (23/98); D. Buth (38/71); M. Douglas (35/58); S. Fox (14/62); M. Lannoo (32/51); J. Quattro (15/56); T. Reeder (18/87); C. Taylor (30/49); R. Wood (10/87); J. Bann (32/2). Again, the majority of new submits achieved a decision within the journal’s initial 90 day review period. Rejection rates by sectional editor are provided when we summarize both new submittals and revisions for 2004.

The 228 revisions (31% of all submissions, identical to 2003) also represented a 13% increase over 2003. They averaged 19 per month (high = December with 26; low = May with 11), however revisions were primarily submitted during the last six months of the year. They were distributed among sectional editors as follows (number/average review time): J. Armbruster (36 revisions/17days average); S. Beaupre (8/20); D. Buth (47/14); M. Douglas (25/25); S. Fox (13/14); M. Lannoo (43/4); J. Quattro (13/19); T. Reeder (8/31); C. Taylor (16/18); R. Wood (12/28); J. Bann (7/2). By and large, revisions were handled much more efficiently than new submits, largely because many were not again subjected to external review. Instead, sectional editors often served as sole reviewer

to insure that requested corrections and modifications were completed as directed in the initial review.

Numbers of total manuscripts (i.e., new submits and revisions) handled by section are as follows: General Ichthyology = 141 (J. Armbruster = 56; D. Buth = 85); General Herpetology = 111 (M. Douglas = 10; M. Lannoo = 75; T. Reeder = 26); Ecology and Behavior = 103 (M. Douglas = 30; S. Fox = 27; C. Taylor = 46); Genetics, Development & Morphology 70 (M. Douglas = 20; J. Quattro = 28; R. Wood = 22); Physiology and Physiological Ecology 31 (S. Beaupre = 31); “other” 32 (J. Bann = 32). Rejection rates by SE are as follows: J. Armbruster (22%); S. Beaupre (70%); D. Buth (38%); M. Douglas (65%); S. Fox (53%); M. Lannoo (35%); J. Quattro (50%); T. Reeder (60%); C. Taylor (65%); R. Wood (54%); J Bann (0%). The variance in rejection rates among SEs is a manifestation of two events: the numbers of revisions processed by each and their propensity to work with authors to publish material. With regard to the first premise, there were only seven manuscripts ultimately rejected following a ‘soft’ reject on the initial review.

The electronic copy-editing provided by Ms. Jean Bann saved ASIH \$6,728.00 in direct publishing costs during 2004. Savings per issue were: 2004(1) \$1,300.00; 2004(2) \$1,638.00; 2004(3) \$1,872.00; 2004(4) \$1,918.00. Our previous saving of \$8.50 per page was reduced to \$6.50 per page due to the conversion of *Copeia* from an entirely print journal to one that is both print and web-based. This reduction reflected the need by Allen Press to add web-based manuscript coding. However, as per agreement with Allen Press, the society does not lose this \$2.00 per page discount, but has it instead incorporated into the overall rebate we accrue each issue from printing costs. The additional (indirect) savings amounted to \$2,040.00, and thus yielded a total savings in 2003 of \$8,768.00 directly attributable to the electronic coding of *Copeia*.

Electronic publishing has been a boon to ASIH, by providing not only a more efficient publishing process, but also a bona fide savings in the cost of publishing our journal. Since 1994, these savings have totaled \$98,315.00. Not a bad legacy for the (now ex-) editor to leave the society with.

EDPC: Editorial Policy Committee - M.E. Douglas

Editorial Policy Committee (EPC) Meeting (26 May 2004: Oklahoma City, OK)

Present: J. Armbruster (CI), S. Beaupre (CP), D. Buth (CI), F. Cashner (Index Editor), M.E. Douglas (Editor), M.R. Douglas (Ichthyology Book Review), S. Fox (CE), T. Reeder (CH), C. Taylor (CE), R. Wood (CG)

Excused: M. Lannoo (CH), J. Quattro (CG), K. Wells (Herpetology Book Review)

Guests: P. Gregory (President), L. Parenti (President-elect)

Both President Gregory and President-elect Parenti thanked the EPC for their sustained efforts in support of the society's journal. Both also acknowledged and appreciated the privilege of attending the EPC meeting to gain a more thorough understanding of the issues facing the editorial staff.

Old Business:

(1) Additional SEs for non-taxonomic sections (CE and CG): The BOG voted in Manaus, Brasil (2003) to add one additional sectional editor to Genetics, Development and Morphology, and Ecology and Behavior. Following this vote, Stan Fox was added to CE while Joe Quattro (incumbent CE) moved to CG. The EPC welcomed these new SEs and looks forward to working with them in the coming years. Each *Copeia* section (save Physiology/Physiological Ecology) now has co-sectional editors.

(2) The problem of old or defunct e-mail addresses for societal members: Many societal members cannot be contacted as potential reviewers due to faulty or defunct e-mail addresses listed in the online ASIH directory <<http://www.asih.org/info/directory.html>>. All members are again asked to log onto the society's webpage and check/update their e-mail and institutional information. This can be easily done with the commands available at the above URL.

New Business:

(1) Journal format issues? Many other journals have changed in format and style after going electronic. Will *Copeia* also follow this trend? (submitted by D. Buth). The change in editorship will provide the society with an opportunity to evaluate all aspects pertaining to journal operation (format, layout, review policy, etc.) President Gregory has established an ad hoc committee to perform this evaluation. However, a physical change in journal layout may increase production costs. Additionally, previous attempts to alter physical aspects of the journal (i.e., material comprising journal cover, its color, societal logo, etc.) have all been rejected by BOG. On the positive side, the overall size of *Copeia* is not a standard print format of Allen Press, and if the society changed to a more standard size then printing costs could be reduced.

(2) Journal rejection policies: A letter of complaint was sent to the Executive Committee regarding the use of 'soft rejects' (i.e., reject with request to resubmit) by SEs. The complaint argued that 'soft rejects' were detrimental to young faculty seeking tenure, in that it delayed an overall decision. Untenured individuals, it was suggested, should be recognized and treated differently. SEs were unanimous in pointing out that the journal should not have different standards of acceptance for authors, and some suggested that it was a bit absurd to think that 'soft rejects' (rather than 'accept with revision') would defray individuals from publishing in *Copeia* (as insinuated by the letter). SEs felt it best to be conservative with regard to 'accept with revision,' for this designation places the manuscript on a track for publication, when in reality, many need much more work to achieve that status. Editor Douglas suggested that SEs be explicit with regard to the needs

and obligations of the revision. Take the time to spell out precisely what needs to be added, deleted, or altered. Tables and figures should also be included in this evaluation.

The discussion then centered on the review process itself – with the admonition that it is not a democratic process or a tally of votes submitted by the reviewers. The SE must collate a series of independent opinions voiced on the manuscript by reviewers, who are not privy to these disparate opinions until after the review process has completed.

Editor Douglas asked SEs how many reviews in their estimation were indeed useful? The response was about 60%. Editor Douglas suggested that it might be worthwhile to broaden the search for appropriate reviewers by employing Web of Science to ascertain who had recently published either on the topic or the organism. This is in fact easily done. However, finding the current affiliation and e-mail address of such an author can be a bit more daunting. Yet, the payback for these efforts is often huge. The suggestion was made that it would be useful to send reviewers a ‘thank-you’ note. Editor Douglas responded that in fact this is established *Copeia* editorial policy. All reviewers now receive from the Editor a thank-you e-mail with copies of the disposition letter and all reviews for a given manuscript attached. This will, of course, assist reviewers with regard to evaluating a re-submittal of a manuscript. But more importantly, it reflects an honest attempt by EPC to keep referees ‘in the loop’ with regard to the review process, and also to make that process as transparent as possible for all involved. Plus, it is scant (but greatly appreciated) reward for referees who often labor long hours to bring manuscripts into the format and context needed by our journal. Every year, numerous reviewers express appreciation to the Editor or SEs for this consideration.

(3) Miscellaneous editorial problems: SE Fox voiced his approval of the availability of submitted manuscripts on Allen Track as both PDF and DOC files. The DOC file is especially useful with regard to foreign submissions, in that these manuscripts often require syntax editing. This is much easier to do electronically than via hard copy. SE Reeder noted that all should be cautious with the ‘track changes’ option of WORD, in that author (i.e., reviewer) information can often be extracted from such manuscripts.

SE Butth noted that European authors seem to have trouble accessing Allen Track, and asked how this should be dealt with? Problems seemingly stem from a variety of sources, and one is an overly-strict acceptance parameter in the author’s computer OS that deals with ‘cookies.’ Difficulties that authors have in accessing Allen Track should be forwarded to the Editor, who will then seek the counsel of Allen Track software engineers and report back to both SE and author.

Editor Douglas reminded SEs to assign reviewers as soon as possible, since many unavoidable delays occur in the editorial process. Given this, we have an obligation to start the review process quickly. It is best to take time on the back end for deliberation and to design a letter to the author, rather than due to inefficiency on the front end. Also, SEs should not be overly concerned with poor reviews. If indeed the reviews obtained for a submission are deemed inappropriate to sustain a decision, then additional reviewers

should be solicited. Possibly solicit a trusted reviewer who has a track record of delivering solid reviews in a timely fashion. Editor Douglas suggested that this may fall within the purview of the Editorial Board for each Section, in that members of the board should agree *a priori* to provide such a timely service to their particular section of the journal. SE Wood suggested that members need to step to the plate and be more cooperative in providing reviews as a service to the society. Quite possibly a plea from the president would be an important incentive in this regard?

President-elect Parenti asked about disposition of ‘inappropriate’ manuscripts submitted to *Copeia*. Editor Douglas indicated that all manuscripts were screened upon submission, and any deemed potentially ‘inappropriate’ were forwarded to a SE with the admonition to examine and report back quickly with an evaluation. If indeed a manuscript is to be rejected as being ‘inappropriate’ for our journal, such a decision should occur quickly and with a reasonable evaluation supporting the decision. SE Beaupre indicated that he personally screens manuscripts very carefully prior to sending them out for review. This process sometimes takes a bit longer.

In closing, President Gregory and President-elect Parenti acknowledged Editor Douglas for his many years of service to the society, and also thanked each of the SEs for their continued (and often unappreciated) service. The meeting was then adjourned.

ENFC: Endowment and Finance Committee - E.T. Schultz

Report on Activities of the Endowment and Finance Committee, beginning with the annual meeting.

Annual ENFC Meeting, 29 May 2004, Norman Oklahoma

Present: Aaron Bauer, Margaret Neighbors (Treasurer), Lynne Parenti, Steve Ross, Al Savitsky (Chair, Long Range Planning and Policy Committee), Barbara Savitzky, Eric Schultz (Chair), Melvin Warren Jr.

Investment Policy Documents

Committee reviewed two investment policy documents that the Chair and Treasurer have been working on for the past year. One document outlines policies regarding our Endowment and Awards Funds currently held by Smith Barney Citibank, and is being drawn up with the assistance of the Investment Consultants at Smith Barney. The other document describes policies concerning how funds should be allocated by the Treasurer among three accounts (Smith Barney FMA, Smith Barney TRAK, and Douglas County Bank) and among award funds, the General Endowment fund, and General Operating funds. A number of revisions were informally adopted and the documents were approved by acclamation.

Exxon stock holding

100 shares that were donated for support of the Collette Symposium are now in the Smith Barney FMA Account. Committee agreed that Treasurer should sell the shares and the proceeds should remain in the Smith Barney FMA account. Treasurer ordered the sale on 7 June 2004.

Symposia

A number of questions have arisen regarding how the General Endowment Fund should support symposia. For example, should a dinner associated with a symposium be supported by the Fund? What kind of accounting is needed? Committee charged the next chair with working out a policy.

Committee Membership, Chair and Chair-Elect

Steve Ross's term on the committee is ending; Steve is willing to succeed himself. Mel is the next chair. Next year a chair-elect will be identified to overlap for a year with the Chair.

Financial state of the society

Concern was discussed about the limited cash holdings and negative cash flow of the society, and the impact of electronic publishing on library subscriptions. Action on these concerns was deferred for a year pending implementation of changes to investment policy and accounts allocations, as described above.

Activities subsequent to the Annual Meeting

An Investment Policy Agreement between the Society and Smith Barney Consulting Group, Citibank, was adopted on 29 November 2004 and signed by President of the Society, Patrick Gregory.

A set of guidelines guiding the Treasurer and ENFC in decisions about the various ASIH funds within the portfolio was implemented on 1 April 2005.

A conference call among the Treasurer, current Chair of the ENFC Warren, Schultz, and our Investment Consultant at Smith Barney, Joanne Avella, was held on 19 April 2005. The purpose of the call was to discuss changes to the Society's mutual funds portfolio.

Respectfully submitted by 2004 ENFC Chair Eric Schultz

EXEC: Executive Committee - M.A. Donnelly

The EXECUTIVE committee, or members of the meeting conducted the following business since the Norman Meeting:

1. The members of EXEC voted to support a Freshwater Biodiversity Symposium held at the American Museum of Natural History (\$1000).
2. The members of EXEC voted to support the George Rabb Fellowships given by the IUCN (\$1000).
3. The members of EXEC decided not to sign a resolution to establish a Young Professional Program at the IUCN (request sent from students at the Yale School of Forestry).
4. The members of EXEC voted in favor of cleaning up and then closing down the Bulletin Board on the ASIH website.
5. The members of EXEC voted to support the costs associated with the *Copeia* Review Committee activities.
6. The members of EXEC voted to sign a contract with Allen Press for the Abstract Submission for 2005.
7. The members of EXEC voted to sign a three-year printing contract with Allen Press.
8. The members of EXEC voted to provide support for the Systematic Ichthyology newsletter.
9. The members of EXEC voted to support Al Savitzky's travel to Washington DC to attend the AIBS and BioOne meeting.
10. The members of EXEC voted to use profits from the 2004 meeting to support future meeting functions.
11. We sadly report the passing of Jack T. Moyer (January 2004), Barbara Stahl (January 16, 2004), Guido Dingerkus (July 20, 2004), Kristina D. Louie (September, 2004), William R. Taylor (November 14, 2004), George Dalrymple (January 5, 2005), and Peter Lutz (March 2, 2005).

GFAC: Gaige Fund Award Committee - C. Phillips

The 2005 *Gaige* Award Committee has chosen 10 outstanding awardees from a pool of 24 very competitive applications. The proposals were judged on scientific merit, need, and letters of recommendation. The 2005 recipients of *Gaige* Awards are:

Lelena Avila, Ph.D. expected 2008. Indiana University: Why do *Thamnophis sirtalis* eat toxic newts?

Nathan Calder, M.S. expected 2006. University of Central Oklahoma: Do neuropeptides mediate alternative reproductive tactics in male collared lizards?

Jena Chojnowski, MS expected 2006, University of Florida: Identifying candidate genes for temperature-dependent sex determination in the red-eared slider turtle, *Trachemys scripta*.

Paula Kahn, Ph.D. expected 2006, Auburn University: Gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) relocation: Effects of stress, immunocompetence, and reproduction.

Daria Koscinski, Ph.D. expected 2007, University of Western Ontario: Comparative phylogeography of Andean frogs.

Gregory Pauly, Ph.D. expected 2006. University of Texas: Sexual selection and mating signal evolution in the western toad, *Bufo boreas*.

Daniel Rabosky, Ph.D. expected 2008: Cornell University. Rampant parallel evolution of color pattern in a clade of Australian skinks.

Jennifer Sheridan, Ph.D. expected 2007. University of California San Diego: Reproductive variation across latitude for a wide-ranging tropical species.

Justin Touchon, Ph.D. expected 2007. Boston University: Does an embryo's environment alter later tadpole interactions with predators?

Jessa Watters, M.S. expected 2006. University of New Hampshire: A test of optimal foraging theory in two lizard species: *Sceloporus virgatus* and *Sceloporus jarrovii*.

Each grant was for \$500. Although the winning applicants typically requested more than \$500 in their budgets, we decided to spread the available funds among more students rather than give more money to fewer awardees.

HSFC: Henry S. Fitch Award Committee - S. Fox

The Henry S. Fitch Award honors the herpetological spirit of Henry S. Fitch, a distinguished member of the University of Kansas faculty, for his manifold contributions to our understanding of the systematics, ecology, natural history and conservation of reptiles and amphibians. The award is made by the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (ASIH) to an individual for long term excellence in the study of amphibian and/or reptile biology, based principally on the quality of the awardee's research, with consideration given to educational and service impacts of the individual's career in the field of herpetology.

A series of six distinguished herpetologists were nominated for consideration as the awardee for 2005, and from among those we selected a winner. The name of this year's recipient will be announced at the annual banquet in Tampa, Florida.

Stanley F. Fox, Chair
Alan H. Savitsky
Julian C. Lee

LRPP: Long Range Planning and Policy Committee - A.H. Savitzky

The Long Range Planning and Policy Committee held an expanded meeting at the Society's 2004 annual meeting in Norman, OK. The committee met to evaluate the potential impact of the loss of print subscriptions on the health of the Society. Members of the Executive Committee and representatives of Allen Press, BioOne, and other societies were present.

The primary scenario evaluated at the 2004 LRPC meeting was the complete loss of library print subscriptions. Under such a scenario, print costs for members would rise unsustainably, with a consequent loss of print copies to members and thus a likely decline in membership. The budget figures indicated that the Society could survive a substantial loss of membership if it coincided with relief from the costs of printing and mailing hard copies of *Copeia*. Of course, the Society would be very different than it is today, both in size of the membership and scope of its services. Nonetheless, it seems that the Society could survive even such a worst-case scenario. The trend toward decreased importance of print publication, especially to libraries but also to younger members, appear to be continuing. It is difficult to predict if and when libraries will no longer wish to carry print journals at all, but that end point still seems likely. One solution that has been discussed among society publishers is the possibility that the electronic edition of journals will become the archival journal, with members having the option for non-archival quality print-on-demand at an additional cost.

In the meantime, an additional issue has risen to prominence during the past year and has commanded the attention of nonprofit academic publishers: open access (OA) publishing. The Chair of the LRPC attended several meetings on OA in 2004 and 2005 (see report of Representative to AIBS and BioOne for details). In essence, OA permits unlimited free access to journal content by any user, rendering both paid subscriptions and individual memberships irrelevant for the purposes of receiving journal content. Various models exist for supporting the costs of publication under OA, but the most frequently cited is a system in which authors pay publication costs. As unpopular as this system is with many publishers, it has received strong support from some quarters, including NIH, and legislation has been passed that "recommends" OA for materials published with NIH funding. The biomedical community interprets that recommendation as essentially a binding requirement for NIH-funded research. Although the organismal biology community may not be directly affected by the NIH policy, the concept of OA is gathering momentum and nonprofit publishers are preparing for an increase in OA publishing. The impact of OA on our Society probably would be even greater than the previously discussed scenario of the loss of print publishing. In the case of OA, all subscription income, both print and electronic, would cease, and alternative sources of

funding would be required. Whether or when OA will become sufficiently widespread that it affects ASIH remains to be determined.

The ASIH Board of Governors recently voted to provide individual member access to the electronic version of *Copeia*. Two options appear to exist for providing such access. Access is available at relatively low cost, to members only, through a service provided by BioOne. Alternatively, a more expansive system of both member access and individual library subscriptions is available through Allen Press at a higher cost. Currently the journal is available electronically to libraries only through BioOne, and libraries must purchase the entire BioOne collection in order to obtain an electronic copy of *Copeia*. Whether the demand for separate library subscriptions is sufficient to justify the moderate additional cost of the Allen Press service remains to be determined. Representatives of Allen Press and BioOne are expected to attend the ASIH Executive Committee and/or Board of Governors meetings, and it is hoped that they will be able to remain in Tampa long enough to meet with the LRPC.

Finally, whatever changes ultimately occur in the publishing landscape, it is clear that electronic publication is rapidly overtaking print as the primary vehicle for academic journals. With a heavier reliance on electronic copy, the importance of print is diminished, and with that change comes the likely loss of those members for whom the sole purpose of membership is perceived as being receipt of the print journal. Although ASIH continues to provide a broad array of services to its members, there are other national and international societies competing for the same members. Without the benefit of, or desire for, hard copy journals of all those societies, it is not clear how many such independent but broadly overlapping organizations our scholarly community will support. The community therefore may wish to initiate candid discussions concerning the roles of our different societies and the benefits and liabilities of consolidation. Discussions on this important issue should begin soon if we are to anticipate future changes.

MMGT: Meetings Management Committee - R.C. Cashner

The Chair of MMGT , Brian Crother, Doug Martin and Henry Mushinsky met with the Meetings Planning Committee at the Marriott Waterside Hotel in Tampa, FL from April 13-17 2005. The purpose was to schedule papers and symposia for the Joint Meetings of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists to be held at the hotel on July 6-11, and to select appropriate rooms for paper and poster sessions, symposia and workshops, as well as for committee meetings, social functions and exhibitors. The facilities at the Marriott Waterside are outstanding, as are the amenities and surrounding environs. The JMIH for 2006 in New Orleans will be at the Sheraton Hotel at 500 Canal Street, directly across the street from the French Quarter. The logo for the New Orleans meeting has been submitted and approved. The sites for the social events in New Orleans should be settled before the Meetings Management Report at the BoG in Tampa, FL. During 2005, Cornell University withdrew its invitation to host the 2007 meetings, but Rick Mayden extended an invitation to host the meetings in Saint Louis, MO. David Green, the local host for the meeting in Montreal, decided to invite only the JMIH and not the World Congress of

Herpetologists in 2008. The decisions to withdraw or modify the original proposal were the result of unforeseen logistical problems and costs. The Management Committee is well aware that the costs of annual meetings have risen steadily with the shift to more hotel-based meetings, but projected expenses from campus-based venues exceed that of current hotel costs. Also, campuses rarely have the facilities to comfortably host 1500 attendees at a conference. We will continue to consider campus venues and provide comparative costs and conveniences for evaluation by the Executive Committee. The Management Committee has developed a policy and procedure document for selecting sites beyond 2008. The document will be circulated at the Board of Governors for ASIH and the executive boards of the other three societies in Tampa.

MPLN: Meetings Planning Committee - D.J. Stouder

Chair: Deanna J. Stouder

Members: Larry Allen, George Burgess (AES rep.), Robert Cashner (MMGC Chair), Brian Crother, Maureen Donnelly (ASIH Secretary), Henry Mushinsky (HL and SSAR rep.)

Kansas State Conference Organizers: Sharon Brookshire and Heide McBride

Action Items:

Request for Policy Changes (Need Consideration by EXEC and BOG and vote at the Business Meeting):

Revised Symposia Proposal -- See Appendix E

We would like to propose that a MAXIMUM of 8 symposia at each Annual Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (JMIH).

Workshop Proposal -- See Appendix F

We would like to propose a process for Workshops at the Annual JMIH that mirrors the Symposium Proposal Process

Restrictions on the Numbers of Oral Presentations at the Annual JMIH -- See Appendix G

We would like to propose that a MAXIMUM of 700 oral presentations, from ASIH and contributing Societies, for each Annual Meeting. We would encourage poster presentations to meet demand.

Tampa, FL planning for 2005 Joint Meetings of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists:

During 13-16 April 2005 all MPLN members and Doug Martin (MMGC) traveled to Tampa to set up the schedule for the upcoming July meeting. We spent three full days during which we reviewed the conference facilities, developed the overall schedule including business meetings, workshops, social events, and poster and oral presentations. While sorting presentations into appropriate groupings, we also contacted symposia

organizers, presenters, and others for clarification of missing or unclear information. We scheduled approximately 1140 total presentations (symposia and contributed papers; posters) and designated session chairs. Sharon Brookshire and Heide McBride agreed to be the contact person if session chairs have difficulty with their assignments. By the time we departed Tampa on 17 April, Larry Allen had created an excel spreadsheet of the entire meeting. Mo Donnelly continued to correct and clarify information until they were able to put an accurate program on the ASIH website and provide Kansas State University with all of the needed information for the printed Program book.

The MPLC took time in Tampa to discuss the important roles of the LOCL. We revised our list of items that continue to be the responsibility of the LOCL. During the meetings in Tampa and New Orleans we hope to exhibit their important roles.

We also recognized the challenge and trade offs of scheduling seven concurrent oral sessions, workshops, and business meetings over a five day period while allowing for people to attend the poster session. As a result, we are proposing several items. First, we would like to restrict the total number of symposia to eight per year. Our goal is to have symposia as key components of the meeting. Second, we would like to propose a process for workshops. Scheduling these without conflict of other ongoing events has become more difficult. If we have knowledge and information well in advance of the meeting we can more easily consider and balance these requests. Third, we would like to propose a maximum of 700 oral presentations (symposia and contributed papers) at each Annual Meeting. This requires us to run seven concurrent sessions while minimizing the overlap of similar topic areas. We also want to encourage people to take advantage of the poster sessions to present their work.

NOMC: Nominating Committee - B.M. Burr

The Nominating Committee, composed of herpetologists Aaron Bauer and Maureen Kearney, and ichthyologists Brooks Burr (chair) and Martin O'Connell began seeking nominations for some open positions in January. Thanks to the entire committee and electronic communication we had commitments for most positions by early May. The ballot was completed in late May. The chair is grateful to all committee members for their timely and effective efforts and especially to all nominees for their willingness to serve the ASIH.

RFAC: Raney Fund Award Committee - C. Wilga

The Raney committee received 42 applications for the Raney award by April 4th. One application remained incomplete and two applicants were not ASIH members and thus were not evaluated. Cheryl Wilga chaired the committee and worked with Andrew Simons and Kent Carpenter. Cheryl Wilga had conflicts of interest (COI) with four of the applicants and thus did not evaluate them. The scores are based on the average of three evaluations, two in the case of COI. Each winner received \$1000 to support his/her research. Name, Program, Institution, and Title of Project of the winners for 2005 in alphabetical order are:

Benjamin Ciotti, Ph.D. Student, University of Delaware: Spatial variability in growth and diet of juvenile plaice: Predator-prey linkages in dynamic nursery environments.

Donovan German, Ph.D. Student, University of Florida: What does it take to eat wood: Mechanisms of digestion in closely related armored catfishes (Loricariidae) representing algivory, herbivory, and xylophagy.

Shannon Gerry, Ph.D. Student, University of Rhode Island: A comparison of feeding morphologies and behaviors in a generalist and specialist shark species.

Erin Reardon, M.S. Student, McGill University: Effects of hypoxia on the life history and energetics of the African Cichlid *Pseudocrenilabrus multicolor*.

Takashi Maie, M.S. Student, Clemson University: Relationships of feeding morphology and performance to habitat distribution in Hawaiian stream gobies: *Awaous guamensis* and *Lentipes concolor*.

RHGC: Robert H. Gibbs, Jr. Memorial Award Committee - L.M. Page

In March and April 2005, the Robert H. Gibbs, Jr., Memorial Award Committee, consisting of Joseph S. Nelson, University of Alberta, David W. Greenfield, Moss Landing Marine Laboratory, and Larry M. Page, University of Florida (Chair), evaluated the credentials of three outstanding nominees for the 2005 Award for Excellence in Systematic Ichthyology. The recipient of the award, the 17th since the award's inception, will be announced at the ASIH banquet during the annual meeting in Tampa, FL in July of this year.

The committee will continue to announce and promote the award through publication of notices in scientific journals including *Copeia*. Following this year's annual meeting, the committee chair will forward an announcement of the 2005 Gibbs Award results to appropriate journals along with a request for nominations for future years. The announcement will be published in the Editorial and News section of *Copeia* 2005(4). The recipient of this award is encouraged to submit a paper in systematic ichthyology to appear in the second year following the award as a leading ichthyological paper in *Copeia* (following the normal editorial review process).

RKJC: Robert K. Johnson Award Committee - L.M. Page/M.A. Donnelly

The Robert K. Johnson Award is presented annually to an ichthyologist (even years) or a herpetologist (odd years) who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to serve ASIH. The award is named in honor of Robert K. Johnson (1944 - 2000), an ichthyologist who was exceptionally dedicated in his service to the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists including serving on many committees, four terms as a

member of the Board of Governors, Managing Editor of *Copeia*, Secretary, and Chair of the Long Range Planning and Policy Committee.

The 2004 Robert K. Johnson Award went to Dr. Clark Hubbs, Regents Professor Emeritus of the University of Texas. Clark has been exceptionally active in ASIH, has attended annual meetings since 1934, and has been a life member of the society since 1940. Clark has served on the Board of Governors since 1951, was Managing Editor of *Copeia* from 1971 to 1984, and served as President in 1987. He also has served on numerous ASIH committees.

The 2005 Robert K. Johnson Award Committee included M.A. Donnelly (Chair), Robert Cashner, and Harvey Lillywhite. The committee considered herpetological candidates for the 2005 award that will be presented during the Annual Banquet in Tampa.

STAC: Student Awards Committee - M. Ghedotti

Prior to the 2005 meeting, President-Elect Darrel Frost and Michael Ghedotti (chair for 2005) lined up the judges for the Stoye and Storer competitions. The judges and winners will be announced at the Annual Banquet.

AESR: Representative to the American Elasmobranch Society - G. Burgess

Burgess served as the conduit of communication between the two societies and was a member of the Meeting Planning and Meeting Management committees. As part of these committees he made site visits to potential meeting venues in Ithaca, NY and Montreal, Canada and participated in the symposia selection and program setting processes. AES participation in the 2004 joint meeting was high and that society extends its appreciation to the local committee and ASIH for an excellent joint meeting.

AFSR: Representative to the American Fisheries Society - M.L. Warren

Warren reports on several AFS activities and publications. The AFS InfoBase was expanded to provide online access to the full-text PDF versions of articles published in AFS journals from 1970-1998 (Fisheries is also included from 1976-2002). Work is underway to expand coverage of InfoBase back to the first journal issue in 1872. In addition, AFS on-line journals are now linked to the CrossRef service, a citation linking system that allows users to click on a citation in an AFS on-line article and link to the cited article at another publisher's website (usually only the abstract is available, unless you subscribe to the other journal). The 134th annual meeting of the American Fisheries Society in Madison, WI, hosted 1735 attendees (including 372 students) and featured 802 oral and poster presentations, and 24 symposia sessions. The theme for the meeting was "The Gathering: Leopold's Legacy for Fisheries." The symposia topics included links

between systematics and fisheries management (ASIH member Jay Stauffer as co-organizer), extending the land ethic to land and water, and invasive threats of Bighead and Silver Carp in the upper Mississippi River. Fisheries published several articles of potential interest to ASIH members. An interesting philosophical piece on the sacredness of water is featured in the forum section of the May issue as well as a review of the risks of transmission of exotic viruses from cultured baitfish. The June issue provides a critical review and assessment of the consequences of nonnative trout introductions in headwaters streams of western North America. Our own Phil Pister co-authored a piece published in the August issue that challenges and exposes the fallacies of the 'unlimited economic growth is best' scenarios espoused by economists and most politicians. Phil and Brian Czech announced a new feature series in Fisheries (January 2005 issue), the Economic Growth Forum, to further explore the conflicts between economic growth and fish conservation. These are worth reading! Articles outlining a conceptual framework for assessing the impact of roads and the consequences of poorly constructed road crossings on aquatic biota, both grossly under assessed societal impact on native fishes, appeared in the December and January issues, respectively.

AIBS: Representative to the American Institute of Biological Sciences and BioOne - A. H. Savitzky

This constitutes the combined report for the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) and the BioOne electronic publishing consortium. The two organizations work closely together (AIBS was one of the founding organizations of BioOne) and ordinarily hold their respective annual meetings for member organizations on consecutive days in Washington, DC. This year, however, the BioOne meeting was postponed until Fall 2005. Nonetheless, AIBS sponsored a special one-day meeting on open access publishing (see below), and additional information related to BioOne was made available through participation in Publishers' Advisory Committee teleconferences.

American Institute of Biological Sciences (www.aibs.org)

As ASIH Representative I attended the AIBS Council meeting (7-8 May 2005) and an open access publishing meeting sponsored by AIBS (9 May 2005) in Washington, supported by ASIH. AIBS is an umbrella organization of over 80 member societies representing a total of over 240,000 biologists. An informational brochure on the organization was published this year and is available at www.aibs.org/about-aibs/resources/AIBS_brochure.pdf. The major strength of AIBS, from the perspective of our Society, is its involvement in educational issues and science policy, including especially federal research funding and conservation policy. Indeed, ASIH continues to provide additional voluntary financial support to the AIBS Public Policy Office (renamed the Public Affairs Office at this year's Council meeting).

ASIH members will be pleased to learn that the AIBS Outstanding Service Award was presented to ASIH Past-President Jay M. Savage for his many contributions to organismal biology and ecology. The citation noted especially Jay's important contributions to the founding and fostering of the Organization for Tropical Studies.

AIBS has struggled with defining the nature of its own annual meetings. As an umbrella organization, its meetings tend not to draw many practicing scientists other than those participating in the program or the Council meeting. This year rather than sponsoring public sessions associated with the Council meeting, AIBS instead devoted itself to sponsoring a series of presentations on "Evolution and the Environment" at the National Association of Biology Teachers' (NABT) meeting in Fall 2004, apparently with great success. AIBS is considering sponsoring additional Fall programs at NABT meetings and Spring programs for policy-makers in association with the Council meetings in Washington.

In an effort to increase the number of biologists represented by AIBS, and thus its political force, the society announced the establishment of a new category of membership for academic units, such as departments of biology. The membership dues are \$125/yr, with the full range of benefits yet to be determined.

The Public Policy Office announced that it was encouraging members to write Rep. Frank R. Wolf of the 10th Congressional District of Virginia, to thank him for a strong letter he sent to President Bush expressing concern over declining federal support for basic science and encouraging increased funding.

The Science Office of AIBS announced continuing efforts to establish NEON, the National Ecological Observatory Network. AIBS has been heavily involved in the planning and organizational aspects of NEON. A NEON Design Consortium has begun a series of meetings dealing with instrumentation, infrastructure, and other aspects of the proposed network. Planning is supported with a \$6M grant from NSF, and the group plans to request funds from Congress to begin building the network in 2007. Specific sites have not yet been selected, although the methodology for selecting those sites has been discussed. Additional information on NEON can be found at www.neoninc.org/.

The Education Office has been heavily involved with two issues, workforce diversity and the teaching of evolution. The AIBS Human Resources Committee has been working on efforts to improve participation in biological research by under-represented groups, including women, ethnic minorities, and individuals with disabilities. A link to Diversity Programs is available on the AIBS home page, and additional materials are under development. Suggestions and volunteers are being sought. AIBS continues its active involvement in promoting the teaching of evolution. That theme was emphasized at the NABT meeting in Fall 2004 and by the presentation of the President's Citation Award to Kenneth R. Miller of Brown University, author of *Finding Darwin's God* and an expert witness in cases involving the teaching of evolution. AIBS also sponsors an education specialist through a subcontract with the National Evolutionary Synthesis Center (NESCENT), an NSF-funded inter-institutional project headquartered in Durham, NC. In addition to the educational aspects of the program, ASIH members may be interested in the varied research opportunities available through NESCENT (www.nescent.org/). AIBS also manages the website ActionBioscience.org (www.actionbioscience.org/), which was founded by a private philanthropist and later

transferred to AIBS. The site contains writings on a wide range of biological topics, in both English and Spanish.

The AIBS Council meeting closed with a half-day session on the topic of open access publishing, which was considered more fully in a meeting devoted to that topic the following day. That issue is discussed further below.

BioOne (www.bioone.org)

As noted, the annual Publishers and Partners meeting of BioOne was postponed from Spring 2005 until Fall. However, I serve on the BioOne Publishers' Advisory Committee, which holds quarterly teleconferences, and thus have been kept informed on the activities of BioOne. In addition, I attended a focus group and publishing seminar in New York City (29 Sept. - 2 Oct. 2004) sponsored by Alliance Communications Group (a unit of Allen Press), at their expense. I also attended a meeting on open access publishing in Washington (8 Nov. 2004) sponsored by the Society for Scholarly Publishing and the Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers; my participation in that meeting was supported by BioOne. Finally, I attended the open access publishing meeting sponsored by AIBS (9 May 2005). These meetings provided a broad view of the rapidly evolving electronic publishing environment, as well as specific information regarding the activities of BioOne.

Recognizing the risks that electronic publishing poses to nonprofit society publishers, BioOne has shifted its business model from one of providing supplemental income to one of providing replacement income to make up for anticipated future losses of library subscriptions for print journals. Thus, BioOne has instituted incremental but substantial price increases for its collection. BioOne continues to enjoy the support of the academic library community. Despite price increases for the electronic collection, BioOne has experienced only a single cancellation (a small institutional library). On the contrary, subscriptions to BioOne are increasing, especially overseas, where the collection has been actively marketed.

Several new policies were instituted by BioOne during the past year. BioOne entered into an agreement with JSTOR whereby "legacy content" (back issues) of journals published by BioOne publishers will, with the permission of the publisher, be carried by JSTOR at no charge to the publisher. Furthermore, BioOne will establish a "moving wall" by which the most recent several years of each publication will be carried by BioOne and the oldest BioOne volume will be transferred to JSTOR for archiving. Movement between the two collections will be seamless for users. BioOne also instituted a program that allows society publishers to offer individual members access to their society's electronic publications at a reasonable cost. BioOne is planning to enter into a cooperative arrangement with a similar electronic publishing consortium overseas, although the details have not yet been announced. Finally, BioOne is considering the addition of new publishers and titles to its collection for the first time since its launch. This is an important strategic decision because the number of publishers affects the profit-sharing arrangement by which funds are returned to each society publisher.

Heather Joseph, the President of BioOne since its inauguration, recently announced that she is resigning at the end of June 2005 to accept the position of Director of the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition. SPARC was one of the founding organizations of BioOne, and its Director sits on the board of BioOne, so Ms. Joseph will continue to be involved with the governance of BioOne. A search for her replacement is underway.

Open Access Publishing. The issue that received the most attention by BioOne publishers this year was the issue of open access (OA) publishing. OA is characterized by immediate free access to published content, posting in an open archive, and no copyright restrictions on re-use of materials. Essentially, OA publications are immediately available free of charge to all users, a model that raises obvious concerns to both nonprofit and for-profit (commercial) publishers. The following discussion of OA represents a compilation of information from the three electronic and open access publishing meetings I attended during the past year.

The concept of open access publishing has been around since electronic publications began, but it received a major boost when the Director of NIH, Elias Zerhouni, proposed that all NIH-funded research be made open access. That policy was adopted by Congress this Spring. Technically, the policy (grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-05-022.html) only "recommends" that the research be made available through OA, but the biomedical community views it as a de facto requirement. The NIH policy actually specifies that the final manuscript should be submitted to the PubMed Central archive immediately upon acceptance by a journal, creating a situation in which the OA version is not the actual publication itself but the final manuscript. Despite all its flaws and strong resistance from the scientific community, the NIH argument that publicly funded work should be available free to all users is popular with the public and politicians, and there is concern that the NIH lead may be followed by other agencies. Reportedly NSF is not interested in promoting OA, but it still could be mandated to do so by politicians. In any event, OA has gone from a peripheral concern to a central one, prompting several conferences during the past year. Various groups are taking stands on the issue, including a group known as the DC Principles for Free Access to Science (www.dcprinciples.org). This group is attempting to forge a "middle ground" on behalf of nonprofit scholarly publishers, proposing that the welfare of society publishers be protected through such means as short-term embargos on free access. AIBS is a signatory to the DC Principles; BioOne does not have an official policy in regard to OA.

OA is a complex issue, and interested members are directed to materials from the recent AIBS meeting on OA, which are to be posted on the AIBS website (www.aibs.org) by the end of May. A written summary of the meeting and presenters' PowerPoint slides will be made available. (Members are directed especially to the presentations by Mary Waltham, Richard Fyffe, and Carl Bergstrom.) Meanwhile, several major points should be emphasized, namely the current publishing environment, the issue of who pays for publication, and the potential impact of OA on society publishers.

An excellent presentation on the economics of STM (science, technology, and medicine) journal publishing was presented by Carl Bergstrom, a microbiologist at the Univ. Washington, who has collaborated with economist Theodore Bergstrom of UC Santa Barbara. (Members are encouraged to read their detailed analysis, available at octavia.zoology.washington.edu/publishing/.) The results are startling. For example, in the field of ecology the price per page for library subscriptions to nonprofit journals averaged \$0.19, versus \$1.19 for for-profit publishers. More surprisingly, the oft-heard argument that the higher priced commercial journals are "better" -- i.e., have higher impact factors, etc. -- is in fact untrue for the general classes of nonprofit and for-profit journals (as opposed to select titles). Based on ISI impact factors, five of the top six journals in ecology are published by nonprofit publishers. The Bergstroms used "price per citation" as a rough measure of journal "value" and found an even greater disparity; the price/cite for nonprofit journals in ecology was \$0.05, versus \$0.73 for for-profit journals. Plotting cost versus number of pages, virtually non-overlapping slopes are seen between nonprofit and for-profit journals. A separate category of "joint" publication includes those journals that are handled by for-profit publishers on behalf of societies, often with reasonable membership dues but very high library subscriptions. Such "joint" publications fall much closer to the for-profit journals in their library subscription costs. As pointed out during the discussion, the STM publishing market is large, with over \$7 billion in sales. Due to recent mergers, by 2002 over 25% of that market was controlled by a single publisher, Elsevier. All scholarly societies combined held only 18% of the market. Thus, according to Bergstrom, the commercial publishers are able to charge monopoly prices, even for demonstrably mediocre journals. The "joint" journal market is held primarily by Blackwell, which apparently offers attractive terms to societies in regard to member benefits, but then charges vastly higher prices to libraries.

Richard Fyffe, Asst. Dean of Libraries at the Univ. of Kansas, pointed out that the high rate of increase in journal subscriptions has made libraries a major supporter of open access publishing (although they continue to support BioOne, which was founded in part by academic libraries). It is also these steep cost increases, together with the perceived need of the public to have access to medical research results, that has fueled the NIH policy on OA. Rather than subscribers or readers paying, the most common model for OA is "author-pays," with an estimated cost to authors of several thousand dollars per submission. In the NIH model, the presumption is that the funding agency will absorb these costs through their inclusion in grants, but in organismal biology and ecology an author-pays model could be catastrophic. Unfunded, modestly funded, and overseas researchers would be greatly disadvantaged by such a system. Other models include having libraries and other institutions essentially "adopt" various journals by underwriting publication costs. Such models seem unlikely to provide adequate support for many journals.

Clearly, much scientific journal content is already, and will continue to be, available free to users. Copyright policies vary, but providing back issues through JSTOR will render older issues (older than about three years) effectively free to virtually everyone. The question then becomes what the impact would be of making more current journal content available to readers at no charge. What would be the impact on our

Society's membership if current journal content were immediately available for free? What if the "embargo period" (the delay between closed and open access) were shortened to one year, or to six months? If libraries no longer pay for subscriptions at all, could we afford to publish our journal at all, even electronically? Finally, if many members perceive the primary benefit of membership as receipt of, or electronic access to, the journal, what will be the impact of open access on the size and health of our Society? A year ago we were considering the impact of the possible loss of print subscriptions from libraries, assuming that institutions might continue to pay only for electronic subscriptions. Now we are faced with a more critical possibility, that under open access libraries might not need to pay for subscriptions at all, nor would individual readers. It is too soon to tell whether OA will expand beyond the biomedical literature and a few pilot journals in other biological disciplines, but we should at least anticipate a scholarly publishing environment very different from the one that exists today.

CONS: Conservation Committee - F.H. McCormick

The Conservation Committee was active in the 2004 calendar year, responding to conservation issues for both fish and amphibians. We made direct contact with the agencies, drafted a letter for President Gregory's signature, or promulgated resolutions from the committee for consideration by the membership at the annual business meeting.

CONS adopted formal procedures for Committee business conducted via email. When issues are posed for Committee consideration, a simple majority of the membership representing a quorum of 15 members shall decide the action (usually in the form of a letter to a government official or a comment posted on the public comment docket), recommend whether the action should be brought from the Committee or drafted for the signature of the President of ASIH, and solicit volunteers to draft the response. If no quorum is reached by the deadline, the issue is referred for individual action. The Committee takes no action.

In 2004, the Committee sent comments or letters to the USEPA, Office of Surface Mines, US Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA Fisheries, the Department of State, and CITES.

Actions taken (see appendices)

1. Mountaintop Mining
2. California Tiger Salamander
3. Mercury
4. Salmon
5. AES Joint Resolutions
 - Thorny Skate
 - Shark Finning
 - Great White Shark

No action

1. NIRAH Project. Maureen Donnelly, ASIH Secretary, referred a letter from Dr. Stephen La Thangue, seeking ASIH support for the NIRAH Project, "a conservation led

organisation with an emphasis on research and captive breeding.” The Committee reviewed the material provided and concluded that it was not in the best interest of the Society to become involved with a commercial enterprise.

2. Rio Aquanaval. The Rio Aquanaval system in Mexico is threatened by development of flood control dams. After consultations with several people familiar with the issue, the Committee elected to wait until a clearer picture emerged.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank H. McCormick, Chair.
15 May, 2005

HSOC: Representative to the SSAR and the HL - A.H. Savitzky

As in the past several years, formal liaison meetings between society officers and representatives have not been held. However, cooperation continues in two areas, conservation and joint meetings. In both cases the essential liaison function is served by having a representative of the other herpetological societies on the relevant ASIH committee (conservation) or joint committee (meetings). If joint meetings continue indefinitely, it is possible that a formal representative to HL and SSAR will not be necessary in the future.

However, an additional area of common interest has arisen in the past few years that may require closer coordination among the societies. Electronic publishing has emerged as an area of common concern, and all three societies now are members of the BioOne consortium. The long-term consequences of electronic publishing remain to be determined, but it is possible that issues will arise that again will require formal discussions among the societies. In the meantime, the role of the ASIH Representative to HL and SSAR has largely been superseded by the representatives of those societies to specific committees.

IHCC: Ichthyological and Herpetological Collections Committee - N. Rios

Barbara Brown, Paulo Buckup, Dave Catania, Dean A. Hendrickson, Richard Pyle, Rob Robins, Mary Ann Rogers, Jessica Rosales, Mark Sabaj, John Simmons, Ken Thompson, Lou Van Guelpen, H. J. Walker, Jeff Williams, Christina A. Wolfe

Newsletter Subcommittee: H. J. Walker (Chair), Rob Robins, Lou Van Guelpen

Supplies and Practices Subcommittee: Jessica Rosales (Chair), Barbara Brown, Mary Anne Rogers, Mark Sabaj, Ken Thompson, Lou Van Guelpen, Nelson Rios

Ichthyological Data Standards Subcommittee: Jeffrey T. Williams (Chair), Paulo Andreas Buckup, David Catania, Richard Pyle, Nelson Rios

Herpetological Data Standards Subcommittee: John E. Simmons (Chair)

The Collections Committee was relatively inactive this past year. One activity that is currently a work in progress is the creation of an online collection survey to be hosted on the ASIH website. The survey is being designed by Tom Giermakowski and Christina Wolf. The supplies and practices committee is working to ensure the availability of ethanol resistant inks for impact printing of collection labels. During the 2004 meeting we discussed recent changes in shipping procedures of scientific specimens due to 9/11 security concerns.

Respectfully submitted,
Nelson Rios, Chair
13 May 2005

NFJC: Joint ASIH -AFS Committee on Names of Fishes - J.S. Nelson

The Joint ASIH/AFS Committee on Names of Fishes, Joseph S. Nelson, Chair, reported that the fish names committee and advisory subcommittee met Saturday, 29 May, 1200-1330+ hrs at the 2004 ASIH conference in Norman, OK. Lloyd Findley sent regrets that he was unable to attend. The meeting was attended by Bill Anderson, Bill Eschmeyer, Héctor Espinosa-Pérez, Carter R. Gilbert, Karsten Hartel, Robert N. Lea, John F. Morrissey, Joe Nelson (chaired meeting), Larry Page, Ramon Ruiz-Carus, Bill Smith-Vaniz, H.J. Walker, Jr., and Jim Williams. Dr Larry Page, past president of the ASIH, discussed the desire to review publication relationships between AFS and ASIH.

On 24 August, 0930 hrs, a very successful meeting was held with ASIH past president Dr Larry Page and incoming President Dr Lynne Parenti, and AFS executives Aaron Lerner, Gus Rassam, and Barbara Knuth, and Names of Fishes Chair Joe Nelson. The relations between ASIH and AFS with respect to the “Common and scientific names of fishes” book and were reviewed, and it was agreed that ASIH members would pay the same discount price as AFS members. Thanks Larry and Lynne!

We are pleased with the publication of Nelson, J.S., E.J. Crossman, H. Espinosa-Pérez, L.T. Findley, C.R. Gilbert, R.N. Lea, and J.D. Williams. 2004. Common and scientific names of fishes from the United States, Canada, and Mexico. 6th ed., American Fisheries Society, Special Publication 29, Bethesda, Maryland. 386 pp. The book was available for sale 23+ August at the 2004 AFS AGM in Madison.

Dr Nicholas (Nick) E. Mandrak, was appointed as a new Committee member to fill the vacancy left by Dr Ed Crossman. Nick is Research Scientist at the Great Lakes Laboratory for Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, Central & Arctic Region, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, in Burlington, Ontario.

Given the publication of the 6th edition, planning has commenced for the next and 7th edition. With our plan to not take on new areas, with the only change other than changes to the list being the addition of common names in French for all species in Canada, we will work to submit the new ms in latest 2009 for publication in 2010. We propose to submit a list of corrections and new additions for publication in Fisheries and Copeia in late 2005. Regular updates will be made with possibly a website maintained by JSN for corrections/additions.

The Committee extends our deepest thanks to the very supportive Advisory Committee and to all workers who aided us in making the publication possible.

The committee will meet sometime 8-11 July, 1200-1330+ hrs at this year's ASIH conference in Tampa, Florida.

RESC: Resolutions Committee - APPOINTED BY LP IN 2005

IINC: Ichthyological Information Coordinator - M.F. Cashner

This report includes activity from May 2004 thru May 2005.

I received only one request for information about fishes during this time, a surprisingly low amount. The numbers of inquiries has steadily declined during the time I have performed this service, however this is by far the fewest number of requests I have received. Maybe other web-based resources have become more accessible. I conducted a quick Google search using the terms "fish information" and the ASIH website had not been listed by the 8th page. In addition, a search on "Ichthyology" did not yield a link to ASIH by page 10 (link 100). There were a few sites which provided links to the ASIH web site, however, some of these were old or incorrect links. If we are interested in maintaining a relationship with the non-scientific community, we may need to reconsider how this particular service (Ichthyology Information) is best accessed.

HINC: Herpetological Information Coordinator - E. Banach

I have received eleven requests, all forwarded to me by Maureen Donnelly, for information from the public during this year. All of the requests came from the general public and covered topics from captive care of herps to setting up a captive iguana refuge. Two of the requests were identification questions, one about a snake from Greece and the other a frog from the Caribbean. One request was from a college student looking for research experience opportunities. I received one question regarding disease in a captive frog and another, interestingly, asked for information about setting up a refuge for unwanted pet iguanas. The rest of the requests (six) were from elementary and middle school students conducting school projects. The students sent interview-like questions and asked about herpetology as a career, why people are afraid of snakes, and how to become herpetologists. Most of the young students were particularly interested in information about snakes. I found it very encouraging that these young students are interested in herpetology, and particularly in snakes.

I was able to respond to most requests within one to two days and found the low level of requests very manageable. I look forward to what questions the public will think of in the next twelve months.

Ad Hoc Copeia Review Committee - S.E. Schaefer

Members: Scott Schaefer (Chair), William Bemis, Richard Mayden, David Cundall, Matthew Parris, Al Savitzky (ex officio liaison to Long Range Planning and Policy Committee)

Guest: Darrel Frost (ASIH President-Elect)

The committee was charged in July 2004 by President Gregory to conduct a comprehensive review of the Society's journal *Copeia*. An email exchange among committee members in September 2004 resulted in a detailed meeting agenda (Appendix 1). A solicitation of comments, concerns, and discussion (Appendix 2) was distributed by email to the ASIH membership in November 2004; a total of 40 responses were received (Appendix 3). The committee met December 9-10, 2004 at the American Museum for the purpose of comprehensive review and discussion of agenda items and issues brought forward over the course of the two day meeting. Documents that were reviewed during the meeting included the Board of Governors Editor Reports for 1999, 2001, 2003-04; description of copy editor duties; contract with Allen Press 2005-07; *Copeia* press runs and costs invoice for 2004(3); the BioOne electronic access contract proposal; ASIH membership statistics report.

The Chair began the meeting by calling for a preliminary assessment of the major issues facing the journal. The following were identified as either current problems, general concerns, or aspects of the journal that require improvement:

1. Editorial policy. Questions and concerns regarding the basis for decisions on acceptance and rejection, the breadth of papers published, length and quality of papers, size and quality of illustrations.
2. Editorial management of review process. Selection of reviewers, time to decision, occasional judgments seemingly lacking objective basis, overview of section editor (SE) performance were viewed as areas of concern, and were generally reflected in the solicitation responses.
3. Format of journal. Page size, color reproduction, cover style and content, page layout and style were identified as areas where change is necessary.
4. Diminished impact. Scope of contents and impact of published papers viewed as diminished; no longer viewed as a premier publication outlet by membership.

Summary of responses to email solicitation

Responses to the email solicitation received from the membership can be organized into 10 general categories of comment (Table 1). A total of 66 separate issues received specific mention in the 40 emails received. As expected for solicitations such as this, approximately 90% of these comments were negative in terms of expressing explicit criticism or noting problems in need of improvement. Several responses, however, were fully positive and expressed overall satisfaction and support.

Table 1. Summary quantification of responder comments (N=66).

Category of comment	#	% of total
Editorial policy	6	9
AllenTrack mechanics	2	3
Instructions to authors	7	11
Review process	3	5
Copy editor	1	2
Content, no. items, quality	9	14
Color	3	5
Online access	4	6
Journal format	18	27
Scope, impact	13	20

A majority of comments were critical of the format of the journal, including such aspects as page size, column format, cover, and style used in layout (e.g., literature cited, tables). Another area of concern involved the scope and impact of the journal. Although views in this category were mixed (e.g., ecologists want more ecology, less taxonomy; herpetologists see the journal as dominated by fish papers, and vice versa, etc.), several common threads point to concern for maintaining breadth of subject matter, high standards for acceptance, and the impact of published papers relative to similar journals. Several responses were critical of editorial policy in terms of criteria applied toward and basis for reject decisions and demands to reduce or eliminate specific items from manuscripts as conditions for acceptance. Relatively few criticisms were directed at aspects of the review process and journal production, although the length of the review process was deemed excessive and an obstacle to future submission by some responders. Several responders were critical of the quality of published figures, while others were specific about the demand for publishing color illustrations at no or reasonable cost.

The remainder of this report represents a summary of the committee's discussions, organized by major topic category, followed by a listing and discussion of a set of recommendations for further action.

Editorial Policy

1. Purview of Editor— The purview of the Copeia Editor, the rationale applied in making editorial decisions, and selection and overview of Section Editors (SE) were

viewed by the committee as areas in need of clarification and discussion. Because the Copeia Editor is directly responsible to the Board of Governors (BOG) for the content and production of the journal, the committee recognizes that the Editor requires a degree of authority in determining the scope and breadth of the journal and in maintaining standards for the appearance and quality of published papers. Such authority has been discussed and previously endorsed by the BOG on various occasions. In as much as the Editor routinely consults with SEs and reviewers during the submission and review process, the committee felt that editorial decisions to reject manuscripts without review should be applied in only extreme circumstances. Such decisions should be rendered for reasons of scope and appropriateness, rather than on the basis of perceived scholarship or quality of science— issues that are most appropriately judged by the reviewers, specialists chosen for the task on the basis of their particular expertise in a given field.

2. Role of Copyeditor— A number of solicitation responses expressed frustration with aspect of post-acceptance copyediting. A frequent complaint relates to instances of post-proof manipulation of text without author approval. Members related instances of having their papers modified during correction of proofs for purposes of improved page layout only and in the absence of notification or consultation with authors. The committee suggests that the Copeia Copyeditor should implement editorial policy, rather than create it, and that copyediting should be restricted for the most part to mechanical editing (i.e., format, hyphenation, punctuation, spelling), with substantive editing (i.e., addressing problems of ambiguity, rephrasing for smoothness and flow, etc.) applied only with the approval of the Editor and always in consultation with authors. There must be a closer coordination between Copyeditor and Editor, and supervision of proof corrections on the part of the Editor.

Another complaint is that, prior to acceptance, papers are often returned to authors one or more times for minor corrections that are viewed by authors as typical of those handled by copyeditors at other journals. What one author may regard as trivial may be viewed by editors as substantive. At present, the Copeia Copyeditor conducts an initial review of new submissions and generates an online checklist that notes problems with format and construct that must be corrected prior to final acceptance. This checklist is included among the online manuscript files and remains available to the author throughout the review process. The Editor examines the checklist along with the manuscript and illustrations during the initial evaluation prior to assignment to a SE to begin the review process. When format and other problems are so extensive as to compromise the review process (e.g., no cover page, no page and line numbers, tables and figures not submitted as separate files), the Editor may elect to return the manuscript to authors for correction. For reasons of mechanics, the move to electronic submission, review, and document transmittal places more of the burden on authors for correcting typos, grammatical and format errors, because such are no longer marked on paper by reviewers and editors. Further, the Copyeditor works part-time, roughly 20 hrs. per week, and must process on the order of 140 documents per year in addition to other production-related duties. Asking authors to comply with author instructions, follow Copeia format, and respond to requests for corrections from editors seems reasonable and further serves to reduce the time that accepted manuscripts remain in press.

3. Role of Editorial Board—The Editorial Board (EB) was viewed by members of the committee as under-utilized at present. A redefinition of the role of the EB is recommended. The committee felt that, in general, the EB should assist the Editor with such matters as may pertain to policy and procedure, and play a more direct role in shaping the content of the journal. At present, EB members are nominated by the SEs (approved by the ASIH President) and serve at the discretion of the SEs, most frequently by assisting with the review process by offering rapid reviews or directed opinion on specific matters. This kind of usage may indeed be valuable, but is limited and sporadic in occurrence and not received uniformly across sections. The committee recommends a more formal advisory role for the EB. A more effective approach would be to scale back the EB from the current 28 members to perhaps 10 or fewer, each member appointed to a specific term (e.g., 2 years). The Editor would receive nominations from the Editorial Policy Committee (EPC, which includes all SEs, book review and index editors) and forward these to the President for approval and appointment. Members of the EB would be invited to participate in the business of the EPC in their annual meeting, and would thus be cognizant of relevant deliberations and decisions regarding journal production for the upcoming year. Members appointed to the EB should be aware of, and agree to, a responsibility for limited editorial service as may be required (see below).

Structure of Copeia Sections

The committee regarded the current structure of Copeia sections (i.e., General Ichthyology [CI], General Herpetology [CH], Ecology & Behavior [CE], Physiology & Physiological Ecology [CP], Genetics, Development & Morphology [CG]; Figure 1) as a major problem and impediment to implementing changes that address other problems facing the journal. The sections at present are structured by major subject area, reflecting general or historical categories of manuscript submissions, and exist to provide organization of the review process-- most notably, the selection of specialist reviewers having specific expertise in a given field, judging the appropriateness and utility of the reviews, and in crafting an appropriate recommendation to the Editor by the SEs, who are also specialists in a particular field. The committee identified the following problems with the current section structure:

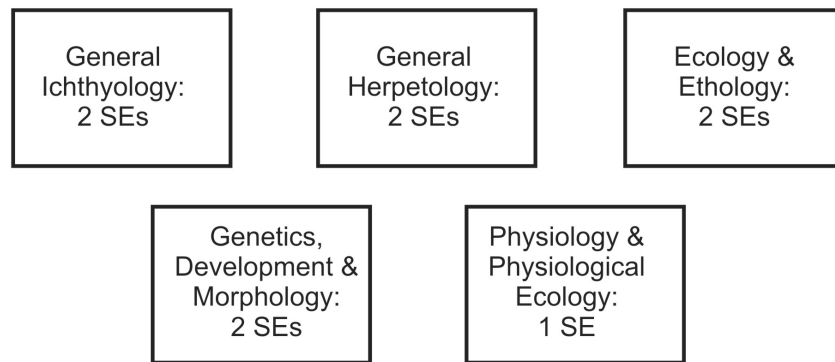
- (1) Sections reflect historical categorization of journal content and do not necessarily reflect current submissions, specialization of expertise within a field, trends in current science, or facilitate expansion of subject coverage.
- (2) Sections are rigidly defined by the ASIH Constitution. The fixed assignment of SEs to specific sections constrains Editors from adjusting workload in response to changing submissions and in dealing with cross-disciplinary manuscripts.
- (3) Assignment of manuscripts to sections has been based on type of data, or method of analysis, rather than conceptual or more general criteria.

The committee recommends the following changes to the Copeia sectional structure. Existing and proposed structures are compared schematically in Figure 1. The

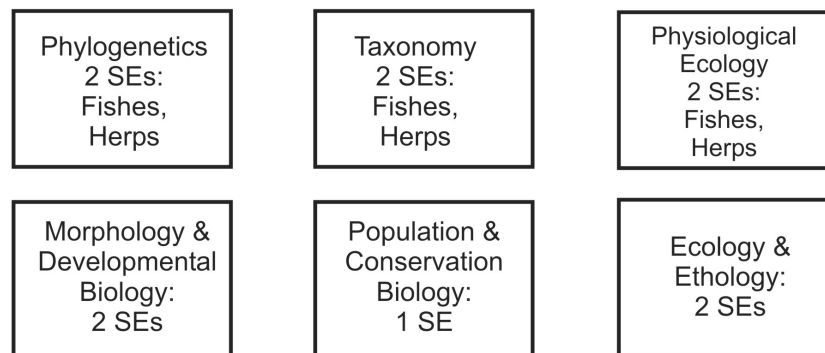
new structure continues an organization by major subject category, but expands the number of sections from five to six, further subdivides the current general section categories, but realigns them on the basis of subject specialization, rather than taxonomic discipline (fish vs. herps). General Ichthyology/Herpetology sections at present are organized by taxon (fish vs. herp) and handle papers dealing with phylogenetics, systematics, taxonomy, new species descriptions, biogeography and general topics not more appropriately assigned to other sections.

Figure 1. Comparison of existing Copeia sectional structure and proposed revision.

Current Copeia Section Structure



Proposed Revised Copeia Section Structure



Although we recognized that SE and reviewer expertise is most efficiently organized by taxonomic discipline, and is in fact maintained in the proposed reorganization, we believe that current trends in conceptual and methodological specialization within the field of systematic biology place a demand on the review

process that can best be addressed by a hierarchic reorganization by taxonomic discipline within subject areas. Specifically, we recommend instead that these sections be organized into two specific subject areas: phylogenetics and taxonomy, each with one SE (chosen appropriately on the basis of methodological, taxonomic, or other expertise) assigned to papers on either fishes or herps (two SEs per section). This organization allows for a finer definition of subject area, one not based artificially on the type of data utilized in the study (i.e., genomic vs. phenetic), and consequently facilitates a more focused selection of reviewer expertise. We recommend maintaining separate sections for Ecology & Ethology with two SEs (one each for fish and herp papers) and for Physiology and Physiological Ecology (two SEs for both fishes and herps). Because we do not feel that type of data utilized in a study should form a basis for manuscript assignment, we propose that CG be reorganized as Morphology & Developmental Biology with two SEs that would also handle papers on such topics as cytogenetics and heredity, paleobiology, and functional morphology. We further propose that a section be added for Population & Conservation Biology with one SE in response to author demand and anticipation that these fields will become more important in the future.

Restructuring the Copeia sections would address some of the problems identified thus far and could potentially spur an expansion of the scope of the journal and its potential impact (two areas of concern discussed further, below). This proposal for a revised section organization serves to: (1) increase the number of sections by one, (2) shifts the general sections from their current catch-all definition to a categorization based on specific subject matter, (3) increase the total number of SEs by two (from 9 to 11), and (4) better reflect current trends in systematic and organismal biology while also anticipating new categories of desirable papers. These changes address current trends in number of manuscript submissions to certain categories (e.g., submissions to Ecology and Physiology sections at 50% of total submissions), and adjusts for increasing specialization within systematics, recognizing a distinction between those studies having a tree-based versus a classification-based focus, thereby permitting a more refined assignment of SE expertise to the review of manuscripts in systematic biology.

The rigid sectional structure and number of SEs assigned to each section was discussed, relative to perceived problems and solicitation responses. Certain criticisms, such as lengthy review times, questionable reviewer assignments, and subjective recommendations lacking logical or reasoned justification, may be ameliorated by implementing an effective section redesign that allows for refinement of SE expertise, whereby editors may focus on review of manuscripts in their particular field. An equally critical problem is the need for balanced workload among SEs. For example, as of February 2005, the number of new manuscripts assigned to CG (6) and CP (9) represent half to a third of the number of new manuscripts assigned to each of the three other sections (CH 16, CI 17, CE 19). A section editor serving under such workload inequity may feel slighted, overworked, and consequently may terminate service earlier than otherwise. The Editor tries to achieve workload balance among SEs and must occasionally assign manuscripts to SEs that fall outside of their sections and expertise. As a result, workload statistics provided in the Editor's report to the BOG and summarized in Table 2 pertain to SE assignments and do not necessarily reflect manuscript

submission categories. Further, cross-disciplinary assignment of manuscripts among SEs creates difficulty in the selection of reviewers by SEs unfamiliar with the available expertise in a particular field and may impact editorial recommendations. The alternative approach is to add SEs to those sections receiving the bulk of the submissions. In fact, additional SEs have been added recently to the general and ecology sections in order to reduce workload, yet workload in these sections remains excessive. At present, SEs in the general herpetology and ecology sections are overwhelmed by new manuscript submissions, approaching nearly double the number of assignments for a similar period in 2004 (Table 2). In 2004, the average number of manuscripts assigned per SE (37) was nearly the same as that for 2002 (34), despite the addition of 2 SEs (the average for 2003 at 47 was similar to pre-AllenTrack averages that ranged 37-52 manuscripts per SE). Total number of manuscript submission has increased 33.4 and 15.2 percent each year since 2002, yet the average length of the review process has steadily decreased 19.7 and 13.2 percent during this period. Clearly, as the number of submission has increased, the SEs are doing more work at a faster pace. Although the Editor tries to balance the workload among SEs by flexible cross-assignment of manuscripts among sections, such trends in workload cannot continue without risk of losing SEs. A target average of 25 manuscripts per SE per year should be sought by increasing the total number of SEs.

The committee is also cognizant of challenges posed by changes to sectional structure, which is defined by the ASIH Constitution (Article V, Section 2a). Changes must be proposed by the Executive Committee and circulated to all members three months in advance of the annual meeting. Further, Copeia section structure is tied to other society business, such as the organization of student awards presented at the annual meeting. Changes designed to improve the journal may be irrelevant or undesirable in the administration of other society functions and protocols. Nevertheless, the committee believes that the current rigid section structure and manner of SE appointment are impediments to improving the journal.

Table 2. Summary of Copeia production statistics during the last five years. Information assembled from AllenTrack database (2002 to present) and Editor's reports to BOG (2000, 2001).

volume: issue #:	2004					2003					2002					2001					2000				
	1	2	3	4	Total	1	2	3	4	Total	1	2	3	4	Total	1	2	3	4	Total	1	2	3	4	Total
number pages published	198	247	285	257	987	230	200	282	282	994	271	298	324	346	1239	309	282	308	335	1234	344	304	272	292	1212
number major papers	15	12	15	15	57	13	18	13	16	60	20	17	22	21	80	23	19	16	21	79	19	21	14	14	68
number shorter contribs.	9	12	15	8	44	9	4	10	11	34	12	12	9	12	45	12	13	19	9	53	19	16	23	10	68
number book reviews	4	5	5	5	19	10	4	7	2	23	5	12	4	8	29	7	4	5	7	23	3	9	5	9	27
ichs	3	1	3	4	11	6	4	5	0	15	1	3	3	4	11	1	1	3	4	9	1	4	3	0	8
herps	1	4	1	1	7	3	0	1	1	5	3	6	1	2	12	6	3	2	1	12	2	4	0	7	13
general	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	20	1	3	0	2	6	0	0	0	2	2	0	1	2	2	5
number pages obits, perspectives, news, etc.	8	15	29	37	89	13	8	8	26	55	23	27	16	28	94	13	13	14	25	65	33	8	13	18	72
number new submissions					324					281					276					335					285
number revised submissions					228					198					83										
total number submissions					552					479					359										
number domestic submissions					195					169					195					176					145
number foreign submissions					129					110					120					97					71
review duration to first decision (days):					46					53					66										
major papers					178					145					163										
shorter contribs.					112					115					108										
rejection rates:																				0.68					
major papers															0.7										
shorter contribs.															0.82										
Section Editor performance:	CI	CH	CE	CG	CP	CI	CH	CE	CG	CP	CI	CH	CE	CG	CP	CI	CH	CE	CG	CP	CI	CH	CE	CG	CP
number editors	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
number mss assigned	57	50	40	24	22	57	42	30	35	22	69	50	71	40	40	59	56	63	47	48	53	40	37	46	40
av. Number days in review	70	64	48	68	96	78	51	56	81	110	60	59	74	73	89										
number accepted	35	22	14	11	4	22	8	6	9	8						9	5	1	8	14	16	15	2	19	12
number rejected	15	15	19	12	10	10	18	19	10	12						26	22	6	7	18	20	14	17	5	22
rejection rate	0.3	0.41	0.58	0.52	0.71	0.31	0.69	0.76	0.53	0.6	0.41	0.56	0.41	0.43	0.4	0.74	0.81	0.86	0.47	0.56	0.56	0.48	0.89	0.21	0.65

Appointment of Section Editors

A further problem with the current rigid section structure relates to its inflexibility in allowing the Editor to adjust to changing demands on the review process. Because SEs are elected positions, ASIH procedures require minimally 6 months for the solicitation, nomination, and formal election of new or replacement SEs at the annual meeting. Temporary replacement or interim SEs may be required from time to time in cases of termination of service mid-term, extended leave, or other circumstances that may interrupt service. The formality of elected office lends a certain stature and prestige to the SE position, which the committee feels should not be jeopardized. On the other hand, the amount of time required for a formal appointment is an obstacle to rapid response by the Editor to changes in workload demand and workload inequities among SEs. The committee recognizes the importance of formal SE appointments and the need for flexible adjustments to workload and the rapid recruitment of editorial assistance as required by the Editor. We recommend that the Editor continue to seek temporary or interim SE assignments by solicitation from among the Editorial Board or the general membership as necessary, with the consultation and approval of the Executive Committee, until one or more candidates are nominated for formal election at the next annual meeting.

Difficulty in the recruitment and retention of SEs is a continual problem and perhaps is mostly due to the often heavy workload and general lack of appreciation for their efforts. The committee recommends that a system of reward or special recognition be implemented for exemplary and/or long-term extended service. The expected minimum term of service for SEs is two years. Special recognition for service after the fourth year might provide an incentive for extended service and could be provided in the form of the formal title of Associate Editor and certificate of recognition at the annual meeting.

Review Process

The review process was the focus of the majority of responses to the email solicitation. Most of the criticism identified the basis for editorial decisions and the sensitivity and tact used in transmitting such decisions to authors as two major problems. Members of the committee share this view and brought to the discussion a number of anecdotal reports of, and direct experience with, instances where authors have expressed frustration and dismay with aspects of the review process and the handling of their papers. In many such situations, authors have become so upset as to vow to never again submit their work to Copeia or comply with review requests. Such sentiments may not necessarily represent isolated cases, the unfortunate outcome of peer review, or limits to the number of papers that can be published. Appropriate selection of reviewers and the qualifications of SEs for judging reviewer criticisms are often included among the strongest of author complaints. The committee felt that such problems could be minimized by greater attention to reasoned responses and detailed justification for editorial decisions. Specifically, SEs must ensure that reviewer criticisms are reasonable and justified and that comments and suggestions are transmitted with courtesy and

professionalism. The proposed changes to the Copeia section structure address this in part by fine tuning manuscript categories and assignment of SE expertise appropriate to the particular subject area. Further, the Editor must give greater attention to the manner in which the reviews are evaluated and communicated, ensuring that editorial decisions are objective and reasonable.

Selection and solicitation of reviewers would be aided by creation of a Copeia reviewer database. At present, AllenTrack provides for keyword search of area of expertise in their Copeia submit author database. Users input this their information when they create an account as author or reviewer. However, this system is inadequate for these purposes because: (1) users are not required to specify their area of expertise, so that a large proportion of the database entries lack this information, (2) the database design limits input to a single text field, such that combined searches by taxon, subject area, or geographic specialty cannot be performed. A more appropriate and functional database would categorize and parse reviewer expertise in much more detail (e.g., by taxonomic, methodological, and subject areas of specialization) and could also be tied to the existing reviewer history database (number of solicitations, requests accepted/declined, titles and categories of papers reviewed, etc.). Such information should be available online to all Copeia editorial staff and managed along with the membership directory as part of the ASIH website. Special attention to graduate students and postdocs would perhaps provide them with more incentive to contribute reviews and otherwise participate.

Journal Format

Problems with the format and layout of Copeia were identified in the email solicitation responses and discussed by the committee at length. These are listed and summarized below:

1. Page Size – Current page size (175 mm x 254 mm) does not lend itself to modern means of electronic dissemination and usage. Following current trends in electronic publishing and internet access, a majority of users have become accustomed to routine online access to publications and electronic dissemination of their work. The Adobe Portable Document Format (pdf) has become the default file format for such purposes. Copeia authors now have the option of purchasing reprints of their publications in both paper and pdf form, with the latter offered at both screen (600 dpi) and print (1200 dpi) resolutions. Purchase of pdf reprints also provides authors with permission to post electronic reprints on websites for open and anonymous access. Readers desiring hardcopy form are increasingly reliant on local desktop printing on standard A4 paper (210 x 297 mm) of pdf publications. Much page space is therefore wasted when printing pdf versions of Copeia proofs and final publications. On the other hand, a minority opinion expressed by some of the email responders argued for maintaining the traditional look and feel of the journal. Apart from a simple reluctance on the part of some members to consider any changes whatsoever, there is the view that current page size and layout is more convenient for reading and shelf storage. The committee was unable to agree upon the extent that aspects of personal preference should be included among the criteria being compared and evaluated on this issue.

Following the success of many journals that have recently changed page size and format to accommodate the move to electronic dissemination (e.g., *J. Morphol.*, *Molec. Phylo. Evol.*, *Syst. Biol.*, *Evolution*, among many others), we recommend that *Copeia* adopt a page size of similar dimensions (215 mm x 280 mm). We advocate continued use of double column format with 20 mm margins and point out that, given a redesigned layout and appropriate selection of font style and size, *Copeia* could offer more information per printed page than is currently possible using the smaller page size, possibly resulting in more articles per issue and reducing the time manuscripts remain in press. Columns would be wider and page layout more conducive to effective communication of illustrations (e.g., single-column cladograms and photographs printed at larger size and in greater detail; possibility of printing side-by-side single column figures, etc.).

2. Color – The demand to publish color illustrations has increased dramatically in recent years and was expressed strongly in the email solicitation responses. Although there are considerable higher costs associated with color printing, a major advantage of electronic publication is that it costs no more to deliver a color figure online than a black and white image. Many journals now offer free color for online publications, while also providing authors with the option of either black and white or color reproduction at some cost in the printed versions of these same papers. Color print is now offered routinely and at reasonable cost at many other journals and, because of the high cost (currently \$850 per plate), *Copeia* remains at a severe disadvantage in the competition among journals for high impact papers. For comparison, the journal *Ichthyological Exploration of Freshwaters* does not charge for color reproduction (but, at the Editor's discretion, may decline or limit requests for color reproduction on a per-figure basis). Other comparable society-based journals adopt a sliding scale for color reproduction at lower prices based on the number of color plates per paper (e.g., \$500 first plate, \$450 second plate, \$300 third plate, etc.).

Based on a limited survey, the following cost structure applies to color reproduction at other journals:

Freshwater Biology \$300 first, \$100 all subsequent plates.
Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. \$350.
J. Morph. \$500 (but possibly free, at editor's discretion).
J. Ornithol. \$530 per paper (can include multiple color plates).
Syst. Biol. \$900 first, \$450 2nd-4th, \$100 thereafter.
Ichthyol. Res. \$1000 first, \$560 2nd.

Relative to other comparable journals (i.e., non-medical, society-based, organismal), costs for color reproduction in *Copeia* fall among the upper third. Editor Schaefer queried Allen Press (AP) in January 2005 about ways to reduce these costs in future print runs. According to AP, the new contract (2005-2008) includes reduced costs for color reproduction. An email exchange involving Guy Dresser at AP revealed that determining the actual cost of color reproduction is complicated by the number of color

figures per article and the number of signatures (sheet sides, layout) that are involved in the run. For example, for submission of electronic color illustrations (pricing higher for hardcopy submissions) at the \$30 per color separation price, the costs for a 3600 Copeia print run is as follows:

1 color plate printed 4/1 (four colors one side of sheet)	\$600
2 color plates in same article printed 4/1	\$630 or \$315 ea.
3 color plates in same article printed 4/4 (four colors both sides of sheet)	\$750 or \$250 ea.
4 color plates in same article printed 4/4	\$780 or \$195 ea.

When two signatures are involved, such as for 4 color plates printed in 2 different signatures, the cost per plate would revert to \$315. The difference in cost for printing black and white illustrations versus color figures in a signature, results in the following:

1 color plate printed 4/1 (four colors one side of sheet)	\$240
2 color plates in same article printed 4/1	\$255 or \$127.50 ea.
3 color plates in same article printed 4/4 (four colors, both sides of sheet)	\$360 or \$120 ea.
4 color plates in same article printed 4/4	\$375 or \$93.75 ea.

It would appear that ASIH should be able to charge authors much lower prices for color reproduction than previously possible. The Editorial Office is responsible for billing authors for color figures and determining whether payment was received by the ASIH Business Office. The annual ASIH budget for producing and distributing Copeia is based on a projected estimate, while the actual cost charged to the Society by AP for a Copeia issue is determined at press run by a number of variables (e.g., number of printed pages, size of press run, number and length of tables, number and type of illustrations, postage costs, etc.). In effect, the Society is now subsidizing the costs of printing black and white illustrations for members when no page charges apply. In considering an appropriate charge for color reproduction, the Society must decide (1) which of the above-mentioned costs should be borne by authors and which should be assumed by the Society in the annual Copeia budget, and (2) what amount of unanticipated costs in color reproduction should be assumed by the Society that result from higher costs due to press run variables. In other words, charging authors a rock-bottom pricing for color may result in the situation where the Society is in effect subsidizing part of the increased cost of color reproduction. On the other hand, establishing a lower pricing that includes a nominal buffer as a hedge against such unanticipated actual costs might represent a reasonable compromise solution. Establishing the lowest prices to authors of papers where all authors are ASIH members would provide increased incentive for membership.

The committee recommends that ASIH conduct a more thorough analysis of the economics of color reproduction, in consultation with AP and the Editorial Office, in order to establish a formal proposal to the BOG for fixed reduced cost for color reproduction from electronic artwork. We urge that this be accomplished during 2005 so that reduced cost for color can be implemented in 2006. A different pricing scheme

should be established for ASIH members and non-members as one further manifestation of benefit to joining the Society. The committee further recommends that ASIH establish a two-tier system for including color figures in *Copeia*: (1) color figures are free to authors in the electronic version of the journal, and (2) authors are given the option of black and white reproduction or color reproduction at reduced cost in the printed version of *Copeia*.

3. Cover– The committee concluded that, once a new page size and layout is adopted, changing the appearance of the *Copeia* outside front cover is a natural extension and offers the following advantages. Larger cover size provides an opportunity to include a color photograph on the outside front cover. Photographs could be solicited and selected from among submissions tied to the content of the particular issue, and thereby serving to draw reader attention to the issue and possibly create an incentive for authors of high-impact papers to submit their work to *Copeia*. Second, an effective cover redesign might spark new interest in the journal or attract new readers and potential new members. The committee recommends that any redesign give due consideration to finding an optimal balance between novelty, communication of content and interest, and the trademark look and history of the journal.

4. Illustrations– A major complaint and area of frustration among authors that was reflected in the solicitation responses and committee discussion relates to published illustrations. Many responses complained about restrictions placed on the number and size of illustrations, editorial demands that certain figures be eliminated entirely, and the seemingly arbitrary basis for such decisions (i.e., not reflected in reviewer commentary). Authors have frequently been instructed to down-size one or more illustrations to single column format, despite resulting problems with appearance, resolution, and effective communication. A related and frequent complaint relates to the quality of published figures. Perusal of several recently published papers attests to high variability in quality as a general problem. The committee reviewed several case studies and concluded that the mechanics of producing illustrations must be examined in further detail. Two areas where increased attention to figure quality could be applied are at manuscript acceptance and during corrections of proofs. The Editorial Office receives galley proofs in both paper and pdf form. Authors receive the pdf versions of their papers, while the Copyeditor handles the proofs in paper form. Paper proofs are printed at lower resolution and include the illustrations in the page layout, but figures are not printed at final resolution and their quality cannot be properly evaluated in this form. Instead, separate print proofs of all illustrations are received from AP and examined by the Editor, who makes judgment concerning quality and size, initiates and communicates changes and corrections to AP and authors, and reviews corrected print proofs for all illustrations. Authors do not receive illustration print proofs, as they did in previous years (i.e., prior to adopting electronic manuscript submission), presumably for reasons of cost-savings. The Editor also evaluates requests from authors for changes to figures and determines the course of action. Authors are not always aware that pdf versions of their paper do not necessarily depict illustrations at final publication quality, or that the Editor examines and approves print proofs of their figures. The committee recommends that the Editor effectively communicates the procedures for checking figure proofs to authors and that

increased diligence be applied to all aspects of figure quality, from receipt of manuscript to galley stage. We further recommend that the Editor develop and implement a set of illustration standards that specify minimally acceptable aspects of figure construction, such as page layout, labeling, scale bars, etc. Considerations of cost should not outweigh consideration of effective means of communicating science in producing *Copeia*.

The committee was unable to determine the extent that problems with figure quality reside with the production process at AP. Based on the general quality of illustrations published by AP for *Copeia* and other journals, it seems unlikely that production problems are general, rather than sporadic and occasional. Nevertheless, a closer look at the production process and facilities at AP would perhaps help address these questions, but lies beyond the ability of this committee to investigate further. Such an investigation might instead be appropriate and effective as part of a broader examination of changing the journal page size and layout, the economics of color reproduction, and other important yet under-studied issues facing the journal.

5. Bibliographic format– The style used in the literature cited section of *Copeia* papers is distinctive and rather unique, but cumbersome and idiosyncratic. In particular, use of small caps for author names and the “lining” of subsequent citations by the same author(s) are cited by members as problematic. Apart from tradition, the committee was unable to rationalize the use of small caps on the basis of typesetting or other functions. We further suggest that with electronic documents, the “lining” of subsequent author names no longer offers any timesaving or efficiency in the typesetting of bibliographies by printers, as traditional typesetting is no longer performed. Furthermore, many authors are accustomed to use of software packages for automatic generation of bibliographies and application of style from pre-set or custom templates. Current *Copeia* format is a drastic departure from the formats used by other journals, thereby eliminating the effective use of such software.

The committee acknowledges that these changes are extensive and rather drastic, considering the long-term stability of *Copeia* size, format and color since its inception. A formal proposal for a specific and detailed format change is beyond the scope of this committee. Instead, we recommend that another formal committee be charged with the task of developing a formal and detailed proposal for changing these aspects of the journal. That committee should examine the format adopted by various sister journals, evaluate the pros and cons of possible fonts, text and figure layout options, paper type, and other specifics of page format. That committee should also be charged with conducting a review of print production at AP, examine aspects of quality control, and solicit a proposal from AP for two-tier color reproduction as outlined herein. A detailed analysis of costs and its affect on the *Copeia* printing budget, the number of pages printed per issue and per year, should be performed in consultation with Allen Press.

Journal Content

Several issues related to the content of *Copeia* and policy applied to the construct of published papers were discussed.

1. Manuscript categories– At present, submissions are assigned to one of four manuscript categories:

Major articles are full-length reports usually greater than 15 but not more than 50 manuscript pages (the latter only at discretion of the Editor).

Shorter Contributions are more limited in scope and usually occupy 15 or fewer manuscript pages.

Comments are most often critiques of data and/or interpretations published in Copeia (or elsewhere), extemporaneous or solicited.

Announcements are in subjects of interest to Copeia readers.

A majority of email responders recommended that Copeia eliminate the distinction between major articles and shorter contributions. The committee agrees, and notes that such distinction at present is entirely subjective (i.e., no format or style differences pertain, apart from length and potentially fewer illustrations). Scope seems not to be a determining factor and the same rigor is applied to shorter contributions during manuscript review. Length is not an absolute determiner of manuscript category, as all new species descriptions regardless of length are considered major papers by default. Other than offering a basis for ordering the journal contents by length of papers, there seems to be little justification for maintaining shorter contributions as a separate category.

2. Length of papers– The limit of 50 manuscript pages was discussed and regarded as a reasonable guideline for authors. Given budgetary limits on the number of pages that can be published per issue, it is widely recognized that papers of extreme length reduce the number of articles published per issue and may also restrict the breadth of subject matter included. On the other hand, applying a rigidly inflexible absolute limit on length of papers may not be in the best interest of the journal. The committee recommends that the Editor apply a flexible policy on manuscript length and include the occasional longer paper when appropriate. Authors should be encouraged to consult with the Editor prior to submitting papers that exceed the 50 page limit.

3. Balance of subject matter– The clear sense from the email responses was that Copeia must continue to represent the great breadth of subject matter commensurate with the interests of ASIH members. It is not clear, however, to what extent members believe that this objective is being met at present. A number of responders, primarily ichthyologists, expressed concern that Copeia has become too narrowly focused on systematics and taxonomy and that other fields, such as ecology, physiology, behavior, have become so underrepresented in recent issues that authors of papers in these and other fields are more likely to submit their work elsewhere because of concern for lack of visibility among readers in these fields. In stark contrast to this perception, Copeia is regarded by herpetologists as primarily an outlet for ecology and behavior, whereas papers on systematics and new reptile and amphibian species are instead directed to Herpetologia and J. Herpetology. The committee recognizes that the sentiments expressed in the email responses do not necessarily reflect the majority opinion on this matter, and we did not

conclude that balance of subject matter was a major problem relative to other challenges facing the journal. However, the committee does recommend that the Editor continue to strive for balance in subject matter treated in Copeia papers, but not at the expense of the quality of science published.

3. Advertisements– Copeia “back matter”, or the last few pages of each issue, frequently includes one or more pages that advertise sale of ASIH publications. These pages are often made available as a consequence of “left-over” space in the production process (four journal pages are printed per sheet). The committee recommends that ASIH consider devoting a certain number of pages to paid advertisements, as is done by several other sister-journals. Revenue from outside advertisements could help defray the costs of publication, be set aside to defray costs of color reproduction, or provide other similar benefits to authors and Society members.

4. Policy regarding supplemental documentation– Authors are required to provide documentation regarding specimen vouchers, GenBank numbers, permits, and IACUC approval of methods. Current policy and instructions to authors states:

ASIH endorses the principle that experimental use of live animals should only be for the purpose of advancing knowledge and must conform with National Institutes of Health (NIH) animal care guidelines. If organisms are maintained in the laboratory, or if experimental procedures are performed in the field, then requisite Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) protocol numbers must be cited in Acknowledgments. In addition, reports based on permanent removal of organisms from natural populations should indicate, in text, the locations and catalog numbers of museum voucher specimens and, in Acknowledgments, the numbers of requisite permits and licenses. Molecular data generated in a research project and submitted for publication to Copeia must also be deposited at a recognized archive, such as the National Institute of Health's GenBank (National Center for Biotechnology Information [NCBI]). Representative voucher specimens for these data must be placed in appropriate museums (as above). Accession numbers for molecular sequences and voucher specimens must then be provided in Acknowledgments. Furthermore, holotypes of taxa (both ichthyological and herpetological) described in Copeia as new to science should be deposited in National or International Centers [designated in Poss and Collette, Copeia 1995(1)]. Secondary types of these taxa should be distributed among several museums.

It would appear that policy on these requirements is clear. However, the committee recognized that because published papers frequently deviate from established policy, the problem must reside with the enforcement of policy during manuscript review and as condition of acceptance. We are cognizant of the importance accorded these principles by the Society and believe that Copeia should set the standard in this regard for published research involving lower vertebrates. The importance and utility of specimen vouchers

and archival of genetic data is general and relates to verification and ground-truthing of observations and statements based on the data reported upon. The requirement for vouchering applies across all fields of inquiry and must not be restricted to systematics and “museum science”. Documentation of permits and approvals for collecting attest to the legality of the work involved, while documentation of approvals for animal care and use committees or other such institutional authorities attests that ASIH guidelines and principles are adhered to during the course of the research published in the journal. The committee strongly recommends that the Editor uphold these principles and enforce the established policy on these matters. The Editor may use discretion in judging the nature of author compliance when special circumstances apply (i.e., no local IACUC authority exists, research based on legacy collections, etc.). The intent in all such cases shall be that authors comply in good faith and to the fullest extent possible.

Scope and Impact of Copeia

The committee considered the concerns expressed by many responders regarding a perceived diminished impact of papers published in *Copeia* relative to other similar journals. Although we share the view that *Copeia* must uphold high standards of science and scholarship, we do not view the issue of citation impact as particularly important, given the mandate by the Society that the journal publish broadly on all aspects of the study of fishes, reptiles and amphibians. We do recommend that the Editor strive to broaden the readership by attracting papers of significant impact and relevance. One possible mechanism for this would be to solicit focused review articles that address broad issues of general relevance, especially in subject areas that are not well represented in *Copeia* at present. Reviews might treat controversial topics, be more conceptually (rather than empirically) oriented, and should be published in a timely manner (within an issue of acceptance). *Copeia* might profit from increased visibility as a result.

Issues requiring additional study

The proposal to change the page size and layout of *Copeia*, the economics of color reproduction, and evaluation of production quality at Allen Press are issues of particular importance, yet require further study. We recommend that one or more committees be charged with the task of further examination of these issues. These committees should conduct business as soon as possible during 2005-06 and report their findings to the BOG at the 2006 annual meeting. A formal proposal for a modified *Copeia* layout, cover design, should be developed in consultation with AP so that budgetary considerations relative to the current printing contract are taken into account. Establishing a reduced cost for color reproduction and the possibility of offering free color in an online version of *Copeia* should be a high priority as well, given the impending move to an online version of the journal through contract with BioOne.

Summary of Recommendations:

1. Encourage the *Copeia* Editor to apply editorial rejections without review under extreme circumstances only and for reasons of scope,

appropriateness, and suitability for review rather than on the basis of perceived lack of scholarship.

2. Ensure that the Copy editor duties involve mechanical editing of accepted manuscript for the most part, with substantive editing performed only with the approval of the Editor and in consultation with authors.
3. Restructure and redefine the Editorial Board to facilitate a more direct role in shaping the content of the journal and advising on editorial policy and procedures.
4. Reorganize the current sectional structure by increasing the number of sections by one, shifting the general sections from their current alignment to a categorization based on subject, and increase the total number of SEs from 9 to 11.
5. Authorize the Editor to seek temporary or interim SE assistance as required to adjust for changes in workload demand, mid-term termination of service or request for extended leave. Such assistance could be solicited from members of the Editorial Board or membership at large.
6. Create the title Associate Editor and offer special recognition as a reward to SEs for exemplary service over an extended period of time.
7. Improve diligence in evaluation and judgment of reviewer criticisms, the basis for editorial decisions, and apply professional courtesy in the communication of decisions to authors.
8. Establish a reviewer database, searchable by area of expertise, taxon and geographic specialization, and other criteria.
9. Change the page size, page layout, outside front cover of the journal to facilitate modern mechanisms of document delivery and to stimulate increased interest in the journal.
10. Publish color illustrations at reduced cost, lowest price (one or more color plates free) offered when all authors are ASIH members in good standing; evaluate the economics of color reproduction and determine fixed or sliding scale prices per plate for members and non-members.
11. Establish a two-tier system whereby authors may choose free color reproduction in the electronic version of Copeia, with option of either black and white or reduced cost color reproduction in the print version.
12. Update the front cover design, incorporate color illustration(s) that serve to reflect the content of the issue and spark interest in the journal.

13. Remove arbitrary or cost-motivated restrictions on numbers of figures or tables that may appear in Copeia papers. Apply a flexible policy on restricting the length of manuscripts.

14. Apply greater diligence in monitoring and improving illustration quality; implement figure standards, effectively communicate instructions to authors.

15. Remove the distinction between major papers and shorter contributions.

16. Continue to monitor subject balance and strive for breadth in published papers, while also maintaining the highest standards of scholarship.

17. Publish paid advertisements among available pages of back matter each issue.

18. Enforce Copeia policy regarding provision of supplemental information, including specimen vouchers, permits and licenses, GenBank numbers for sequence data analyzed, approval of animal care and use protocols, etc.

19. Seek broadened scope and higher impact by solicitation of review papers, results from ASIH-sponsored symposia, and other sources of current and high-interest research results and commentary.

Ad Hoc Web Content and Management Committee - M.E. Raley

The Web Content and Management Committee (WCMC), an ad-hoc committee appointed by Larry Page, is concerned solely with the ASIH website and reviews all aspects of the web site, including but not limited to, policies for acceptance and removal of material to be posted, content, format, enhancements, and working relationship with Allen Press or subsequent owners of the society's website. The committee met at the 2004 meeting in Norman, OK, to discuss initial planning for a website redesign.

The WCMC members in attendance and president-elect Parenti discussed several issues with the current webpage. During this meeting, the committee decided to solicit suggestions from the membership to begin to enhance the website. A request was made at the business meeting for help and a message was sent to all members in the e-mail database. Many members made suggestions and pledged to help with the oversight of the website. However, it was discovered that none of us had the expertise necessary to efficiently design a highly functional website. At this point, committee chair Raley suggested to EXEC to appoint a professional designer for the website redesign.

In March/April, president Parenti recommended to committee member N. Rios and H. Bart that they prepare a proposal to host the website at Tulane. Moving the website from Allen Press would allow the committee immediate control of the site without the need to petition an Allen Press webmaster for changes to be made. Rios and Bart are still discussing this and currently the issue has not been decided.

Appendix A. Treasurer's Table 1.

Appendix B. Treasurer's Table 2.

Appendix C. Treasurer's Table 3.

Appendix D. Treasurer's Table 4.

Appendix E. Symposium Proposal Process from MPLN

Background:

Symposia continue to be important components of the Annual Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (JMIH). When the four primary Societies (ASIH, AES, SSAR, HL) contribute two symposia per year to the meetings we potentially have a total of 8 symposia during a given year. We propose that a joint committee (the Meeting Planning Committee) coordinate symposia and workshops for the JMIH. Such coordination seems essential because at times a single symposium may be co-sponsored by more than one society. As well, other Societies (e.g., AAZPA, NIA, Early Life History group from AFS) propose symposia for the Annual Meeting. We would like to enable the other groups to propose symposia while maintaining a constant number of symposia each year.

Policy Addendum:

To provide a clear process the Meeting Planning Committee (MPLN) has developed the following set of additional guidelines (in addition to our current process).

1. Total number of Symposia at the Annual JMIH not to exceed eight.
2. At least one symposium slot will be allotted to each of the four primary societies (ASIH, AES, SSAR, HL).
3. All proposals for symposia will be ranked based on merit by the Meeting Planning Committee (MPLN) according to the established procedure for symposium submission.
4. Other participating societies may propose one symposium for the Annual JMIH. Proposals for such symposia will be ranked along with all other symposia that are proposed for a particular meeting.
5. The top rated proposal from each of the four primary societies will be automatically accepted. The remaining four slots will be filled according to the rank order of merit.
6. Final decisions will be made and symposium organizers will be informed of the decision by the Chair of the MPLC by 30 April one year in advance of the JMIH .

Appendix F. Workshop Proposal Process from MPLN

Workshops are important components of the Annual Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (JMIH). These components provide useful information and learning opportunities to the membership of participating Societies. To provide a clear process the Meeting Planning Committee (MPLC) has developed the following set of guidelines.

Submission for consideration:

Proposals (3 page maximum) for consideration by JMIH should contain the following:

1. Workshop Title (or Topic)
2. Name of the Workshop Chair (phone number and e-mail address)
 - a. Names of Associated Co-organizers
3. Information on topic and background
4. What benefit is the topic to the Society?
5. List of potential speakers and topics
6. Length of workshop [lunchtime (1 ½ hours), evening (2-3 hours), 1/2 day, 1 day] - keep in mind the preference is for short workshops (during lunch, evening) during the body of the meeting.
 - a. If the request is for a full day workshop, please provide rationale
 - b. If the workshop is requested before or after the JMIH, costs may be incurred by the proposing organization.
7. Number of attendees, required equipment (e.g., audiovisual, computer connections, etc.)

BEGINNING WITH THE 2007 MEETING, PROPOSALS ARE **DUE TO MPLN CHAIR** by **1 March** of the **YEAR PRIOR** to the meeting (i.e., 2007 Workshop Proposals are due 1 March 2006)

MPLN Committee Review Process:

1. Proposals received by MPLN Chair and distributed to the MPLN for review by 5 March.
2. MPLN Chair collects comments and ranking of proposals by 30 March.
3. Consensus ranking redistributed to MPLN for review and comment.
4. MPLN selects proposals for each Annual Meeting by 30 April.
5. All Workshop Chairs notified of acceptance or rejection by 30 April.

Appendix G. Total Number of Presentations at JMIH from MPLN

Background:

Over the past several years, especially at the Annual Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (JMIH) in Manaus, Brazil and Tampa, FL, MPLC has struggled to accommodate the enormous demand to give oral presentations (including symposia and contributed papers). Our goal has been to minimize the number of concurrent sessions while offering JMIH attendees the opportunities to attend a topic, or a few topics, of interest every day. While scheduling the 2005 Tampa meeting we were faced with placing over 700 oral papers without compromising the Plenary Session (half of the first day) and poster sessions (we have made a commitment to offer them exclusive time for their presentations at the end of each day). As a result, some presentations do merge into the poster session and soon we will not be able to schedule all the people requesting oral presentations.

Policy:

Beginning at the 2006 Annual JMIH and continuing from then on, oral presentation (symposia and contributed paper) abstracts will be selected on a “first-come, first-serve” basis until a total of 700 is reached. After we reach 700, participants will be encouraged to give a poster presentation in place of their oral presentation. Notification of this policy will appear in the Call for Papers and on the ASIH, AES, HL, and SSAR web sites.

Appendix H. RKJC Policy

RKJC -- Robert K. Johnson Award Committee

1 Description and History

The Robert K. Johnson Award is presented annually to an ichthyologist (even years) or a herpetologist (odd years) who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to serve the ASIH. The award is named in honor of Robert K. Johnson (1944 - 2000). Robert K. "Bob" Johnson was an ichthyologist who was exceptionally dedicated in his service to the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists including serving on many committees, four terms as a member of the Board of Governors, Managing Editor of Copeia, Secretary, and Chair of the Long Range Planning and Policy Committee. As chair of the LPPC, Bob was charged by President David W. Greenfield to develop a policy and procedures manual for the ASIH. Bob's committee was inspired by his commitment to this task, and it codified the activities of the ASIH.

The Robert K. Johnson Award will be presented during the annual meeting banquet. The recipient will be awarded a certificate, and a special page listing the winners will be created for publication in Copeia.

In 2003, President Larry M. Page and the members of the Executive Committee recommended formation of the Robert K. Johnson Award Committee to give an annual award to recognize outstanding service to the ASIH.

The initial committee was appointed by President Larry M. Page at the end of 2003. The appointed members include Larry Page (to serve for one year, as chair), Maureen Donnelly (two years), and Robert Cashner (three years). The first award was made in Norman, Oklahoma during the annual meeting banquet. In even years the award will be presented to a meritorious ichthyologist and in odd years, the award will be presented to a meritorious herpetologist. The members of the Board of Governors elected the first elected member of the RKJC in 2004 at Norman.

2 Constitutional Mandate

a Bylaws

(VIII-5) Established as a standing committee

(XII-2-e) Responsibility for the Robert K. Johnson Award

3 Committee Appointment and Tenure

The committee shall consist of three members, with one to be elected by the Board of Governors each year during their annual meeting beginning in 2004. In even years, the BOG will elect a herpetologist and in odd years the BOG will elect an ichthyologist.

Each member of the committee serves for three years (meeting to meeting). Each member will chair the committee during the third year of service and rotate off the committee following completion of the year as chair. The committee structure will change annually with a herpetologist joining in even years and an ichthyologist joining in odd years. No member of the award committee, including replacement members, shall serve more than two consecutive terms on the committee. The PRES shall designate a replacement for any committee position left open by an untimely vacancy. .

4 Charge to the RKJC

The chair of the committee shall:

(1) Provide the SECR information for the announcement of the competition in Copeia (4) of the year preceding the year of competition (i. e., in Copeia 1995(4) for an award made in 1996).

(2) Receive nominations and respond to questions regarding the award. Nominations, including self-nominations, may be made by any member of ASIH. Nominations shall detail the specific service contributions of the nominee and their impact on the ASIH. Nominations will be effective for three award periods. The deliberations and decisions of the RKJC are final and not open to challenge.

(3) Ensure that the nominations are circulated to the committee members in a timely fashion to come to a decision by 15 April of the award year; pass the name of the winner to SECR.

(4) Prepare an annual report as part of the BOG report book and announce the name of the winner at the annual banquet. The SECR will prepare the certificate to be presented during the annual banquet

5 Calendar

a Annual Calendar

The committee establishes its own calendar to comply with the 15 April deadline.

6 Ancillary Document(s)

The first RKJC was appointed by President Larry M. Page in 2003 and included Robert Cashner (ichthyology) and Maureen Donnelly (herpetology) with Page as the 2004 chair. Donnelly will chair the committee in 2005, and Cashner will serve as chair in 2006. The first elected member of the committee, a herpetologist, will be elected in Norman, OK.

Appendix I. Actions taken by CONS during 2004 (for CONS resolutions, see Appendix M)

RE: Mountaintop Mining

Office of Surface Mining
Hon. Jeffrey D. Jarrett, Director
Reclamation and Enforcement
Administrative Record
Room 101
1951 Constitution Avenue, NW.,
Washington, DC 20240
osmrules@osmre.gov.

5 April 2004

To Whom It May Concern:

The American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists is the oldest professional society in the United States concerned with the biology and conservation of fishes, amphibians, and reptiles. We speak for a membership of about 3,000 practicing scientists and academic professionals. We are strongly opposed to each of the alternatives evaluated in your May 29, 2003 draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) because they weaken the laws and regulations that protect aquatic and riparian habitats from the effects of mountaintop mining and valley fills (MTM/VF).

Your draft EIS contains evidence of the irreversible environmental harm caused by mountaintop mining. Government studies show that mountaintop mining leaves the land more subject to floods, results in the pollution of streams and rivers, and has an "incalculable" impact on wildlife. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:

- Approximately 1200 miles of headwater streams (or 2% of the streams in the study area) were directly impacted by MTM/VF features including coal removal areas, valley fills, roads, and ponds between 1992 and 2002. An estimated 724 stream miles (1.2 % of streams) were covered by valley fills from 1985 to 2001.
- Based upon the study of 37 stream segments, intermittent streams and perennial streams begin in very small watersheds, with a median of 14 and 41 acres respectively.
- Streams in watersheds where MTM/VFs exist are characterized by an increase of minerals in the water as well as less diverse and more pollutant-tolerant macroinvertebrates and fish species. Indices of biotic integrity, measures of the ecological condition in streams, showed significant impairment of fish assemblages in streams below valley fill. Furthermore, questions still remain regarding the correlation of impacts to the age, size, and number of valley fills in a watershed, and effects on genetic diversity.

A study by the WV Department of Environmental Protection shows that surface mines in Wyoming County, WV had not only used permitted fills but others that were unauthorized (http://gis.wvdep.org/tagis/projects/fill_paper.html).

Unfortunately, each of the alternatives in the draft EIS ignores the findings of these studies and the environmental consequences of mountaintop mining. The draft EIS fails to examine alternatives that would reduce those impacts.

The agency's preferred alternative would clearly increase the damage from mountaintop mining by eliminating the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act's buffer zone rule that prohibits mining activities that disturb any area within 100 feet of larger streams, eliminating the current limit on using nationwide permits to approve valley fills in West Virginia that are larger than 250 acres, and giving the Office of Surface Mining a significant new role in Clean Water Act permitting for mountaintop mining (a role it does not have under current law).

Our environmental laws require, and the citizens of the region deserve, a full evaluation of ways to reduce the unacceptable impacts of mountaintop mining. We urge you to abandon OSM's preferred alternative and reevaluate a full range of options that will minimize the environmental, social, and economic damage caused by mountaintop mining and valley fills.

We would be happy to expand on any of the topics discussed above and provide any additional information, documentation, references, or explanation that might be of assistance in the decision-making process.

Sincerely,

/s/

Frank H. McCormick
Conservation Committee Chair
American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists

RE: California Tiger Salamander

Field Supervisor (Attention: CALIFORNIA TIGER SALAMANDER)
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-2605
Sacramento, CA 95825

September 6, 2004

Dear Field Supervisor,

The American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (ASIH) is the oldest professional society in the United States concerned with the biology and conservation of fishes, amphibians, and reptiles. We speak for a membership of about 3,000 practicing scientists and academic professionals. The Society is greatly concerned about the increasing phenomenon of accelerated decline and extirpation of populations of endemic and narrowly distributed species. Such species are highly vulnerable to extinction through small scale habitat loss, and are disproportionately jeopardized by biological perturbations. As such, I am writing in regard to the August 4, 2004 listing of the California Tiger Salamander, *Ambystoma californiense*, and the August 10, 2004 designation of Critical Habitat for the species, under the provisions of the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA).

The Society commends the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for finally listing the California Tiger Salamander throughout its range, an action that had been pending since the species was petitioned for listing in 1992. The Society agrees that designation as threatened is the most appropriate status for the Central Valley Distinct Population Segment (DPS) at this time, based on the nature and degree of threat to most of the populations there. Threatened status for this DPS also provides opportunities for developing adaptive management strategies in partnership with livestock ranchers, and it should reduce friction between ranchers and the USFWS as it exercises its authority under the terms of the ESA.

However, the Society is mindful of the possible abuse of privileges available to ranchers pursuant to Section 4(d) of the ESA - the 4(d) Rule. Of particular concern is the fact that the 4(d) Rule could allow virtually unlimited removal of rodent populations by a combination of discing and poisoning in upland habitats adjacent to California Tiger Salamander breeding sites. Upland burrows of ground squirrels and pocket gophers are used by all California Tiger Salamander age classes during the dry season and research has shown that they utilize burrows up to 2 km from breeding sites. Thus, for California Tiger Salamander populations to survive, it is essential that rodent populations and their burrow systems remain in sufficient abundance to provide the required upland habitat. Careful monitoring of ranching activities in California Tiger Salamander habitat will be needed to ensure that appropriate habitat conditions are maintained.

The Society also commends the USFWS for designating Critical Habitat for the Central Valley DPS soon after listing. However, the Society is concerned that the designated Critical Habitat does not appear to include suitable unoccupied habitat that would provide the

connectivity necessary for gene flow among populations. Such genetic exchange is essential for long-term population viability. Habitat connectivity also is important to provide opportunities for recolonization when local populations are lost due to natural or anthropogenic factors. The designated Critical Habitat needs to be reviewed by California Tiger Salamander experts for possible expansion.

The Society is especially concerned about the status of the California Tiger Salamander in Sonoma and Santa Barbara Counties. In Sonoma County, the dozen or so breeding sites remaining are confined to a 50 square kilometer area in portions of the Cities of Santa Rosa, Rohnert Park and Cotati. All of these cities are experiencing rapid growth and urbanization, and none of the small preserves within the area contain sufficient breeding or upland habitat to support viable populations. In Santa Barbara County, about 48 breeding sites are known. They are distributed in six discrete regions, each representing a metapopulation; i.e., a group of subpopulations linked over space and time by some interchange of individuals and genes. Each of these metapopulations is threatened by habitat loss and fragmentation, primarily from vineyard development, and by agricultural pollutants. Urbanization is a factor in one region, and non-native tiger salamanders have been found at two sites, posing the threat of genetic contamination of the native species. (Non-native tiger salamanders have become established within the Central California DPS, and undesirable hybrid populations are known to occur at a number of localities.)

The Sonoma and Santa Barbara populations of the California Tiger Salamander occur at the northern and southern extremes of the species' geographic range, respectively. They also are the most isolated and genetically distinct. Because the severe threats to their existence have not abated since their emergency listing as endangered in 2002 and 2000, respectively, the Society believes that the downlisting of these DPSs in the August 4 listing action is not supported by the available scientific evidence. Furthermore, downlisting will prevent the full force of the ESA from being brought to bear in the recovery of these DPSs, and the Santa Barbara DPS could suffer some impact from application of the 4(d) Rule. Therefore, the Society strongly urges the USFWS to reinstate the Sonoma and Santa Barbara DPSs as endangered populations.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns. If the Society can be of any assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Patrick Gregory, Ph.D.
President, American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists

Appendix J. Appendices to the report by the *Copeia* Review Committee

Appendix J.1. Copeia Review Committee Agenda

Copeia review committee
December 9-10, 2004

Agenda:

1. editorial policy

editor purview, responsibility, basis for decisions
role section editors, oversight, management
instructions to authors
number of sections—too many, too few? editorial workload
editorial board: role, uniform usage?

2. review process: policy & procedures

reviewer selection/solicitation
objectivity, critical evaluation of reviews by SE, Editor
information flow, schedule, deadlines & procedures
oversight

3. journal format—content & appearance

front cover
page size, format
color
number papers/pages per issue, frequency
contents: categories, news, reviews, comments; balance, etc.

4. format/content of papers, expectations

sections, headings: rigid style, or discretionary?
length of individual papers: minimum, maximum?
vouchers
illustrations: size, quality, costs

5. production

Allen track submission/management system: costs/benefits, problems, changes
role managing editor/editorial office
copy editing, style, quality control, oversight by Editor
proofs—adequate quality as pdf, illustrations as stats, distribution and quality control
work flow, production schedule
relationship with/response from AP

6. scope, content, impact of papers

breadth, balance of contents: too much of this, too little of that?

quality, impact: do we have a problem? If so, what to do?
journal & membership subscription statistics: trends & concerns

7. Allen Press, economics, paper and electronic format

review of AP contract

printing budget: cost per press run, page, table, line art, halftone, color, binding & mailing

AP economics: are we getting best value for society \$\$? Alternatives?

additional costs savings possible or necessary?

electronic publication: shall we eventually eliminate the paper journal?

subscriptions, revenue stream; sales of electronic version through BioOne/JSTOR

document archival: who will hold/archive Copeia contents in perpetuity?

Appendix J.2. Text of email solicitation of ASIH membership

To ASIH Members & Copeia authors:

The Society is pursuing a comprehensive review of Copeia, from policy to production. President Gregory has charged an ad-hoc committee (http://www.asih.org/info/committees_only_2004.htm) with this task, and at this time we are soliciting input from the membership as we consider means for improving and strengthening the society's journal.

We are interested in your comments and general recommendations, as well as your specific comments regarding a number of topic areas outlined below. Suggestions for improvement based on your experience with publishing in Copeia and elsewhere in the light of recent trends in electronic publishing are most welcome.

Please direct your responses via email to schaefer@amnh.org. Comments received prior to December 9, 2004 will be most helpful to the committee's initial deliberations.

Questions/Comments

Please comment on your overall level of satisfaction and suggestions for improvement with regard to publishing in Copeia with respect to:

- instructions to authors
- electronic submission and tracking via Allen Track
- review process
- format and style of papers
- scope, quality and scientific impact of published papers, book reviews, notes & news
- quality and production of figures, tables, appendices
- policy and compliance regarding voucher specimens and GenBank entries
- copyediting and proofs, revisions
- quality and cost of color illustrations
- page size, format, and journal cover

Other comments or suggestions:

Please do NOT reply to this message, but instead direct your email responses to:

Scott Schaefer
schaefer@amnh.org

Appendix J.3. Responses received to email solicitation. Text edited to maintain anonymity. I quit sending manuscripts to Copeia about 3 years ago. The problem was the managing editor was making decisions about the make-up of papers before they went out for review, rather than leaving it up to the reviewers who were more expert in the field than he. In my case, I was told to cut the figures by 2 and remove a table. I felt that I had a pretty good idea of what needed to be in a paper. His requirements were rather arbitrary, since he is far outside my area, and numerous recent papers had as many figures (I think there were 8). He was insistent about the cuts, even after my explanation about how I thought that would detract from the story. Rather than make the cuts, I sent the paper to [another journal], who accepted it immediately, and in fact asked for two more figures, which I provided.

So on suggestion that I have is to restrict the managing editor to managing, and let the section editors and the reviewers handle content issues.

On format, a lot of journals have gone to full size, while Copeia has kept its traditional size for as long as I can recall. I guess there must be some cost savings in full size. If it means more articles per issue, that would be a good thing.

Overall, I think the journal looks pretty good. I would like to make the following suggestions towards improvement.

Go to full size format in paper.

Stop differentiating between regular and shorter contributions.

Modify literature cited section so that it is more similar to other journals (e.g., Evolution, Ecology). This includes not putting authors names in all caps and spelling out journal titles.

Speed up the whole review process, perhaps through use of electronic submission and review.

Put the journal on-line for free and start charging authors for printing costs. I am on my university's library committee and we are being consumed by journal .

I'd recommend the following changes to Copeia:

1. Larger format (8.5 x 11 inch), which would allow more papers/issue.
2. Color cover illustrations: many journals have gone this route and it really makes each issue come to life.
3. Eliminate the restriction of 3 publications on citations strings. This is arbitrary and really limits the ability of authors to give credit where it is due.

Although I am only a two-time author and several time reviewer for Copeia, I think these would improve our already excellent journal and possibly increase its appeal to potential authors.

I just completed a paper via Copeia . It was an arduous task as best! The problem is the detailed instructions can be difficult to follow, particularly if you make an error in entering tables, figures etc in the wrong order of the outline. I found myself reading and re-reading the instructions continuously in order not to make a mistake as recovery is not as clear as it should be. I still made mistakes and Mike Douglas had to provide guidance from time to time. On a positive note, once it was all done the process went well, but on revision I had to replace figures, etc again and had some trouble. Once finally accepted, the proofs came quickly which was nice. Overall it could be cleaned up by making the instructions clear and tabular in advance of all the details. Note all of us are not on-line wizards! There are times talking to someone would be nice. One last item was I could NOT find instructions to authors on the web and had to get them from Mike. The web should be clear about guidance upfront so trivial issues are not made. The requirement of an IACUC number and museum numbers, although laudable, might be difficult as some universities still do not enforce an IACUC. The IACUC number took weeks to find as the project ended a few yrs ago and I could not find it. Again, stating this clearly upfront might make the searching start earlier.

I do not know if ASIH has a break for unfunded papers or graduate student papers in terms of page charges but it should.

I am sure you will have many ideas thrown at you, but here are a couple

1- use a similar journal as a model... and Journal of Fish Biology is a great example, fast publishing journal with smooth editing process that actually is run by the Fisheries Society of the British Isles (<http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/journal.asp?ref=0022-1112>).

2- Try to diversify the scope of COPEIA, which in my pinion has been narrowing during the last decade (herpetology and fish taxonomy). As a fish behavioral ecologist I do not consult or use COPEIA at all anymore, which is a pity since in the Ichths and Herps meetings I do see many presentations on fish ecology and behavior!

Good luck, I think having a fast turn-around, a broader scope and an easy submission procedure would greatly enhance COPEIA's reach, and greatly benefit ASIH

I hear that you are soliciting feedback about Copeia. Based on relatively recent experience (last year (or 2?)) submitting an ms to Copeia, I have strong opinions about problems the journal need to fix if it is to retain its interesting content and worldwide reputation as the best of the herp journals.

I and 2 co-authors submitted what we thought was a pretty good ms to Copeia. First we had to brave the electronic submission system. Right there you've got a filtre filtering out lots of manuscripts by authors frustrated by this unnecessarily complex system. When we submitted, only the most computer savvy co-author braved the electronic submission system, and even he got told 3 times that he had screwed it up in some way.

Next we got back the reviews. No less than 5 reviews had been done. Four of the five were of the "make some changes but publish" variety, the fifth was a bizarre sarcastic diatribe with very little in the way of specific comment. On the basis of these, the editor decided to reject the paper.

So we sent it to [another journal] instead. They jumped on it with great enthusiasm, reviewed promptly and with specific criticisms, and within a few months published it, complete with full-colour illustrations at no cost.

So in my opinion Copeia is losing potential authors to the electronic submission system, and in our case at least dropped the ball in a major way when it came to accepting or rejecting an ms.

Do you think I will ever submit my work to Copeia again? Not likely.

My general satisfaction as a long term reader and author in Copeia is HIGH, so I'll just fire off two or three opinions in case they're useful (and especially in case they balance counter views!).

First, I favor dropping any distinction between notes and longer papers--stylistically there's almost none now, other than labeling the former as such.

Second, don't drop book reviews and don't make them be so short that they can't be thoughtful.

Third, keep a broad view of what's interesting, rather than going the route of Herpetologica ("the fact that nothing is known about an organism is insufficient justification for publishing a study of it"--of course I know that we should in so far as possible couch our work in broader contexts, but let's not lose site of the fact that we ARE organismally focused). Copeia is a far more interesting journal for just this reason.

instructions to authors: vague at best. If there is a check list that the editor is using, why not just make that check-list available to the author? Also, the check-list is not clear as to whether the item checked should or should not be that way.

electronic submission and tracking via AllenTrack: EXCELLENT

review process: Reviewers need to be reminded that the target for the paper under consideration is Copeia, not Science.

format and style of papers: Format and layout is archaic and formatting a submission for Copeia is among the most labor intensive of any of the journals I submit to. Especially all the different fonts. Get something more streamlined.

scope, quality and scientific impact of published papers, book reviews, notes & news: The scope seems to be getting pretty darn narrow. I rarely see physiology anymore. It is not exactly the target journal for my work, even though there seems to be a decent audience for my talks at ASIH meetings. Should the journal more accurately reflect the interests of the membership/meeting participants?

Also, elaborating on my comment regarding the review process, I don't know anyone who submits their very best work to Copeia. It seems to have become an outlet for tidy little studies, like MS theses and shorter dissertation chapters. I don't know why it came to be this way, but it seems to go hand and hand with the scope of the journal getting narrower and narrower. I would be curious to know how our Impact Rating was changing over time. There seems to be a mismatch, at present, however, with the expectations of the reviewers and ideas of the submitting authors. This is curious since I suspect that they are one and the same group.

quality and production of figures, tables, appendices: basic, but fine.

policy and compliance regarding voucher specimens and GenBank entries: NA

copyediting and proofs, revisions, quality and cost of color illustrations, page size, format, and journal cover: on that rare time you still have to go photocopy (instead of print a pdf) the page size is a real pain in the rear. Just go to a full page.

Other comments or suggestions:

I like Copeia, and will continue to get it, and submit to it once in a while, even if you don't make these changes.

It would really improve the journal and readership if Copeia was available online as so many other journals are now. As a grad student, many classes that I take and other

students and profs heavily use only journals that are available online and are apt to skip a journal article if they can't get it online.

at that time we were discussing Copeia and I was mentioning that the fact that the figures are rather small in Copeia has refrained me from submitting morphological manuscripts in the past (I found it a pity of all the effort in making nice drawings when they end up being so small). My (only) suggestion would be to change the size to A4/legal so that figures can be bigger. For all the other aspects, I think Copeia is simply great.

The two major concerns that I have with publishing in Copeia are:

1. Making sure that for molecular studies whole organism vouchers are deposited in museums that will maintain the material in perpetuity. Towards that end I suggest that the Editors of Copeia make acceptance of a paper for publication in Copeia be contingent upon inclusion in the MS a list of all of the museum catalogue numbers for the whole organisms from which tissues were removed in the study. In order that the Editors will know that this requirement has been complied with (and that catalogue numbers received in advance of the specimens are not being used), copies of letters from museum curators stating that the whole organisms have been received must accompany the MS when it is submitted.
2. Treating authors, reviewers, and editors with common courtesy, i.e., letting them know when a MS has been received and the status of a MS as it changes.

I have become thoroughly disgusted with Copeia. This is in part sour grapes for rejection of perfectly good manuscripts that were subsequently published, some in journals as good as or better than Copeia if I recall correctly. However, I find the web site for submission to be horribly impersonal and unresponsive Ditto for the requests to review. I am so displeased that I am thinking of dropping my ASIH membership that I have held continuously since the 1960s, but Copeia isn't the whole reason. ASIH is too big and the meetings are too expensive. I would rather go to meetings of one or more herp societies at smaller, accessible, affordable sites.

Copeia format, style are articles are ok. There are so many fish papers that it is hard for someone interested almost exclusively in the herp stuff to find the articles. Sometimes there haven't been many. Perhaps contents on rear cover organized by taxa within major topics.

I haven't published in Copeia recently, partially because of the perception that the editorial policy was against reproducing figures at a reasonable size. A lot of my work involves figures that simply loose too much when reproduced at single column size, and the editor seemed to have problems putting things at full page width. At [another journal], we long ago went to an A4 format with 2 columns for our publications, as it is more space efficient than the Copeia size, and I recommend it to you. Having the journal available on line is a great advantage, and I recommend that also. [another journal] is free to anyone on line 6 months following publication, and I think that is a great way to go. I don't think the trend among some journals to immediately post on the internet upon acceptance with the hard copy publication some time later is a good one. It leads to a lot of confusion about the actual publication date, and for the purposes of nomenclature, it is a nightmare. However, some means of lessening in press time has to be looked at. Unfortunately, as we found, that can be self-defeating - once in press time drops, you get more papers submitted, which in turn drives up the in press time again.

instructions to authors: I think these could be more clear. Now that I have done it there are few issues but the first time I submitted I found the instructions confusing. Almost everyone I have spoken with that has submitted to Copeia had their initial manuscript returned because they forgot to number the lines. Instead of loaded sentences like "TEXT must be paginated (abstract = page 1), double-spaced with line numbers, and left justified." , a list of rules would work better. The 'Initial review Check-list' could be put on the web as an example of common errors that should be checked. Michael Douglas is very quick about doing the initial quality check, at least for my stuff. But a list of rules would save him time.

I don't see anywhere that citations should be cited in chronological order in each citations string yet that was something I needed to change.

I don't see anywhere that Authors cited more than once in the Lit. Cited. should be 'lined'(replaced with a hyphen) except in the Revision Check-list (which you get after the intial reviews)

electronic submission and tracking via AllenTrack: AllenTrack is easy to work and I think it is an excellent way to check the status of your paper. I would also like to see the amount of days left until the resubmission is due.

review process: This portion of the process is the one I have the most problems with. It seems some of the section editors reasons that papers are rejected are capricious. This is based on speaking with others and having reviewed papers. I reviewed a paper and gave it a favorable review as did the other reviewer and the paper was rejected for what I thought were minor points (some additional data required and clarification in tables). That paper only had one other reviewer while I was reviewed by 5 reviewers on a manuscript. There should be more parity in the number of reviewers each paper receives.

The section editor should not be allowed to judge alone whether a paper is rejected or accepted if the reviewers are unanimous one way or the other.

format and style of papers: I do not like the secondary heading rule for the introduction. At first I thought this meant that you could not have a separate section in the introduction called 'Biogeography' or something, but the rule is even more strict than this.

I also think there should be more leniency about citation strings. There are times when more than 3 can be justified.

scope, quality and scientific impact of published papers, book reviews, notes & news: I would like to see more groundbreaking phylogenetic research and morphological analyses. Leave minor taxonomic issues and species description for Zootaxa.

quality and production of figures, tables, appendices, policy and compliance regarding voucher specimens and GenBank entries, copyediting and proofs, revisions: I have been told that there is a lot of post-proof approval manipulation of text. Things like changing words to fit the page better. This should not be allowed without the authors permission.

One reviewer wrote 'tables in incorrect format' with out further elaboration. It should be emphasized that specifics are necessary.

page size, format, and journal cover: I think it would be best to stick with the tradition.

instructions to authors (fine)
electronic submission and tracking via AllenTrack (fine)
review process (fine)
format and style of papers (formatting requirements seem very strict, even overly so, recently)
scope, quality and scientific impact of published papers, book reviews, notes & news (fine)
quality and production of figures, tables, appendices (fine)
policy and compliance regarding voucher specimens and GenBank entries (fine)
copyediting and proofs, revisions (fine)
quality and cost of color illustrations (fine)
page size, format, and journal cover (fine)

electronic submission and tracking via AllenTrack
--This is currently very cumbersome and the instructions are confusing and somewhat contradictory (e.g., should figures be part of manuscript or submitted as separate files)

review process

--The turnaround time is a bit slow

format and style of papers

--The style of the papers is fine, but the bibliographic format, while unique, is cumbersome and should be updated, especially given the availability of templates in EndNote and other bibliographic management software packages, which facilitate lit cit sections

scope, quality and scientific impact of published papers, book reviews, notes & news

--Copeia plays a very important role as THE ichthyology journal (and important Herpetology journal - there are others) in the US. But, it seems that high impact papers are sent elsewhere. We need to attract submission of high impact papers. High quality papers will attract high quality papers, because as the "impact factor" for the journal increases due to increased rate of citation, potential authors will be more willing to send their high impact papers to the journal. Some creative marketing and incentives are needed. Book reviews are very important (as a source of useful commentary and as a resource) and should be retained.

quality and production of figures, tables, appendices

-- I have not been very happy with the quality of reproduction of photographic images. This limits the presentation of morphology beyond pen and ink (high contrast) drawings.

copyediting and proofs, revisions

-- I like the idea of routine copyediting occurring before sending papers out for review.

quality and cost of color illustrations

--Cost is prohibitive and has resulted in my decision to print photos in black and white, where the images would have been more valuable in color.

page size, format, and journal cover

--most journals have gone to 8.5X 11; two column format is fine, but three column format (e.g., [another journal]) is VERY hard to read and should be avoided at all cost. The journal cover needs to be updated - images should be used (e.g., J. Morphol.) that reflect content. If Copeia is to be THE window on modern research in Ichthyology and Herpetology in the US, then the cover needs to be high impact, and the presentation of the journal on the WWW needs to be significantly improved. The journal should have its own home page that is appropriately searchable via Google. Right now, the journal home page is not self-contained entity - it seems like an afterthought on the website. The journal home page needs to talk about the goals of the journal, its coverage and an indication of readership.

Here are my short comments regarding the review of Copeia:

instructions to authors - not everything is included in it, but together with the automatic reply (the checklist) it is all right

electronic submission and tracking via AllenTrack - I had a few problems with that, files do not always get uploaded at the first try

review process - good

format and style of papers - good

scope, quality and scientific impact of published papers, book reviews, notes & news - good

quality and production of figures, tables, appendices - good

policy and compliance regarding voucher specimens and GenBank entries - no experience

copyediting and proofs, revisions - no experience

quality and cost of color illustrations - no experience

page size, format, and journal cover - good, although the references could be in a more simple format

I have two comments:

First (and I'm sure you'll get tired of hearing this one!), like many journals, the time from submission to acceptance to publication is very long - anything that could be done to expedite it would be great.

Second, I found the copyeditor I dealt with last time to be a bit inattentive. This may, of course, just be an isolated case.

Personally I have become very turned off by the journal's almost single minded emphasis on papers dealing with classification, taxonomy, descriptions of new species etc. I feel the journal has lost its direction and all of my graduate students have all agreed with this and many have passed comment to me that they find little of interest in the journal. I suggest a complete turn around with perhaps even subsections dealing with morphology, behavior and ecology, systematics and evolution etc. Just asking for more papers in these areas will not solve the problem, hence my suggestion to actually have subdivisions to encourage a greater diversity of papers. Hope this helps

Frankly, I have not submitted a paper to Copeia for a long time for a variety of reasons. Copeia really does need to have some totally on-line submission and review process, as well as a .pdf based proof process. But the major things that concern me now are:

1. The journal must reduce time to publication
2. The need for color is great. With the work we do now, I pretty much can't publish a paper in a journal that does not do color for a very reasonable cost.
3. Past editors at Copeia have insisted on shrinking down the figures to a size that I think is way too small.
4. I'd certainly like to see an updated cover with a new photograph each issue and a larger page size.

One model for all this would be the Journal of Morphology which used to do things the way Copeia now does, but changed completely about 4 years ago to a modern format. The journal has been much more successful since.

I also think that Copeia needs to attract a broader readership. I'd suggest that each issue have 1-2 review articles (especially for fields that are not now well represented in Copeia) focused on applications to fish and herps, but that address broader issues. These should be published in a very timely manner (within an issue of acceptance).

In general, and as I understand them through the guidelines and final product, I am generally quite satisfied with all the above aspects of the journal.

Other comments or suggestions:

One concern I do have is with page limitations (article length) which, along with prospects for printing detailed illustrations column rather than full page width, has precluded my submission of a couple comparative descriptions of the early life stages of fishes. Those descriptions either remain unpublished or have been published elsewhere. I suggest that the editors and those deciding on publication policy reconsider and make allowances for full-width printing of detailed drawings and the necessary length required for some comparative descriptions.

Briefly, in response to your request for feedback on Copeia...

As background, I am an ASIH member who studies fish ecology and has never published in Copeia.

I have been put off from submitting papers to Copeia because (1) the turn around time has historically been very slow (this may be changing w/ electronic submission) and (2)

the scientific impact of papers low. If turn around time was significantly improved, I would guess that the journal could attract somewhat higher impact papers.

Also, the journal format and cover are very old-fashioned looking and drab, but I view these as relatively minor problems.

I am responding to the recent request from Maureen Donnelly regarding general recommendations and suggestions for Copeia. I have been a member of ASIH for ~25 years and I and my students have attended and presented papers at numerous 'Ichs and Herps' meetings. However, I have only rarely published in Copeia.

I very much enjoy the annual meeting, but I find the focus of Copeia to be so much on taxonomy and systematics that most publications from my research would be 'lost' there. I say this fully recognizing that there are editors who deal with the subjects of ecology and physiology. My own preference for papers on these topics is generally to submit them to TAFS, Jour. Fish Biol., MEPS, etc. If this is just my bias then there is no real 'problem' in this regard. However, to the extent that this view is shared by a significant number of others (and I think it is) AND if you are trying to keep a balance in the journal, then there is an issue to consider.

Certainly there need to be outlets for papers on taxonomy, systematics and morphology. But you might want to consider ways to increase the profile of ecology, physiology, behavior, ... papers (if this diversity of topics is a goal). In my opinion, as it stands now, these other topics are in such a minority in Copeia that authors tend to submit contributions in these areas elsewhere because they are concerned about visibility of their work.

What to do?? A separate subsection in Copeia, devoted to these subjects? I don't know. But I think there will have to be some effort to raise the visibility (number?) of non-systematics/taxonomy/morph papers above some threshold to more widely attract authors' attention to Copeia as a more viable outlet for such papers. In short, given my biases, I'd like to see the selection of papers in Copeia more closely resemble the diversity of topics presented at ASIH meetings!

This reply refers to an e-mail I just received from Maureen Donnelly. It falls under "scope" of the journal. As you know there are many NGO's involved in a small part of the total scope of amphibian and reptile conservation, but none with the renown and breadth of Audubon, National Wildlife Federation (primarily mammals), Defenders of Wildlife (primarily mammals), etc. You certainly could say that Copeia's audience does not include people interested in herpetology who are not academically employed. But I would argue that conservation articles are mandatory in Copeia, Journal of Herpetology, and Herpetological, even though they do not have to address that audience. This is

especially true until and if U.S. herpetologists wake up and start an NGO devoted to the conservation of all amphibians and reptiles in the United States and also globally, with their own magazines. An attempt was made fairly recently to start a magazine on amphibian and reptile conservation, but the effort failed. It is counterproductive to continue publishing research papers on the circulatory physiology of Rainbow snakes, for example, when Rainbow snakes are going extinct throughout their range, if *Copeia* does not ever include anything about Rainbow snake conservation efforts as well. I am not talking about exact pairing of articles for each species, of course. Conservation science has come far enough now that the lack of conservation articles in *Copeia* cannot be justified based on the lack of rigor of those working purely on efforts to save species of amphibians and reptiles, as for example, doing surveys. It is way past time to include a few "bean counter" articles in *Copeia*, as only one example of a broad developing field, in order for herpetological members of ASIH to be at least become better sensitized to the obvious amphibian and reptile collapses. This in no way would weaken the importance of *Copeia* to science.

I am a long-standing member of ASIH and author. I wish to make a few comments about our journal. I am quite aware of many authors who now refuse to send manuscripts to *Copeia* because of the way they have been treated. ...comments are bit harsh and gruff, but not overly so in general.

However, I do think that ... the journal [is] trying too hard to cut down the length of published articles and shorter communications. Way too often an author is asked to shorten a manuscript submitted as a major article to a shorter communication, and these are for substantial studies of considerable import. In my opinion, a shorter communication should be a report of a concise observation or results of a small, focused study, not the results of an extensive, two-year field study or a complicated set of experiments. Consequently, I have seen *Copeia* grow in the number of shorter communications, many of which are quite substantial, and shrink in the number of major articles. In addition, because of this, the major articles are mainly phylogenetic or descriptions of new taxa, and very few are ecological or behavioral in scope. Related to this is *Copeia*'s fanatical concern to cut out figures and tables from submitted manuscripts. I fully understand that most journals are very concerned with number of published pages and search to make each article the most concise possible. But *Copeia* has taken this notion too far and in fact at times does not have even enough articles to fill completely an issue. Surely there must be some middle ground.

I yearn for the days past when *Copeia* was filled with a wide assortment of articles on any number of themes herpetological and ichthyological, not just new species and revised phylogenies. I propose that we include the former again, while retaining the latter. I propose that we publish more Major Articles and leave Shorter Communications for actual notes.

On the positive side, I am very, very happy with AllenTrack and electronic submission, review, and modification of manuscripts. It is a dream come true for both SEs and authors, especially for those outside the U.S.

In regards to Maureen's email: I enjoy Copeia and look forward to it. My only gripe is that there is getting to be too much taxonomy and maybe genetics papers. I have no objection to these per se, but if they come to dominate, then you lose diversity of papers. I would hate to see Copeia readers more interested in Env Biol Fishes for instance or people starting to consider it a taxonomic journal.

I think Copeia should continue to welcome taxonomic papers, especially new species descriptions. The journal must move to electronic publishing. At the least, this should entail access to published papers as pdf files, which one could download from the internet (e.g., BioONE). The journal should consider moving to a larger format (i.e., page size), and while it's at it, a new cover.

Thank you for initiating this effort. As an Associate Editor for [other journals], I appreciate your task. I like AllenTrack very much and hope its use is continued.

I wish you the best in your role as Editor of Copeia and very much appreciate your service in that capacity.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Format and Style of papers: I recommend the journal require an objectives paragraph with clear, specific objectives for each paper. My experience is that objectives are often vaguely addressed in the last paragraph of the introduction. In my opinion, they should be specific and focused.

I recommend Copeia switch to (i.e., require) 1st person active voice whenever possible; it is shorter, clearer, avoids awkward verb constructions, and is used by most mainstream journals. This would particularly apply to methods sections, but also in the abstract, discussion, objectives paragraph. Over the course of a year's worth of manuscripts this would save a lot of space and be much easier to read.

I also recommend that attribution of source be placed in parentheses after a direct statement. For example, rather than 'Smith (2004) reported that X is larger than Y', the encouraged style would be 'X is larger than Y (Smith, 2004). If necessary appropriate hedge words can be used in the direct statement. The former style is long, outdated, and

unnecessary to convey the thought. For the most part, this is how articles are presented in Copeia, but I find occasional lapses that I hope can be rooted out.

Scope, quality and scientific impact of published papers: I would like to see ASIH recognize the 'best' papers of the year in Copeia. Perhaps one paper in each of the editorial categories (if one deserves to be the 'best'). I would think each editor would be in a position to nominate papers in their area and then run those by all the editors for a vote. The quality of papers in Copeia will not go up unless we recognize quality ourselves!

I add that I find it disappointing that the impact factor of Copeia is as low as it is (0.748 for 2003). For 2003 it is lower than Herpetologia (at 0.946) but higher than J. Herp. (at 0.608). Although many are not enamoured by the 'impact' score (and one year is not always indicative), younger scientists and promotion panels do use the score as part of their decision to submit manuscripts or promote individuals, respectively. I would like to see the Editor include in the annual report to the EXCOM a 10 year or so summary of Copeia's impact factor as one measure of how we stand in terms of quality and impact.

quality and production of figures, tables, appendices: The quality of figures (including b&w and color plates) seems highly variable over the past few years. I would hope new standards of quality assurance and quality control would be implemented. Whether these problems stem from authors, poor oversight of copy editors, or Allen Press, I do not know. But fuzzy figures and blached photos do not belong in a quality journal.

I also question the necessity of some of the tabular and text material that is now standard in many genetics and morphological papers. I urge you and the other editors to consider using and encouraging a lot of almost 'raw' data (or analyses that direct final analyses) for appendices rather than in the main body of the text. The same could be said for material examined.

Other comments or suggestions

I think it imperative that ASIH get all back issues of Copeia into a pdf format so that all articles are available on-line (through a subscription service, like J-Stors or some other). This might be the most important step to insure that the journal remains viable into the future. I feel paper journals will be a thing of the past very shortly! I have a paper set of Copeia back to the early 50s, but younger scientists and students rely almost exclusively on on-line sources, and we need to be in that arena ready to fully serve that audience! The abstract compilation (via Absearch) was a start. Even if it takes us several years to pay for having the articles scanned, I urge you to press for it.

As requested, here is some feedback on Copeia. After a few negative experiences, I recently decided not to submit any more MSS to Copeia.

The problem was the way that MSS were handled:

- 1) Upon submission, we were required to conform to an unduly harsh set of specific formatting criteria, and one time a MS was sent back to us to correct the formatting before it was sent out for review. I have never experienced this with another journal.
- 2) Once the final versions of papers were accepted, they were sent back to us for minor corrections that are normally made by the copy editors at most journals.

These may seem minor, but I found them annoying enough to decide not to send any more MSS to Copeia.

I tend to publish my work these days in two journals that allow free color illustrations and give 50 free reprints -- Zoology and The Journal of Experimental Biology. These journals are also fast -- I generally get reviews back within a month -- and they have excellent copy editors.

The great advantage of Copeia is that hard copies go out to the whole ASIH membership -- a superb audience. If the MS handling process were improved and if free color illustrations were available, then I would certainly submit to Copeia again.

Instructions to authors: Woefully inadequate, particularly for first submissions. Need to show more examples of appropriate protocol. Surely the workload of editors would diminish with better instructions to prospective authors.

Format and style of papers: Should strive for common formatting ground with either Herpetologica or Journal of Herpetology.

Reprints: Would like to see an option for .pdf reprints.

instructions to authors - very good, clear.

electronic submission and tracking via AllenTrack - good, comparable to other online submission processes. good for both authors and reviewers.

review process: very good - the editors stay on top of reviewers and assure a relatively fast turnaround.

format and style of papers - good

scope, quality and scientific impact of published papers, book reviews, notes & news - excellent for a herp journal. i am very happy that copeia is not turning into a "new species" account journal, as are some other herp journals. the papers are of high quality and breadth of biological areas.

quality and production of figures, tables, appendices - good.

policy and compliance regarding voucher specimens and GenBank entries - n/a

copyediting and proofs, revisions - good.
quality and cost of color illustrations - fine
page size, format, and journal cover - good. the size and journal cover are fine. perhaps
the argument could be made for a new journal cover that includes artwork - not just
pictures of ichs and herps, but artwork showing biological processes, perhaps something
like journal of experimental biology. however, i would guess this would involve much
more work and cost.

I suggest that your office keep a running list (with year, number, and page citations) of
books that have been reviewed in the journal. Put this list up on the web site for
Copeia and remind Book Review Editors to check the list regularly.

There are from time-to-time books of a more widespread interest (than just ichthyology
or herpetology) that may become candidates for review. Book Review Editors should be
encouraged to communicate as needed to avoid what might become an embarrassing
situation if both editors ask people to review the same book.

The two major concerns that I have with publishing in Copeia are:

1. Making sure that for molecular studies whole organism vouchers are deposited in
museums that will maintain the material in perpetuity. Towards that end I suggest that
the Editors of Copeia make acceptance of a paper for publication in Copeia be contingent
upon inclusion in the MS a list of all of the museum catalogue numbers for the whole
organisms from which tissues were removed in the study. In order that the Editors will
know that this requirement has been complied with (and that catalogue numbers received
in advance of the specimens are not being used), copies of letters from museum curators
stating that the whole organisms have been received must accompany the MS when it is
submitted.
2. Treating authors, reviewers, and editors with common courtesy, i.e., letting them
know when a MS has been received and the status of a MS as it changes.

- (1) The instructions to authors are sometimes confusing because they change relatively
frequently.
- (2) The electronic submission process is fine, but I really dislike the impersonal process
via AllenTrack. Perhaps I am just old-fashioned, but I much prefer interacting with an
editor rather than with an impersonal machine.
- (3) The review process is fair (usually very thoughtful reviews from referees and editors)
and no longer than any other journal to which I submit. About two years ago, two

coauthors and I nearly withdrew a submitted manuscript from Copeia because we were upset by responses to us.

(4) The format and style of papers present no problem for me as an author.

(5) The scope, quality, and scientific impact of published papers are fine from my perspective. However, I never read the book reviews and seldom read the notes and news sections, which often seem trivial.

(6) The quality and production of figures, tables, and appendices are excellent. Allen Press is superb at publishing the journal.

(7) I have no opinion on policy and compliance regarding voucher specimens and GenBank entries, because these are not included in any of my manuscripts.

(8) Copyediting, proofs, and revisions are handled well by the editorial office.

(9) I have no opinion on color illustrations, as I have not published any in Copeia.

(10) Page size and format of the journal are fine. The journal's cover, though, is really boring and looks like something out of the 1800's. Why not seek a more modern (and attractive) cover design?

Overall, I enjoy reading Copeia, but I often prefer to submit manuscripts to other journals where the editor-author interactions are more "friendly" than is the case with Copeia.

I have some comments as a result of papers published earlier this year. Before I get into my complaints I need to preface this by saying that I am pleased with the quality of the journal although it seems to be getting thinner over the last couple of years. Not sure what it reflects but it could be the hurdles imposed for publishing therein.

That said, I want to say that publishing the two papers that came out this year was tortuous. Part of it reflected the mechanism in place, part the flawed nature of anonymous review systems, and part a lack of understanding of systematic research or maybe the need for open minds in science.

Going down your list I just recall that there were some requirements for publication that were not noted in the instructions to authors and there were software issues when using the electronic submission process. I do not recall all of the hassles, but do remember that I would get back an almost automatic rejection with some checkmark about something that wasn't exactly clear.

A major one was literature cited. The remark would be so cryptic and general that you didn't know where to look. And it would be the way something was abbreviated, or on another occasion it would be the citation of gray literature, in at least one case it was a misplaced period...that took a while to figure out. Some of the abbreviations were copied from previous Copeia submissions. Ultimately I recommended that for consistency the society adopt some published and AVAILABLE list of abbreviations like the one I went to for the CSA (Cambridge Scientific Abstracts) serials source list (<http://www.csa.com/htbin/sjldisp.cgi?filename=/wais/data/srcjnl/asfa001>). This was found through a Google search and then going to aquatic sciences; not all of our journals, especially obscure museum publications will be found there, but standardized abbreviations can be pieced together.

There were complaints about the formatting (urging that I put the character descriptions...synapomorphies explained...in an appendix (the meat of the analysis !?). The formatting used was based upon a recent publication in Copeia. And there was an issue of calling the systematic paper reviewing the species of [a genus] a review of the species. I explained that this was a systematic review which indeed offers new information, not just a compilation of other people's works. That fell on deaf ears, so I just rolled with "redescriptions and synonymies...etc."

The major criticism with which I did not agree was that I had to only recognize monophyletic groups in my classification. This was the major reason for rejection of my phylogenetic analysis on its first submission. Wow. While the quest for monophyletic groups certainly drives our systematic activities, it is sometimes imprudent to change nomenclature to strictly reflect the most recent phylogenetic analysis. Each phylogeny is an hypothesis of relationships and some are certainly more compelling than others.... My issue here was that two of my three reviewers (both well-established in systematics) accepted my approach, but one did not. It was difficult to argue that one with me though as I had cited two of that reviewer's papers in which the same approach was taken but not explained. The irony here is that some people haven't figured out that their anonymous reviews really aren't always so in our specialized fields. It was no coincidence that I listed two of that individual's papers out of the many I could have chosen. It's also ironic that I tried to publish this in Copeia 20 years ago, different cladistic analysis, same results...

Recommendations:

- 1) have editors flesh out the commentary on the form that is generated so it is understandable.
- 2) Make sure that there are no major hidden requirements (not listed in the instructions to authors)
- 3) Provide information about the link to the CSA site for abbreviations or some other appropriate resource
- 4) Also in my case I had not submitted anything through the automated system prior to these manuscripts. It is not a completely intuitive process. And there were software issues in some cases when files were being uploaded.
- 5) That plus the deference to a naïve and fundamentalist approach to systematics made this process an annoyance on my end. The problem of suppression of work due to differences of opinion, methods and politics goes hand in hand with anonymous peer review. It is the task of a good editor to be sensitive to these differences and the impact they have upon scientific progress (not to mention the careers of those involved). Things don't seem to have changed in 20 years in essence with the review process at Copeia, just in perspective (getting bounced despite a 2 to 3 vote in my favor both times

I had one particular suggestion for the journal that I was thinking about posing to the Board. I have recently moved from a university with a great library to one with a very

small library, and then to one with a decent, but distant, and have been struggling to get older issues of Copeia (and other journals). Recent issues are available online, but older issues are simply not available. I had begun to talk to members of the Board for [another society] about the possibility and logistics of having our journals scanned into the database at JSTOR or other online access. For those of us with limited access to past issues of journals, this would be a huge boon.

I recently discovered that several of the [other] societies have created their own archived, and searchable database of past journal articles that is just like what I had pictured for ASIH and its sister societies. They seem to have created their own archive rather than using a commercial outlet for such things.

I realize that this suggestion might not be directly relevant to the charge of your committee, but it seemed like a good place to start. I think it could make the impact of Copeia (and other journals) much more global if such access to past issues could be made available. If this is something that your committee is interested in, I would be willing to help find out information about options for this, etc.

instructions to authors- I generally find these to be satisfactory.

electronic submission and tracking via AllenTrack- I have yet to use this route but will soon. I am computer-phobic, so maybe I should answer this question later when I attempt to submit an article this way.

review process- I have reviewed several ms's via computer and found it to be very easy and efficient. However, since these articles were written by non-native English speakers, I had to make extensive changes directly on the ms's, which I sent back via snail-mail. I find making extensive changes using the computer to be unsatisfactory.

format and style of papers- I personally am so used to it and love it.

scope, quality and scientific impact of published papers, book reviews, notes & news- really no complaints. My own field ... has seen many papers published in Copeia.

quality and production of figures, tables, appendices- I am very impressed with the quality of the photos and photomicrographs (light microscopy and transmission electron microscopy). Copeia easily rivals, and may even exceed, the quality of J. Morphology.

policy and compliance regarding voucher specimens and GenBank entries copyediting and proofs, revisions- no complaints.

quality and cost of color illustrations- OUCH! I recently asked what the cost of a small color plate would be, and I almost fell off my seat when he responded. I thought by now that the cost of a color plate would be a lot cheaper, or even be automatic! I guess that time has not yet arrived for Copeia. Quality seems fine, however.

page size, format, and journal cover- I don't like change, so I love the old format, especially the smaller size of the pages- it's easy to curl up in an cozy chair and read it.

Appendix K. Officers, *Copeia* Staff, Committees 2005

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT - Lynne R. Parenti - parenti.lynne@nmnh.si.edu
PRESIDENT-ELECT - Darrel R. Frost - frost@amnh.org
PAST-PRESIDENT - Patrick T. Gregory - viper@uvic.ca
PRIOR PAST-PRESIDENT - Larry M. Page - lpage1@ufl.edu
TREASURER - Margaret A. Neighbors - mneighbors@prodigy.net
SECRETARY - Maureen A. Donnelly - asih@fiu.edu
EDITOR - Scott A. Schaefer - schaefer@amnh.org

SOCIETY HISTORIAN - David G. Smith - smith.davidg@nmnh.si.edu

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PRODUCTION EDITOR - Katie Smith - ktsmith@amnh.org
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GENERAL HERPETOLOGY - Tod W. Reeder - treeder@sunstroke.sdsu.edu
GENERAL HERPETOLOGY - Michael J. Lannoo - mlannoo@bsu.edu
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ECOLOGY AND ETHOLOGY - Christopher M. Taylor - ctaylor@ra.msstate.edu
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GENETICS, DEVELOPMENT & MORPHOLOGY - Joseph M. Quattro - quattro@mail.biol.sc.edu
PHYSIOLOGY & PHYSIOLOGICAL ECOLOGY - Steven J. Beaupre - sbeaupre@comp.uark.edu
INDEX EDITOR (SUBJECT) - Frances Cashner (Subject) - fcashner@uno.edu
INDEX EDITOR (TAXONOMIC) - Jay W. Orr (Taxonomic) - james.orr@noaa.gov
BOOK REVIEW - ICHTHYOLOGY - Marlis R. Douglas - Marlis.Douglas@colostate.edu
BOOK REVIEW - HERPETOLOGY - Kentwood D. Wells - kentus@uconnvm.uconn.edu

EDITORIAL BOARD - Richard Broughton, Brooks M. Burr, Dennis L. Claussen, Miles Coburn, Ronald Coleman, Martha Crump, C. Kenneth Dodd, Jr., Maureen A. Donnelly, Michael S. Finkler, Mike Ghedotti, Jeff Graham, Philip Heemstra, Gene Helfman, Eric Hilton, William Mautz, J. Kelly McCoy, Kirk Miller, Randy Mooi, Phil Pfeiler, Howard K. Reinert, Eric Schultz, Andrew Simons, Anthony Steyermark, Richard Vari, Susan Walls, John J. Wiens, Jeff Williams, Sharon Wise

COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS

Jon Armbruster - armbrjw@auburn.edu (Chair)

Members: Hank Bart, Jacqueline Litzgus

COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE STUDENT PARTICIPATION

Nick Lang - langnj@slu.edu (Chair)

Members: Rocky Parker (Chair - Book Raffle), Mollie Cashner (Student Awards Committee Representative), Andrew R. Mahon (Travel Awards), Mason Dean (Graduate Student Workshop - Fish), Anna George (Conservation Committee Representative - Fishes), Kristine Grayson (Symposium Committee), Shannon Torrence (Symposium Committee), Julie Ray (Conservation Committee Representative - Herps), Nicki Dardinger (Website Committee)

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Frank McCormick - FMcCormick@fs.fed.us (Chair),

Members: Jonathan Baskin, Noel Burkhead, Jacque Carter, Barry Chernoff, Salvador Contreras-Balderas, Walter Courtenay, Anna George (Graduate Student Representative), David Green, Pat Gregory, Karsten Hartel, Gene Helfman, Selena Heppell, Bill Loftus, Joseph Mitchell, Henry Mushinsky, Jack Musick, Jos Nelson, Tom Orrell, Edward Pister, Julie Ray (Graduate Student Representative), Alan Savitzky, H. Bradley Shaffer, Gerald Smith, Peter Unmack, Steve Walsh, Melvin Warren, Jr., James Williams

EDITORIAL POLICY COMMITTEE

Scott Schaefer - schaefer@amnh.org (Chair)

Members: all Sectional Editors and Book Review Editors

ENDOWMENT and FINANCE COMMITTEE

Melvin Warren Jr. - fswarren@olemiss.edu (Chair; 2005-2007),

Members: Eric Schultz (2002-2006), Barbara Savitzky (2003-2007), Aaron Bauer (2004-2008), Steve Ross (2005-2009), Margaret Neighbors (Ex Officio)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Lynne Parenti - Parenti.Lynne@NMNH.SI.EDU (Chair & President)

Members: Darrel Frost (President-Elect), Patrick Gregory (Past President), Larry Page (Prior Past President), Alan Savitzky (Chair of LRPP), Scott Schaefer (Editor), Mel Warren (Chair of ENFC), Maureen Donnelly (Secretary), Margaret Neighbors (Treasurer)

HENRY S. FITCH AWARD COMMITTEE

Stan Fox - foxstan@okstate.edu (Chair),

Members: Al Savitzky (2004-2006), Julian Lee (2005-2007)

GAIGE FUND AWARD COMMITTEE

Christopher Phillips - chrisp@inhs.uiuc.edu (Chair)

Members: Kirsten Nicholson (2004-2006), Adam Summers (2005-2007)

ICHTHYOLOGICAL AND HERPETOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE

Nelson Rios - nelson@museum.tulane.edu (Chair)

Members: Barbara Brown, Paulo Buckup, Dave Catania, Dean Hendrickson, Richard Pyle, Rob Robins, Mary Ann Rogers, Jessica Rosales, Mark Sabaj, John Simmons, Ken Thompson, Lou Van Guelpen, H. J. Walker, Jeff Williams, Christina A. Wolfe

Newsletter Subcommittee: H. J. Walker (Chair), Rob Robins, Lou Van Guelpen, Laurie Vitt

Supplies and Practices Subcommittee: Jessica Rosales (Chair), Nelson Rios, Mary Anne Rogers, Mark Sabaj, Ken Thompson, Lou Van Guelpen

Ichthyological Data Standards Subcommittee: Jeffrey Williams (Chair), Paulo Buckup, David Catania, Richard Pyle, Nelson Rios

Herpetological Data Standards Subcommittee: John Simmons (Chair), Laurie Vitt

JOINT ASIH-AFS COMMITTEE ON NAMES OF FISHES

Joseph S. Nelson - joe.nelson@ualberta.ca (Chair)

Members: Hector Espinoza-Perez, Lloyd Findley, Carter Gilbert, Robert Lea, Nicholas Mandrk, James Williams,

ROBERT K. JOHNSON AWARD COMMITTEE

Maureen Donnelly - asih@fiu.edu (Chair)

Members: Robert Cashner (2004-2006), Harvey Lillywhite (2005-2007)

LONG RANGE PLANNING AND POLICY COMMITTEE

Al Savitzky - asavitzk@odu.edu (Chair)

Members: Donald Buth, Robert Cashner, Pat Gregory, Craig Guyer, Carol Johnston, Karen Warkentin

MEETING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Bob Cashner - rcashner@uno.edu (chair)

Members: Hank Bart, Brian Crother, F. Douglas Martin, Henry Mushinsky

MEETING PLANNING COMMITTEE

Deanna Stouder - dstouder@fs.fed.us (Chair)

Members: Larry Allen, George Burgess, Brian Crother, Maureen Donnelly.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Brooks Burr - burr@zoology.siu.edu (Chair)

Members: Aaron Bauer (herpetology) , Maureen Kearney (herpetology). Martin O'Connell (ichthyology)

RANEY FUND AWARD COMMITTEE

Cheryl Wilga - cwilga@uri.edu (Chair)

Members: Andrew Simons (2004-2006), Kent Carpenter (2005-2007)

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

TO BE NAMED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING IN TAMPA, FL.

ROBERT H. GIBBS, JR. MEMORIAL AWARD COMMITTEE

Larry Page - lpage1@ufl.edu (Chair)

Members: Joseph Nelson (2004-2006), David Greenfield (2005-2007)

STUDENT AWARDS COMMITTEE

Michael Ghedotti - mghedott@regis.edu (Chair)

WEB CONTENT AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Morgan Raley - morgan.raleyn@ncmail.net (Chair)

Member: Margaret Neighbors, Larry Page, Nelson Rios

Representatives to Other Societies

AMERICAN ELASMOBRANCH SOCIETY - George Burgess -
gburgess@flmnh.ufl.edu

AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY - Mel Warren, Jr. -
fswarren@sunset.backbone.olemiss.edu

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES - Alan Savitzky -
asavitzk@odu.edu

**AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES: Public Policy
Committee** - Alan Savitzky - asavitzk@odu.edu

EARLY LIFE HISTORY SECTION OF AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY -
Michael Fahay -Michael.Fahay@noaa.gov

NATURAL SCIENCE COLLECTIONS ALLIANCE - unfilled 3/22/05

**SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF NATURAL HISTORY
COLLECTIONS** - John Simmons - jsimmons@ku.edu

**SOCIETY FOR STUDY OF AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES AND
HERPETOLOGISTS' LEAGUE** - Alan Savitzky - asavitzk@odu.edu

Information Coordinators

HERPETOLOGY - Eileen Banach - eileenbanach@hotmail.com

ICHTHYOLOGY - Mollie Cashner - mcashner@tulane.edu

Appendix L. Constitutions (Revised 2004)

ASIH CONSTITUTION

as revised at the 2004 meeting

Article I: Name

The name of this Society shall be "THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ICHTHYOLOGISTS AND HERPETOLOGISTS." The Society is incorporated in the District of Columbia (22 November 1949).

Article II: Object

Section 1. The object of this Society shall be to advance the science of the study of fishes, amphibians, and reptiles.

Section 2. The Society shall be operated as a nonprofit corporation.

Article III: Membership

Section 1. Membership shall be open to persons interested in the object of the Society.

Section 2. The membership of the Society shall consist of the following classes:

a. Active members who pay annual dues in the following categories: Student, , Regular, Associate, and Sustaining.

b. Honorary Foreign Members shall be elected by the Board of Governors from among the ichthyologists and herpetologists, located outside of Canada, Mexico, and the United States, who have attained distinction as investigators. The Honorary Foreign Members shall be equally divided between ichthyologists and herpetologists.

Section 3. Nomination to membership shall be upon recommendation of one member.

Article IV: Officers

Section 1. The officers of the Society shall be: A President, who shall assume the duties of this office for a one-year term immediately following a term as President-Elect. A President-Elect, who shall serve a one-year term; the office shall alternate annually between an ichthyologist and herpetologist; the President-Elect shall be ineligible for another term until two years shall have elapsed from the end of a term as President. A Treasurer, and a Secretary, who shall be elected annually but who may serve unlimited consecutive terms. An Editor, five Divisional Editors, an Index Editor, and two Book Review Editors (one in ichthyology and one in herpetology).

Section 2. The Officers shall be elected at the annual general meeting from among regular, associate, sustaining, and life members. The slate of nominees shall be furnished by the Nominating Committee at the Board of Governors meeting. Additional nominations may be presented from the floor at the annual business meeting. All nominations shall be accompanied by a brief statement of qualifications and a written statement of willingness to serve from the nominee. The term of office shall commence on 1 January following the annual meeting at which the officers were elected. In the event of a tie in election for any office, the Executive Committee shall determine the winner.

Section 3. The officers named in Section 1 shall discharge the duties usually assigned to their respective offices (see Bylaws).

Section 4. In the event of death or incapacitation of the President during the term of office, the President-Elect will become President. If the position of President-Elect becomes vacant, the person who received the second highest number of votes in the election will become President-Elect. If necessary, the Executive Committee shall make the determination that a President or President-Elect is incapacitated to the extent that required duties of the office are not likely to be performed.

Section 5. A vacancy in either the Secretaryship or Treasurership occurring in the interval of the meetings of the Society may be filled, until the next annual meeting, by appointment by the President.

Section 6. Executive Committee.

a. The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, President-Elect, immediate Past-President, prior Past-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor, Chair of the Long Range Planning and Policy Committee, and Chair of the Endowment and Finance Committee.

b. Each ASIH President will serve a total of four years on the Executive Committee, as President-Elect, President, immediate Past-President, and prior Past-President, in that sequence.

Section 7. Between the annual meetings the business of the Society shall be conducted by the officers, acting within their individual responsibilities, and the Executive Committee.

Article V: Board of Governors

Section 1. At the time of the annual meeting the business of the Society shall be conducted by the Board of Governors. The Board shall include not more than 50 elective members, each elected from among regular, associate, sustaining, and life members for a term of five years. Elective members of the Board shall not be eligible for reelection until the annual meeting following the expiration of their terms. The incumbent officers of the Society shall be members of the Board. Former Presidents of the Society shall be members of the Board for life. All meetings of the Board of Governors shall be open to all members of the Society.

Section 2. Ten vacancies in the elective membership of the Board of Governors shall be filled through election at the business meeting from nominations provided by the Nominating Committee and/or from the floor. All nominations shall be accompanied by a brief statement of qualifications and a written statement of willingness to serve from the nominee. Five of the elected Governors shall be herpetologists and five shall be ichthyologists. Each member shall vote for a maximum of five candidates. It is recommended that members vote for candidates in their own discipline only, but a member whose activities spread across the two disciplines may vote across the two disciplines. The term of office shall commence on 1 January following the annual meeting at which the Governor was elected. An additional vacancy shall occur if the President-Elect is a member of a class. No other officer shall be replaced if a member of a class at the time of election as an officer.

Section 3. The Board shall conduct business during the period between annual meetings only upon call by the Executive Committee.

Article VI: Meeting of the Society

Section 1. This Society shall hold an annual meeting. A general business session open to all classes of members shall be held for the purposes of hearing a report on the transactions of the Board of Governors and of acting upon such business as may properly be considered by the membership at large.

Section 2. The Meetings Management Committee shall solicit and receive invitations from prospective home institutions for the Annual Meetings, shall evaluate such invitations, and shall report its recommendation(s) to the Board of Governors.

Section 3. The place of the annual meeting of the Society shall be determined by the Board of Governors. Notice of the meeting shall be mailed to all members of the Society at least three months before the date set for the meeting.

Article VII: Southeastern Division

Section 1. Membership in the Southeastern Division is open to ASIH members in good standing residing in the following states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Active membership status within the Southeastern Division shall be determined by the Bylaws of the Division currently in force.

Section 2. The Southeastern Division shall elect a President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 3. Annual meetings of the Southeastern Division shall be held concurrently with the ASIH Annual Meetings when the latter occur in one of the states identified as within the Southeastern Division in Section 1 of this Article.

Article VIII: Quorum

At the Annual Meeting, one hundred members shall constitute a quorum of the Society and thirty a quorum of the Board of Governors.

If the Board of Governors votes electronically between annual meetings, 30 votes shall constitute a quorum of the Board.

Article IX: Changes in the Constitution and Bylaws

Section 1. Amendments to this Constitution and Bylaws may be proposed: (a) by majority vote of the Executive Committee, or (b) by written and signed petition from at least twenty-five (25) members in good standing of ASIH.

Section 2. Proposed amendments must be circulated to all members at least three (3) months prior to the scheduled Annual Meeting of the Society.

Section 3. Proposed amendments of this Constitution and Bylaws may be adopted at any meeting of the Society if approved by two-thirds of the members of the Board of Governors voting and two-thirds of the members voting at the annual general meeting.

Section 4. Dissolution of the society shall require two-thirds assent from members of the Board of Governors voting and ratification by mail ballot of two-thirds of the membership voting in response.

Section 5. In case of the dissolution of the Society, its assets shall be transferred to a successor non-profit society organized for educational, professional, or scientific purposes, or if no successor society is designated by the members of this Society, then the

assets shall be transferred to some other non-profit organization of like character as determined by the members of this Society by response in mail ballot.

BYLAWS

Article I: Dues

Section 1. Annual dues shall be payable 1 January, in advance. COPEIA shall not be sent to those in arrears for dues. Upon payment of arrearage, plus a late fee calculated as 10% of the annual dues, the former member shall be reinstated.

Section 2. A service charge calculated by the Secretary to recover actual costs may be billed subscribers requiring special billing procedures.

Section 3. The schedule of dues will be estimated by the Treasurer, proposed by the Executive Committee, and approved by the Board of Governors to meet the financial needs of the society.

Article II: President

Section 1. The President shall preside at sessions of the Board of Governors and at the general business meeting.

Section 2. The President shall also appoint the committees prescribed by the Constitution and Bylaws, and such other representatives or committees as may prove necessary. The President and President-Elect shall be members of all committees.

Article III: Secretary

Section 1. The Secretary shall keep the records of the Society and report at the annual meeting.

Section 2. The Secretary shall be responsible for sending out notices announcing the annual meeting and for arranging the agenda for the Board of Governors and general business meetings at the annual meeting.

Section 3. The Secretary shall be reimbursed out of the monies of the Society for expenses incurred in attending meetings of the Society.

Section 4. The Secretary shall make such purchases and employ such assistance as is necessary to conduct the business of the Society. The Secretary shall be responsible for authorizing disbursement of funds for the expenses of society offices within limits to be set annually by the Executive Committee. All such expenditures will be reported to and are subject to review and ratification by the Board of Governors.

Section 5. Unless other appointments are made by the President, the Secretary shall act as delegate or representative of this Society at meetings of related societies covering matters of mutual interest.

Section 6. The Secretary shall arrange for an annual professional audit of the financial record and statement of the Treasurer and shall transmit the auditor's report to the annual meeting of the Board of Governors.

Section 7. Any copyright requests or copyright-related issues and the associated records-keeping shall be handled by the Secretary in consultation with the Editor.

Section 8. Publications storage.

a. The Secretary shall be charged with the responsibility of ensuring safe storage, sale, and other disposal of back numbers of COPEIA and other Society publications.

b. The Secretary may employ such assistance including outside contractual assistance as may be necessary to discharge these functions.

c. The Secretary will report annually to the Board of Governors on the status and disposal of backlogged items.

Article IV: Treasurer

Section 1. The Treasurer shall be in charge of the funds and securities of the Society.

Section 2. At the annual meetings of the Society, the Treasurer shall present a statement of the funds and monies of the Society, the statement to cover the calendar year.

Article V. Editorial Offices

Section 1. Editor

a. The Editor shall serve as the Chief Executive Officer for the journal COPEIA. The Editor shall bear the final responsibility and authority for all materials published in COPEIA.

b. In the processing of manuscripts submitted for publication in COPEIA, the Editor shall allocate manuscript workload among the Sectional Editors, and shall receive their recommendations on manuscripts that have cleared the review process.

c. The Editor shall report through the ASIH Executive Committee to the Board of Governors, and shall seek Executive Committee and Board of Governor approval for any substantive change in ASIH publishing product or practice, especially where new or unanticipated expenditures of ASIH funds are involved.

d. The Editor serves on the ASIH Executive Committee, and the Publications Policy Committee and serves as Chair, Editorial Policy Committee.

e. In situations that may arise between annual meetings, the Editor (upon consultation with and approval by the Executive Committee) may appoint a substitute (or co-participant) for a given editorial office.

Section 2. Sectional, Book Review, and Index Editors

a. The five divisional sections of COPEIA shall be General Herpetology; General Ichthyology; Ecology and Ethology; Physiology and Physiological Ecology; and Genetics, Development, and Morphology. Sectional Editors shall serve as Chief Operating Officers for their respective sections, shall select reviewers and solicit manuscript reviews, and shall make recommendations regarding acceptability for publication in COPEIA to the Editor.

b. Two Book Review Editors shall promote the announcement and critical review of important new works in Herpetology and Ichthyology, respectively.

c. An Index Editor shall be responsible for production of the annual index to COPEIA. The Index Editor shall archive materials for periodic multi-year indices to be prepared as deemed necessary.

d. Any editorial office, except that of Editor, may be held by two persons if approved by election to office by members of the Society.

Article VI: Editorial Board

An Editorial Board representing the five divisional disciplines of COPEIA, shall be nominated annually by the Divisional Editors, up to six board members each, for service in that disciplinary area, and appointed by the President in consultation with the Editor.

Article VII: Meetings

Section 1. The Chair of the Local Committee shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the chairs of the Meetings Management Committee and Meetings Planning Committee if possible, at least six months before the time of the meeting.

Section 2. The Chair of the Local Committee will work with the chairs of the Meetings Management Committee and Meetings Planning Committee to make all local arrangements including the arrangements for printing the program.

Article VIII. Committees

Section 1. Committees of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists are categorized as Standing Committees, Continuing Committees, Recurring Committees and Special Purpose Committees.

Section 2. Except as provided for separately in the CONSTITUTION and BYLAWS all committee appointments are made by the President and carry a tenure of appointment of one year. By arrangement between the President and the incoming Committee Chair, Subcommittees may be appointed and delegated to specific functions. Subcommittees are not listed separately and exist at the discretion of the President and the full Committee.

Section 3. Committee service, including that of Committee Chairs, is upon a calendar year basis, commencing January 1 and ending December 31, except for the Nominating Committee and Chair, which serve from meeting to meeting. Committees are appointed by the President at or soon after the annual meeting of the year preceding service. The report of a Committee Chair is submitted through the Secretary for presentation at the annual meeting immediately after the termination of the calendar year of service. Except where provided for separately, continuation of appointment of a Committee Chair or Committee member is at the discretion of the cognizant President and the member in service.

Section 4. The charge to and purview of the Committee shall normally follow that listed in the ASIH Procedures Manual, subject to modification, individually or separately, by the President, Executive Committee and/or Board of Governors, except as provided for separately in the CONSTITUTION or BYLAWS.

Section 5. Standing Committees are provided for separately in the CONSTITUTION and/or BYLAWS, and/or are those which must be renewed yearly to conduct society business. Standing Committees are as follows:

ANBM	Annual Business Meeting
BOFG	Board of Governors
EDBD	Editorial Board
EDPC	Editorial Policy Committee
ENFC	Endowment and Finance Committee

EXEC	Executive Committee
GFAC	Gaige Fund Award Committee
GSPC	Committee on Graduate Student Participation
HSFC	Henry S. Fitch Award Committee
LOCL	Local Committee for the Annual Meeting
LRPP	Long Range Planning and Policy Committee
MMGT	Meetings Management Committee
MPLN	Meetings Planning Committee
NOMC	Nominating Committee
RFAC	Raney Fund Award Committee
RHGC	Robert H. Gibbs, Jr., Memorial Award Committee
RKJC	Robert K. Johnson Award Committee
STAC	Student Awards Committee

Section 6. Continuing Committees are provided for separately in the CONSTITUTION and/or BYLAWS, and/or are those which are normally renewed yearly to conduct society business. In years where no action by the Committee or Representative is anticipated, appointment or not is at the discretion of the President. Continuing Committees are listed in the Procedures Manual.

Section 7. Recurring Committees are those which are appointed on an episodic basis, as need occurs. In years where no action by the Committee or Representative is anticipated, appointment or not is at the discretion of the President. Recurring Committees are listed in the Procedures Manual.

Section 8. Special Purpose Committees are those which are appointed normally on a one-time basis, as need occurs. Appointment or not is at the discretion of the President. The President shall define the charge to each Special Purpose Committee upon appointment. Unless renewed by the succeeding president each such Committee shall cease to exist after a period of time up to one calendar year, commencing January 1 after date of appointment.

Article IX: Nominating Committee

Section 1. The Nominating Committee shall consist of five members; three in the discipline of the President-Elect to be elected, and two in the alternate discipline. Five ASIH members in good standing shall comprise the Nominating Committee and serve meeting to meeting: (a) One of the two members of the outgoing Nominating Committee who is in the discipline of the President-Elect to be elected. This person shall be elected and serve as chair of the new committee. (b) The immediate Past-President of the Society. This position shall be filled automatically. (c) One person in the discipline of the President-Elect to be elected, chosen from at least two persons nominated by the Board of Governors. (d) Two persons in the alternate discipline chosen from at least four persons nominated

Section 2. If only one of the two persons from the outgoing Nominating Committee is available for election as chair of the new committee, this person shall receive the chairship automatically. If neither person from the outgoing Nominating Committee is available for election as chair, the Past-President shall assume the chairship and the President shall nominate two additional persons in the appropriate discipline. If

the Board of Governors fails to nominate the number of persons listed above for positions (c) and (d), the President shall provide the balance of the nominations.

Section 3. The election of the Nominating Committee shall be at the business meeting of the Society. All nominees, including additional nominations from the floor at the business meeting for positions (c) and (d), must provide a written agreement to serve on the committee, which would include the possibility of a second year of service as chair.

Article X: Long Range Planning and Policy Committee

Section 1. The Chair of the Long Range Planning and Policy Committee shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the Executive Committee and such others as the President may feel desirable. The Chair shall serve for a period of three years and may be reappointed. Six other members shall be similarly appointed and the expiration dates of the terms of their service shall be staggered in order to provide continuity. Tenure of appointment shall be on a calendar year basis.

Section 2. The Committee shall identify desirable Society policies and activities and shall advise the Board of Governors and Membership on the best way to carry out and fund Society activities.

Section 3. The Committee is responsible for the development and updating, to reflect current practice, of the ASIH Procedures Manual, and from time to time make suggestions for improvements and best response to available technologies and opportunities.

Section 4. The Committee shall maintain close liaison with the Endowment and Finance Committee. The Committee Chairs shall serve as consulting (nonvoting) members of the corresponding Committee and shall keep each Committee informed, as appropriate, of mutually relevant activities.

Article XI: Endowment and Finance Committee

Section 1. The Endowment Committee shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the Executive Committee and shall consist of five members, including the Chair. To provide continuity, members of the Committee will have staggered, five-year terms. One member should be a business person or someone with considerable experience in investing. Tenure of appointment shall be on a calendar year basis.

Section 2. The Chair-Elect of the Endowment Committee shall be appointed by the President. The Chair-Elect shall succeed the Chair, each of whom will serve one year in their respective positions. The Chair may be reappointed as Chair-Elect. The Chair and the Chair-Elect will work closely together in planning and organizing the activities of the Endowment Committee.

Section 3. The Committee shall be in charge of fund-raising and investment of the endowment.

Section 4. The Committee shall advise the Society on all matters pertaining to the General Endowment Fund and the Life Membership Fund.

Section 5. The Committee shall maintain close liaison with the Treasurer and other members of the Executive Committee and shall advise officials of the Society in the management of all funds and moneys of the Society.

Section 6. The Committee shall maintain close liaison with the Long Range Planning and Policy Committee. The Committee Chairs shall serve as consulting (nonvoting) members of the corresponding Committee and shall keep each Committee informed, as appropriate, of mutually relevant activities.

Article XII: Funds

Section 1. Society Funds and income derived therefrom shall be used only for tax-exempt purposes.

Section 2. Funds of the Society shall be as follows:

a. The Frederick H. Stoye Fund shall be invested and used to offer awards for meritorious papers presented by student members at the annual National Meeting. The awards will be known as the Frederick H. Stoye Awards. The basis for award decisions shall be determined by a Student Awards Committee. The Student Awards Committee shall be appointed by the President-elect for service prior to and in the subsequent Annual Meeting.

b. The Tracy Storer Fund shall be invested and used to offer awards to students judged to have prepared the best posters in ichthyology and herpetology at the National Meeting. The basis for award decisions shall be determined by a Student Awards Committee. The Student Awards Committee shall be appointed by the President-elect for service prior to and in the subsequent Annual Meeting.

c. The Robert H. Gibbs, Jr. Memorial Fund shall be invested and used to award a yearly prize, as determined by a selected panel of judges, based on an outstanding published body of work in systematic ichthyology by a citizen of a Western Hemisphere nation who has not been a previous recipient of the award. The basis for an award decision shall be determined by a Robert H. Gibbs, Jr., Memorial Fund Committee. The Robert H. Gibbs, Jr., Memorial Fund Committee shall consist of three ichthyologists, each serving a three-year term. Each year one member is replaced by an individual elected by the Board of Governors among nominees submitted by the Nominating Committee or nominated from the floor. The Senior member of the Committee serves as its Chair.

d. The Edward C. and Charlotte E. Raney Fund shall be invested and used to provide support for young ichthyologists in such a way as to enhance their professional careers and their contributions to the science of ichthyology. The basis for award decisions shall be determined by a Edward C. and Charlotte E. Raney Fund Committee. The Edward C. and Charlotte E. Raney Fund Committee shall be appointed by the President for service prior to the subsequent Annual Meeting.

e. The Helen T. and Frederick M. Gaige Fund shall be invested and used to provide support for young herpetologists in such a way as to enhance their professional careers and their contributions to the science of herpetology. The basis for award decisions shall be determined by a Helen T. and Frederick M. Gaige Fund Committee. The Helen T. and Frederick M. Gaige Fund Committee shall be appointed by the President for service prior to the subsequent Annual Meeting.

f. The Life Membership Fund shall consist of dues received from Life Members. The interest from this Fund shall be added to the principal. When this Fund exceeds by \$1000 or more the sum computed as adequate to pay costs of fulfilling

Society obligations to Life Members, the excess shall be transferred to the Endowment Fund.

g. The General Endowment Fund shall be an unrestricted fund to receive money from a variety of sources. Major and minor donations to the Society without any restrictions will be placed in the principal of this Fund.

After the Fund grows large enough to be handled by a professional money manager, the Board of Governors will appoint an Investing Trustee(s) to handle the investments. The number of trustees will be determined by the Board of Governors, as well as their qualifications and responsibilities to the Society. The Endowment Committee will advise the Board of Governors on these matters and monitor the activities of the trustee(s). The General Endowment Fund initially will be invested in a cash or income instrument fund to be approved by a majority of the Executive Committee. After the Fund is invested in a broad range of securities, a percentage of the net asset value will be dispersed annually by the Board of Governors for specified activities of the Society based on recommendations of the Executive Committee.

Section 3. All money, stocks, bonds, or other property offered to the Society for purposes other than application to the publication expenses or other operating expenses of the Society can be accepted only by a majority of the Board of Governors, except that the acceptance of any such funds donated for use by any duly constituted activity of the Society, including the General Endowment Fund, can be approved by the Executive Committee. Acceptance of such money, stocks, bonds, or other property by the Board of Governors shall be only with the establishment by the Board of procedures to implement its use. All proposed funds shall be accompanied by a proffered gift or proposed funding source.

Section 4. The American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists may formally recognize major donors to the General Endowment Fund. Four levels of major donors are: Supporter, \$1000--2999; Sponsor, \$3000--9999; Patron, \$10,000--24,999; Benefactor, \$25,000 or higher. No benefits will be provided to donors.

Article XIII: Honorary Foreign Members

The number of Honorary Foreign Members shall not exceed 30.

Article XIV: Society Sets of COPEIA

Official bound sets of COPEIA shall be maintained in the offices of the Editor and the Secretary.

Article XV: Committees

Such committees as the President shall deem necessary shall be appointed by the President or by the presiding officer at the annual meeting, unless the composition and function of committees be otherwise set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws or in motions passed by the Board of Governors or by the membership at large at the annual meeting. Unless otherwise specified, committees shall serve from one annual meeting until the next and shall normally be appointed by the President during the annual meeting.

Article XVI: Procedures

Procedures and other items, not specified in the Constitution or Bylaws of this Society or by action at the annual meeting, shall be in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

Appendix M. Summary of the Meetings 2004

Appendix N. Candidate Information for the 2005 Elections

Appendix A. ASIH cash flow from 1 January to 31 December 2004, with a comparison to income and expenses in 2003.

Inflows	2004	2003
Donations		
General Endowment Fund	3,233	329
Student Travel Fund	4,969	1,956
For symposium speaker (restricted)		
Fitch Award Fund		500
Total: Donations	8,202	2,785
Royalties and other	1,802	1,946
Program Services		
Joint annual meeting income		
2002		8,848
2003		2,998
2004		
Memberships and subscriptions		
Life memberships	8,969	4,813
Annual memberships	134,028	101,994
Subscriptions	104,820	70,991
Late fees	579	46
Sale of mailing list	1,430	1,340
Total: Membership and subscriptions	249,825	179,184
Publications		
Author billing (page charges)	2,195	3,835
Back issues of Copeia	1,496	1,008
Postage	1,420	499
Special publication # 3	542	460
Special publication # 4	602	498
Special publication # 5	10,540	5,460
Total: Publications	16,794	11,760
BioOne revenue share	14,994	10,753
Refunds (Include Secretary's Office costs in 2004)		
2003 Joint meeting advances and costs		22,091
2004 Joint meeting advances and costs	11,493	
Interest	616	429
Dividends	9,765	7,876
Long term capital gain distributions	1,860	237
Short term capital gain distributions	288	193
Realized gains/losses	6,596	1,421
Total Inflows	\$322,236	\$250,521
Outflows		
Program services		
Awards	-22,244	-25,056
Annual meeting		
Planning or management committee		-4,091
Abstract submission via Allen Press	-6,218	-5,000
ASIH President reimbursement	-1,909	-2,100
Total: Annual meeting	-8,127	-11,191
Donations	-2,000	
Publications		
AllenTrack	-6,475	-7,925
Editorial Offices	-64,000	-32,000
Copeia printing, etc.	-105,206	-112,284
Special publications	-29	
Total: Publications	-175,710	-152,209
Historical perspectives committee		-53
Supporting services--management and general operation		
Allen Press business office	-47,329	-38,690
Annual meeting	-1,763	
Secretary's office	-33,370	-45,770
Treasurer's office	-96	-52
Committee expenses/EXEC projects	-969	
Web page fees		-3,829
Dues and subscriptions	-5,418	-3,400
Annual audit and IRS Form 990 preparation	-6,126	-6,122
Investment fees	-7,606	-6,178
Misc., including bank charges	-2,347	-1,750
Total: Supporting services	-105,023	-105,791
Total Outflows	-\$313,105	-\$294,300
Overall Total	\$9,131	-\$43,779

Appendix B. ASIH membership and subscription numbers by category as of 2 May 2005. Some payments for 2004 were received in 2005.

Type	Description	2001	2002	2003	2004*	2005
Memberships						
ASCFAM	Second Member in Family	69	70	69	68	61
FHM	Foreign Honorary Member	26	27	27	27	27
LIF	Life Member Old Program	175	180	182	136	135
LIFN	Life Member New Program				45	52
LIF1	Life Member First Payment	4	4	1	3	4
LIF2	Life Member Second Payment	2	3	5	1	2
LIF3	Life Member Third Payment	3	2	2	5	1
LIF4	Life Member Fourth Payment	1	1	2	3	3
LIFX	Life member (old program) Copeia donated				1	1
MEM	Individual Member	1792	1832	1757	1699	1446
MEM0	Regular member, no journal					81
STU	Student Member	654	678	685	616	549
SUSW	Sustaining Member	39	26	28	38	25
	Total	2765	2823	2758	2642	2387
Subscriptions						
COM	Complimentary Subscription	5	6	8	9	9
FINST	Institutional Subscription Non-North Am	190	186	163	161	143
INST	Institutional Subscription US/CAN/MEX	825	823	786	716	653
	Total	1020	1015	957	886	805
	Overall Total	3785	3838	3715	3528	3192
BioOne revenue share (check received in following year)		\$3,850	\$10,753	\$14,994	\$21,337	

*LIFN includes all fully paid new program life memberships since 1993, which previously were included in LIFcategory.

Appendix C. ASIH cash, cash equivalents, and investments on 31 December 2004. Includes outstanding checks.
 Does not include 2004 dividends credited in 2005. (From 31 Dec. 2004 Smith Barney and Douglas Co. Bank statements.)

Fund	Cash & Cash Equivalents		Investments	Total
	Douglas Co. Bank	Smith Barney Citicorp	Smith Barney Citicorp	
General Operating	\$41,073	\$6,128	\$141,021	\$188,222
Student Travel	2,364	5,620	0	7,984
Gibbs	0	16,729	102,807	119,536
General Endowment	6,442	30,417	77,619	114,477
Stoye	0	16,139	50,750	66,889
Life Membership	30,157	5,999	41,465	77,621
Raney	0	7,519	52,294	59,813
Gaige	0	2,792	44,197	46,988
Storer	0	5,654	17,139	22,793
Fitch	0	7,685	14,267	21,951
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$80,036	\$104,681	\$541,558	\$726,275

Appendix D. Portfolio detail of the ASIH Smith Barney TRAK Account on 31 December 2004. Includes 2004 dividends credited in 2005. (From TRAK Quarterly Review for the period ending 31 Dec. 2004.)

	Initial Purchase Date	Shares	Cost	Unrealized gain/(loss)	Value 12/31/04
American Century International Fund	20-Oct-2003	1953.486	\$26,563	\$2,290	\$28,853
Columbia Intermediate Bond Fund	4-Jan-2001	4706.362	\$42,349	\$526	\$42,875
Dreyfus Premier Emerging Markets Fund	4-Jan-2001	1570.745	\$18,519	\$12,283	\$30,802
Janus High Yield Fund	4-Jan-2001	5732.377	\$55,052	\$1,813	\$56,865
PBHG Large Cap Growth Fund	4-Jan-2001	6485.471	\$163,987	(\$27,922)	\$136,065
Royce Premier Fund	4-Jan-2001	2035.922	\$20,545	\$10,238	\$30,783
RS Smaller Co. Growth Fund	7-Dec-2004	644.568	\$14,503	\$45	\$14,548
Salomon Bros. Small Cap. Growth Fund	7-Dec-2004	919.840	\$13,816	\$442	\$14,258
Scudder International Fund	4-Jan-2001	1284.059	\$52,992	\$3,828	\$56,820
Smith Barney Fund. Value Fund CI A	4-Jan-2001	8802.773	\$117,458	\$15,112	\$132,570
SB Money Funds-- Cash	20-Feb-2004	2817.640	\$2,818	\$0	\$2,818
			\$528,602	\$18,654	\$547,256

SUMMARY OF THE MEETINGS

The 85th annual meeting of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (ASIH) was held at the Marriott Tampa Waterside Hotel in Tampa, Florida from 6-11 July 2005, in conjunction with the 21st annual meeting of the American Elasmobranch Society (AES), the 63rd annual meeting of the Herpetologists' League (HL), and the 47th annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles (SSAR). Henry Mushinsky and Phil Motta served as co-chairs of the local committee.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING: 6 JULY 2005

The meeting of the ASIH Board of Governors (BOG) was called to order by President Lynne R. Parenti at 1700 h on 6 July 2005. Forty-eight governors and two guests were in attendance. President Parenti appointed Governor Roy McDiarmid as Parliamentarian for the BOG meeting. Secretary Donnelly conveyed messages of regret from Governors James Atz, Reeve Bailey, Paulo Buckup, Frances Cashner, Robert Cashner, Tony Echelle, Harry Greene, David Greenfield, Arnold Grobman, Karsten Hartel, Gene Helfman, Fred Janzen, Nathan Kley, Joe Pechmann, Frank Pezold, Kyle Piller, Tod Reeder, Richard Rosenblatt, Jay Savage, Tom Turner, Marvalee Wake, and Kent Wells. Secretary Donnelly announced the passing of George Dalrymple, Guido Dingerkus, Michael Ewert, Raymond Laurent, Kristina Louie, Peter Lutz, Jack Moyer, Arthur Myrberg, Barbara Stahl, Patricia Stocking-Brown, and William Taylor. The minutes as published in *Copeia* 2004 (4):978-991 and the agenda for the meeting were approved unanimously.

Late reports (Special Publications, Policy on Meeting Location from Meetings Management, Complete Candidate Information, and Representative to the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections [SPNHC]) were distributed to the governors.

President Parenti announced that Adam Summers will serve as the chair of the 2005 resolutions committee. Hank Bart, Todd Campbell, and Karen Warkentin are members of the committee.

President Parenti then announced that Michael Ghedotti and Darrel Frost are co-chairs of the 2005 Student Awards Committee. The names of judges will be announced during the banquet.

FUTURE ANNUAL MEETINGS

President Parenti called on Henry Mushinsky, member of the Meetings Management Committee to describe future meeting sites. In 2006, the Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists will be held in New Orleans (12-17 July 2006). The 2007 meeting will be held in St. Louis and our sister society, the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles will celebrate their 50th anniversary. In 2008 we will meet in Montreal but not in conjunction with the World Congress of Herpetology. For 2009 we have an invitation from Vancouver, Long Beach and other sites. The Meetings Management Committee will propose a rotation that will move the meeting around North America. If a rotation can be established, negotiations for sites can be initiated early to secure venues that best serve the membership. Competition for our meeting can accrue savings to the societies. The Meetings Management Committee works closely with the group from Kansas State Conference Services. Governor Mushinsky, the co-host of the 2005 Joint Meeting, described his working relationship with this group as

exceptional. Governor Cannatella asked Governor Mushinsky to speak about the situation with the World Congress of Herpetology. Governor Mushinsky explained that we plan to meet in Montreal without the World Congress, but we have not yet signed a contract with a hotel. Governor Mushinsky explained that the ASIH was not willing pay costs for the World Congress of Herpetology and hotels wanted financial assurance from the ASIH that the costs of the World Congress would be covered. The members of the Meetings Management committee agreed that we could not spend ASIH funds to support the World Congress. Governor Mushinsky indicated that the recent World Congress meeting in South Africa generated a slight profit. Governor Wassersug asked if the World Congress would be able to enter negotiations for 2008. Governor Green explained that the venue for the World Congress was no longer available and a lack of fiscal support from ASIH led to the withdrawal of the invitation to the World Congress from the original meeting site. The Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists is invited to Montreal for 2008.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

President Parenti asked Secretary Donnelly to read the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting that was held earlier in the day. The Executive Committee meeting was called to order by President Parenti at 8:58 am. First, EXEC discussed issues related to our relationship with Allen Press. We signed a three year printing contract with Allen Press and are currently in the first year of that contract. Several issues related to electronic publishing of *Copeia* were discussed and EXEC has determined that the Silo site offered by Allen Press best suits the needs of the ASIH. The silo site will provide individuals and institutions the ability to receive *Copeia* electronically.

Second, the ASIH charges authors who are not members page charges for publishing in *Copeia*. Editor Schaefer will copy Treasurer to these invoices so that she can follow up to ensure that these invoices are paid.

Third, the ASIH is happy to announce that all back issues of *Copeia* are now available on JSTOR. The complete holdings of *Copeia* became available on 1 July 2005. EXEC unanimously voted to pay JSTOR to provide individual access to JSTOR documents.

Fourth, the Executive Committee commended Editor Schaefer and the members of the *Copeia* Review committee for their exceptionally thorough report on the status of *Copeia*.

Fifth, the Executive Committee agreed to support the recommendations from the *Copeia* Review Committee to change the page size, page layout, outside front cover and other aspects of format to stimulate interest in the journal. President Parenti will appoint an ad hoc committee to develop an action plan for implementing these changes and suggests that these changes to our journal be coupled with changes in our website.

Sixth, the cost of printing colored figures is currently \$800 per figure. Based on the recommendation from the *Copeia* Review Committee Exec voted unanimously to reduce to the cost of publishing color from \$800 to \$300 for members. Non-ASIH members will continue to pay \$800 per figure.

Seventh, The *Copeia* Review Committee suggested a reorganization of the sectional editors. EXEC voted unanimously to accept this recommendation as well as the recommendation that the Editor seek sectional editors as needed. This necessitates a constitutional change that will come before the membership in 2006.

Eighth, Hank Bart and Nelson Rios presented a proposal to host the ASIH website at the Tulane Museum of Natural History. There has been substantial dissatisfaction with the website

and this proposal is a remedy to our problems. EXEC unanimously accepted the proposal from Tulane and we will work to move the website as soon as possible because our website is extremely important to our society.

Ninth, members of EXEC noted that there have been declines in membership of the ASIH. EXEC voted to approve the formation of an ad hoc committee to investigate these declines. President Parenti will appoint the committee. EXEC also charged LRPP to consider our relationships with our sister societies to determine how our interactions may affect membership in the ASIH.

Tenth, the Secretary Historian, David Smith, presented a proposal to EXEC to add a second historian. President Parenti appointed Joe Mitchell to be the herpetological historian. President Parenti will form a committee to determine what we need to document the history of the ASIH, write obituaries, and continue to produce the Historical Perspectives.

Eleventh, there will be some clean up of the Constitution next year. If any of you detect any problems, please submit them to Secretary Donnelly so we can take care of them in 2006.

Twelfth, EXEC discussed meeting issues. The decision by Cornell to withdraw their invitation was unfortunate. We have located a substitute site for 2007 and we will be meeting in St. Louis. Rick Mayden has agreed to serve as the chair of the local committee. We also discussed university versus hotels as meeting sites and EXEC endorsed the activities of the Meetings Management Committee to secure future meeting sites.

Thirteenth, EXEC decided that Gaige and Raney certificates will be presented each year at the Annual Business Meeting. We hope this will increase attendance at this important meeting.

Fourteenth, EXEC authorized President Parenti and Mel Warren, Chair of ENFC, to write letters from our life members and encourage them to make a financial donation to the ASIH.

Fifteenth, EXEC voted to accept appropriate advertisements in *Copeia* as a way to generate funds.

Sixteenth, President Parenti had communicated with members of the Graduate Student Participation Committee about what they wanted from the ASIH. The students expressed an interest in panel discussions and workshops rather than one-on-one mentoring.

Seventeenth, Secretary Donnelly reported that she discovered that student participation in our meetings over the last ten years varies from 40% to over 50%. Student participation is extremely high this year.

Eighteenth, President Parenti announced that the Newsletter of Systematic Ichthyology is now co-sponsored by ASIH and Deepfin and the newsletter is available on the Deepfin website.

Nineteenth, President Parenti announced that AFS special publication #6, the common names of fishes, is being sold to ASIH members for \$42 + shipping and handling. This price represents a 30% discount from the list price. The AFS donated two copies of the book to the ASIH student book raffle.

The executive committee was adjourned at 1328 h.

REPORTS TO THE BOARD

President Parenti exempted reports from the Meetings Management Committee, the Meetings Planning Committee, the Nominating Committee, the report from the *Copeia* Review Committee, and late reports from the Special Publications Committee and from the Representative to the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections. President

Parenti asked the Governors for exemption of additional reports. Hearing no requests, it was moved and seconded that all other reports be accepted. The motion passed unanimously.

President Parenti called on Henry Mushinsky to describe the policy for selection of meeting sites. The policy calls for moving meeting sites in a predictable way among regions. The sequence begins with the 2009 meeting on the Pacific Coast, a 2010 meeting for the East Coast, a 2011 meeting in the Midwest, a 2012 meeting in the Southwest, and a 2013 meeting in the Southeast. The sequence can be interrupted by an opportunity to hold our meeting in Central or South America. Governor Collette moved to accept the report, the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

President Parenti then called on Deanna Stouder, chair of the Meetings Planning Committee, to describe the three proposals described in the report from the committee which were considered in three votes. Stouder described the proposal to limit the number of symposia held each year. Scheduling symposia is complicated and the proposal limits the number held in any year to 8. Each of the four JMIH societies will have one symposia and other proposals will be considered to balance interest and accommodate the needs of any additional societies that meet with the JMIH. Governor Steve Ross asked how the symposia will be selected. Stouder replied that the review process used by the ASIH Meetings Planning Committee will be used wherein proposals for symposia are reviewed and ranked will be expanded to include a review of all proposals. Governor Neighbors asked if our sister societies agreed with this policy. Governor Mushinsky, speaking on behalf of the Herpetologists' League and the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles, indicated that these societies had adopted the policy. Governor Burgess indicated that the American Elasmobranch Society had adopted the policy. The governors moved to accept the policy, the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Stouder then described the rationale for the second policy which is related to a process to review workshop proposals. Last minute requests for workshops are difficult to honor because they require space and equipment that are not cost neutral. To assist local hosts committees in coping with these requests, a policy was developed that mirrors the current policy for symposium proposals. The proposals would be due to on 1 March for the meeting in the following calendar year. For example, a workshop proposal for the 2007 meeting would be due on 1 March 2006. A motion to approve the proposal was made, the motion was seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Stouder then described the third policy which is one that would limit the total number of oral presentations for the annual meeting to 700. Seven hundred and thirty oral papers were scheduled this year and it strained the limits of capacity. The only way to accommodate more presentations would be to add a room which is often difficult or add a day which is not acceptable to the membership. The first 700 oral papers will be accepted; poster presentations will make up the rest of the presentation slots. A total of 1142 abstracts were received in 2005 and the committee tried to prevent overlap between oral papers and posters to emphasize the importance of poster presentations. Governor Collette asked if presenters were still restricted to giving a single paper and a single poster. Stouder replied that this was the current policy. Governor McCormick asked if there was some limit to the number of posters. Stouder indicated that the number of posters is limited by the exhibitor space and hallway space to handle the poster boards. Governor Johnson asked how the limit was determined. Stouder replied that this was decided based on this year's submissions. Governor Wassersug indicated that if we move to presenting posters, we might need to provide technology for poster presenters interested in using

such technology for dynamic presentations. The governors moved to adopt the policy, the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

President Parenti then called for approval of the Nominating Committee report.

Governor Ross noted that one of the nominees for the Board of Governors is already a governor. Once Christopher Taylor was removed from the ballot, the governors moved to approve the report and the ballot, the motion was seconded and it passed unanimously. The governors then moved acceptance of the ballots for the Robert H. Gibbs, Jr. Memorial Award Committee, the Henry S. Fitch Committee, and the Robert K. Johnson Committee, the motion was seconded, and the ballots were unanimously approved.

President Parenti then turned to discussion of the report presented by the ad hoc *Copeia* Review Committee. Governor Buth mentioned that elements of the report were discussed during the Editorial Policy Committee Meeting. Governor Buth then explained that currently Sectional Editors are elected and there was a proposal in the report that would change that structure and have sectional editors appointed by the editor. Governor Buth suggested that Sectional Editors might want to be elected because it is more prestigious to be elected rather than being appointed. Governor Schultz wanted clarification among the subjects depicted in the report; he asked how population biology differed from Ecology. Scott Schaefer replied that this was the current distribution to balance the workload. Governor Hutchinson mentioned that it would be more functional to appoint editors. President Parenti pointed out that nothing has changed but she will appoint a committee to examine an implementation plan for the most serious recommendations offered by the *Copeia* Review Committee. Governor Mayden mentioned that the ad hoc committee should contact the membership for additional input. Governor Green pointed out that the acceptance of the report from the committee did not bind us to action but provides a point for

discussion. Governor Collette moved acceptance of the report, Governor Phillips seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

President Parenti then turned to two late reports. The report from the Representative to the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections was discussed, a motion for acceptance was made, the motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

President Parenti then called on Governor Armbruster to discuss the report from the Special Publications Committee. The sales of special publications has increased but are still lagging behind expectations. We have only made a profit on Special Publication number 4 (Fishes of Bermuda). Jon also reported that Special Publication Number 5 can be downloaded as a PDF file from the NAO site. Jon described the recommendations from his committee regarding future special publications. Secretary Donnelly reported that the Executive Committee approved advertising the Allen Press Buyer's Guide in 2007. A motion was made to accept the report, the motion was seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

President Parenti then turned to items of Old Business. Parenti described the status of electronic publishing and delivery of *Copeia*. We currently produce an electronic version of *Copeia* that is available from BioOne and JSTOR. President Parenti reminded the governors that they were asked to vote on the establishment of a silo site to provide electronic access to all members of ASIH. The governors approved that motion by a vote of 40 for, 8 against, and 1 abstention. Since this motion was approved the society has been bombarded by proposals to publish *Copeia* electronically. President Parenti called on Al Savitzky to elaborate on some of these proposals. Carl Ferraris asked what will happen to old issues of BioOne. Julian

Humphries asked how many folks needed individual access. Governor Savitzky described how the silo site carries the least amount of risk for us at this point in time because it provides access to libraries.

President Parenti asked for any other items of old business, hearing none she turned to new business. She informed the governors that we have received a proposal from the Tulane Natural History Museum to sponsor the ASIH website. The Executive Committee voted unanimously to accept the proposal. Hank Bart described the elements of the proposal that includes a server, maintenance of the server, and a portion of the salary for a web developer. President Parenti called for a motion to approve the proposal which was made, the motion was seconded, and it carried unanimously.

President Parenti called for other items of new business and hearing none she called on the governors to cast their ballots for the Gibbs, Fitch, and Johnson committees. Carter Gilbert was elected to a three year term on the Robert H. Gibbs, Jr. Memorial Award Committee. H. Bradley Shaffer was elected to a three year term on the Henry S. Fitch Committee. Frank H. McCormick was elected to a three year term on the Robert K. Johnson Committee. All newly elected members will serve as chairs of these committees in 2008.

President Parenti adjourned the BOG meeting at 1836 h.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING: 10 JULY 2005

The Annual Business Meeting (ABM) was called to order at 1801 h in Room 9-10 of the Marriott Tampa Waterside Hotel.

President Parenti called for a motion to approve the minutes of the annual business meeting held on 30 May 2004 at the NCED Center in Norman, Oklahoma as published in Copeia

2004:980-985. The minutes were unanimously accepted. President Parenti called on Secretary Donnelly to read the minutes from the Board of Governor's meeting held on 6 July 2005.

President Parenti called for motion to approve the minutes of the BOG meeting; the motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously.

President Parenti then announced the appointment of chairs for four ad hoc committees: Secretary Historians David Smith and Joe Mitchell will co-chair the ad hoc Committee on the History of the Society; Matthew Parris will chair the ad hoc Committee charged with implementation of the ideas presented in the *Copeia* Review Committee report; Hank Bart is the chair of the ad hoc Web Content Advisory Committee; Dawn Wilson and Larry Page will co-chair the ad hoc committee on Declining Membership.

President Parenti then called on Adam Summers to read the serious resolution presented to his committee. The resolution for Steven J. Beaupre was passed by acclamation. Frank McCormick came forward to read two resolutions from the Conservation Committee and three resolutions from AES. Following a reading of the resolutions, Jay Savage moved, and Brian Crother seconded the motion to approve all five resolutions. The motion carried unanimously.

SUBSTANTIVE RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION FOR STEVEN J. BEAUPRE--WHEREAS Steven J. Beaupre has served three years as Sectional Editor for Physiology and Physiological Ecology, and

WHEREAS Steve put his own research projects aside while he helped our members improve their manuscripts, and

WHEREAS this dedicated service is essential for the production of *Copeia*,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the ASIH extends its thanks to Steve for his generous service as the Sectional Editor of Physiology and Physiological Ecology.

RESOLUTION FOR TURKEY CREEK DARTERS--WHEREAS the Turkey Creek Basin, Alabama contains populations of two imperiled fish species, the federally endangered Vermilion Darter (*Etheostoma chermocki*) and the imperiled Rush Darter (*E. phytophilum*), a candidate species for federal listing, and

WHEREAS both species are also protected by the State of Alabama as Priority 1 species (Highest Conservation Concern), and

WHEREAS habitat degradation has increased throughout the basin over the last decade, with the most serious aquatic habitat destruction being directly attributable to subdivision development that increased sedimentation in Turkey Creek and resulted in the decline of Vermilion Darters, and

WHEREAS the request to rezone property in the Turkey Creek Basin near Pinson, Alabama from industrial/commercial to single family homes will negatively impact two newly discovered populations of Vermilion and Rush Darters in an unnamed tributary of Turkey Creek (33°40'56"N, 86°41'35"W; T15S, R2W, Sec. 36 SE 1/4 and (33°40'7"N, 86°42'18"W; T16S, R2W, Sec. 1 SW 1/4),

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists urges the Jefferson County Planning and Zoning Commission to decline the above mentioned rezoning request and suspend any planned modifications to streams in the Turkey Creek watershed.

RESOLUTION FOR THE PALLID STURGEON.-- WHEREAS the Pallid Sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*) is a federally endangered species found in large river habitat in the Missouri and Mississippi river systems, and

WHEREAS Pallid Sturgeon from the upper Missouri River system (Recovery-Priority Management Areas 1 and 2) differ from Pallid Sturgeon in the lower Missouri River (RPMA 4), Mississippi River (RPMA 5), and Atchafalaya River (RPMA 6) in both genetic and morphological characters, and

WHEREAS the Pallid Sturgeon is being propagated at a number of hatcheries using broodstock from the upper Missouri River System (RPMA 1 and 2) and progeny from these captive rearing activities are being stocked in the lower Missouri River system (RPMA 4), and

WHEREAS Pallid Sturgeon have been observed to move from the lower Missouri River system (RPMA 4) into the Mississippi River proper (RPMA 5) where they have an opportunity to exchange genetic material with distinctive pallid sturgeon resident to this area,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists urges the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to discontinue these stocking activities and if captive rearing and stocking activities are to be continued, that the introduction of progeny into RPMA's with resident pallid sturgeon should be restricted to individuals with the same morphological and genetic characteristics as the broodstock from which they were produced.

RESOLUTION REGARDING THE CONSERVATION OF THE UNITED STATES WEST COAST SPINY DOGFISH.--WHEREAS the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Pacific Fishery Management Council are considering measures to limit participation and catch in a

developing fishery for Spiny Dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*) off Washington, Oregon, and California, and

WHEREAS the exceptionally low intrinsic rate of increase associated with Spiny Dogfish sharks is well documented and warrants a cautious management approach, and

WHEREAS management action came too late to conserve United States Atlantic Spiny Dogfish and resulted in serious depletion of record high populations and recruitment failure within just ten years, and

WHEREAS Northeast Pacific Spiny Dogfish grow even more slowly than those in the Northwest Atlantic, and

WHEREAS Spiny Dogfish stock assessment will not occur until 2007 and the status of the Puget Sound Spiny Dogfish population is already of concern, and

WHEREAS Spiny Dogfish cross state and national boundaries off the United States West Coast,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists urges the PFMC and NMFS to work cooperatively with the Pacific states and Canada to impose precautionary limits on participation and catch in West Coast Spiny Dogfish fisheries in order to conserve populations while comprehensive assessments and management programs are developed.

RESOLUTION REGARDING THE MAGNUSON-STEVENSON FISHERY MANAGEMENT

AND CONSERVATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION.--WHEREAS scientists nationwide, and the United States Commission on Ocean Policy, have found that many of our nation's fish populations are persistently overfished and in some cases, in danger of collapse, and

WHEREAS sound science is critical to successfully managing fish populations and ensuring their long-term sustainability, and

WHEREAS the scientific committees convened by the nation's eight Regional Fishery Management Councils are responsible for developing stock assessments and providing scientific advice on appropriate catch levels and identification of essential habitat for federal fish populations, and

WHEREAS the Regional Fishery Management Councils, responsible for managing federal fisheries, face intense political pressure to improve short-term economic conditions of fisheries and often downplay or ignore recommendations from their scientific committees in favor of decisions that result in overfishing, and

WHEREAS the United States Commission on Ocean Policy recommended amending the Magnuson-Stevens Act to strengthen the role of the Councils' scientific committees and to require the Councils to conform their management decisions to the scientific determinations and recommendations of these committees,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists urges the United States Congress to pass legislation reauthorizing the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act that serves to strengthen the role of science in fisheries management by requiring Councils to adhere to the advice of their scientific committees.

RESOLUTION REGARDING AMENDMENT TWO TO THE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR UNITED STATES ATLANTIC SHARKS.--WHEREAS the United States National

Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is in the process of amending its fishery management plan (FMP) for Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) including sharks, and

WHEREAS NMFS considers the large coastal shark complex to be both overfished and experiencing overfishing, while the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN; World Conservation Union) Shark Specialist Group (SSG) has proposed two Atlantic large coastal shark species, the Great Hammerhead Shark (*Sphyrna mokarran*) and Scalloped Hammerhead Shark (*Sphyrna lewini*), as endangered under the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, and

WHEREAS the IUCN SSG and Canada have both proposed the Porbeagle Shark (*Lamna nasus*) for endangered status, based on a Canadian stock assessment that reveals an 89% decline in the Northwest Atlantic population since the 1960's, and

WHEREAS exceptionally slow growing deepwater sharks have been severely depleted by fisheries in other parts of the world, and at least five populations of gulper sharks, including two species also found in the Northwest Atlantic (*Centrophorus uyato* and *Centrophorus granulosus*), are included on the IUCN Red List, and

WHEREAS the NMFS has yet to address any of these species in the ongoing process to amend the Atlantic HMS FMP, and

WHEREAS NMFS has taken action in the past to prohibit the take of 19 other shark species considered especially vulnerable and/or poorly understood in terms of exploitation risk.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists urges the National Marine Fisheries Service to include Draft Amendment 2 to the Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan options for stopping overfishing of large

coastal sharks and prohibiting directed fishing for other vulnerable and/or depleted shark species, particularly porbeagle and deepwater sharks.

PRESENTATION OF GAIGE AND RANEY AWARDS

President Parenti called on Secretary Donnelly to present the 2005 certificates for the Raney and Gaige award winners.

In 2005, the Gaige Fund Award Committee was chaired by Christopher Phillips. Kirsten Nicholson and Adam Summer served on the 2005 committee. The committee received 24 applications and made the following 10 awards of \$500 to: **Lelena Avila**, Indiana University, “Why do *Thamnophis sirtalis* eat toxic newts?”; **Nathan Calder**, University of Central Oklahoma, “Do neuropeptides mediate alternative reproductive tactics in male collared lizards?”; **Jena Chojnowski**, University of Florida, “Identifying candidate genes for temperature-dependent sex determination in the red-eared slider turtle, *Trachemys scripta*”; **Paula Kahn**, Auburn University, “Gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) relocation: Effects of stress, immunocompetence, and reproduction”; **Daria Koscinski**, University of Western Ontario, “Comparative phylogeography of Andean frogs”; **Gregory Pauly**, University of Texas, “Sexual selection and mating signal evolution in the western toad, *Bufo boreas*”; **Daniel Rabosky**, Cornell University, “Rampant parallel evolution of color pattern in a clade of Australian skinks”; **Jennifer Sheridan**, University of California San Diego, “Reproductive variation across latitude for a wide-ranging tropical species”; **Justin Touchon**, Boston University, “Does an embryo’s environment alter later tadpole interactions with predators?”; **Jessa Watters**, University of New Hampshire, “A test of optimal foraging theory in two lizard species: *Sceloporus virgatus* and

Sceloporus jarrovii.” Justin Touchon received a warm round of applause as he came forward to accept his certificate.

The Raney Fund Award Committee was chaired by Cheryl Wilga in 2005. Andrew Simons and Kent Carpenter also served on the committee in 2005. The committee received 42 applications of which 39 were evaluated. The five winners each received \$1000 to support their research as follows: **Benjamin Ciotti**, University of Delaware, “Spatial variability in growth and diet of juvenile plaice: Predator-prey linkages in dynamic nursery environments”; **Donovan German**, University of Florida, “What does it take to eat wood: Mechanisms of digestion in closely related armored catfishes (Loricariidae) representing algivory, herbivory, and xylophagy”; **Shannon Gerry**, University of Rhode Island, “A comparison of feeding morphologies and behaviors in a generalist and specialist shark species”; **Erin Reardon**, McGill University, “Effects of hypoxia on the life history and energetics of the African Cichlid *Pseudocrenilabrus multicolor*”; **Takashi Maie**, Clemson University, “Relationships of feeding morphology and performance to habitat distribution in Hawaiian stream gobies: *Awaous guamensis* and *Lentipes concolor*.”

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President Parenti then moved to the election of ASIH officers, including the President Elect, two new sectional editors, new members of the Board of Governors (Class of 2010), the Nominating Committee Chair, and members of the Nominating Committee. The slate of nominees as provided by the Nominating Committee and the BOG are posted on the website. Nominations from the floor were invited and Michael E. Douglas, F. Douglas Martin, and Jacqueline F. Webb were added to the ballot (Board of Governors - Ichthyology). All candidates

nominated from the floor provided a signed statement indicating they would serve if elected. A motion was made to close nominations, the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Kristen Bell, Alessandro Catenazzi, Ralph Saporito, Matthew Warren, James Watling, and Steven Whitfield distributed and tallied the ballots.

Results of the elections were announced at the banquet and are listed here (an asterisk [*] denotes re-election of an incumbent officer): President-Elect: Richard L. Mayden; Secretary: Maureen A. Donnelly*; Treasurer: Margaret A. Neighbors*; Editor: Scott A. Schaefer*; Ecology and Ethology Editor: Stanley F. Fox*; Ecology and Ethology Editor: Christopher M. Taylor*; General Ichthyology Editor: Donald G. Buth*; General Ichthyology Editor: Jonathan W. Armbruster*; General Herpetology Editor: Michael J. Lannoo*; General Herpetology Editor: Tod W. Reeder*; Genetics, Development and Morphology Editor: Robert M. Wood*; Genetics, Development and Morphology Editor: Joseph M. Quattro*; Physiology and Physiological Ecology Editor: Robert Mason; Physiology and Physiological Ecology Editor: Eric Schultz; Subject Index Editor: Frances Cashner*; Taxonomic Index Editor: Jay W. Orr*; Book Review Editor Ichthyology: Marlis R. Douglas*; Book Review Editor Herpetology: Kentwood D. Wells*; Board of Governors Class of 2010 Herpetology: Richard E. Glor, Craig Guyer, Kirsten E. Nicholson, Melissa A. Pilgrim, Jennifer B. Pramuk; Board of Governors Class of 2010 Ichthyology: Henry L. Bart, Michael E. Douglas, Bernard R. Kuhajda, Joseph S. Nelson, and Mark S. Peterson. The chair of the Nominating Committee is Maureen Kearney, and members of the nominating committee are: Karen R. Lips, Larry M. Page, and Deanna J. Stouder.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

President Parenti called on Al Savitzky to describe old business that deals with the electronic access to *Copeia*. Savitzky described that the only way institutions can get *Copeia* electronically is through BioOne. Al mentioned that EXEC wanted to provide all of our members individual access and BioOne would do it for members but not for institutions. Allen Press has a silo site for *Copeia* that allows AP to deliver *Copeia* electronically to several institutions. The cost is approximately \$15,000/year. Carl Ferraris asked if institutions will get both print and electronic versions for free. Al mentioned that this year it is a single charge for electronic and print but next year, we will charge extra for electronic and print. Carl then said we will be paying \$15,000/year for the silo site and he wondered if we make money would we lower costs? Al said that this will all be reconsidered 2 or 3 years out.

President Parenti then called for other items for old business, hearing none, she called on Hank Bart to come forward to describe the move of the website from Allen Press to Tulane. Hank described how the Tulane Natural History Museum recently got a dedicated T1 line and they offered to sponsor our website. For the price of a server, a one-time upfront cost of \$5000, and a monthly charge of \$296 (to cover future changes to the server, and part of the salary of a web developer, and the web development software), Tulane could host our website. The website will be redesigned, it will be installed on a dedicated ASIH file server. The web developer will redesign and add other functionalities. Hank pointed out that he will work closely with the web content committee to continually improve the ASIH website. Hank is certain we will soon have a website we are proud of and we can get it out to the world. Eric Schultz thanked Hank for his willingness to do this but voiced concerns over security. Hank responded that they currently deal with security issues and Nelson Rios is in charge of these functions at Tulane. Tulane hosts a large portal, they are collaborators on FishNet2, and they are part of a georeferencing

consortium. Hank feels his team is knowledgeable enough to handle security. Bruce Collette asked how the costs compare with what we pay Allen Press. Hank said that he is open to suggestions for the website and asked interested persons to contact him. There will be a full-time web developer that will be supported on soft money and the web developers first project will be to move the site. Doug Martin said we are going to move the domain name and Margaret Neighbors controls the domain name. Barbara Savitzky asked if we would face \$5000 cost every four years and Hank explained that the server cost was a one-time cost. Brian Crother thanked Hank and the audience applauded.

President Parenti called for additional new business. Hearing none, Lynne called on Bob Cashner to describe future meetings. The city of cafe au lait and beignets, and the city that says, 'When in New Orleans, please pretend you are in Tampa'. The co-hosting institutions are University of New Orleans, Tulane University with strong support from other Louisiana institutions including Southeastern Louisiana University. The 2006 meeting will be held 12-17 July and although Phil warned you not to walk to Ybor City, you can take a cab across Canal Street to the French Quarter. There are new services, an expanded trolley line service to the zoo and museums. There are 134 bistros near the meeting venue. The audience applauded.

President Parenti then called on Larry Page to discuss the LINNE initiative. Larry described two workshops held in 2003 at the University of Florida and the New York Botanical Garden which resulted in the new initiative called LINNE. Larry informed the membership that a proposal has been submitted to NSF which includes a series of workshops. There will be several workshops on taxonomy and LINNE is asking for money to support biological collections. Larry urged interested parties need to get behind this new initiative. LINNE is

comprable to NEON, the national observatory network, Page believes that LINNE is ahead of NEON in terms of organization.

President Parenti then called for other announcements. Jay Savage Savage moved adjournment which was seconded by Brian Crother. The meeting adjourned at 1920 h.

ANNUAL BANQUET: 11 JULY 2005

Emcee Larry Page called the banquet to order and informed the assembled body that the banquet was the final event of the Joint Meeting of the American Elasmobranch Society, the Herpetologists' League, and the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles, and the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists. Larry proposed a toast to the attendees of the joint meetings for doing important research and belonging to important societies. Larry then told a joke about a man with a gator, a woman, and a bar. He then introduced ASIH representatives seated at the head table: President Lynne Parenti and her partner Tina Ramoy, Secretary Maureen A. Donnelly, Treasurer: Margaret Neighbors, Herpetologists' League President: Henry Mushinsky and his wife Pat Yarnot, American Elasmobranch Society President Jeff Carrier and his wife Carol, Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles President Robin Andrews and SSAR Secretary Marion Preest.

Larry then described the meeting statistics for 2005: There were a total of 1,361 attendees and over half of these were students (636 students). Sixty-seven accompanying persons, 5 members of the Press, and 19 exhibitors also attended the meeting. Larry read the list of represented countries: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, England, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Japan,

Mexico, New Zealand, PR China, Portugal, R.O.C. , Scotland UK, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan/Taiwan R.O.C., United Kingdom, United States, and Venezuela.

Larry then asked all past-presidents of AES, HL, SSAR, and ASIH to stand and be recognized. The audience applauded as the past leaders of the societies were acknowledged.

The committee on Graduate Student Participation raised \$3910 during the book raffle, and the ASIH will provide a match of \$2000 to bolster the travel award fund.

Larry Page called on the presidents of AES and SSAR presented their awards and then Henry Mushinsky came forward as the President of the Herpetologists' League. Henry pointed out that we had a tornado last year, a hurricane this year, and he called on Bob Cashner to meet the challenge in 2006. Henry announced the results of the Jaeger student competition. Larry Page then called on Mo Donnelly to present the certificates of appreciation. Mo presented a certificate to Steve Beaupre in appreciation for his years of service as the Physiology and Physiological Ecology Editor and to Pat Gregory for his year of service as ASIH President.

PRESENTATION OF STOYE AND STORER AWARDS

Larry then called the Chair of the Student Awards Committee, Michael Ghedotti to the podium to present the 2005 Stoye and Storer Award winners. Mike, Chair of the 2005 Student Awards Committee and President-Elect Frost brought together 24 judges to work with them during the 2005 competitions. Each Stoye/Storer winner receives a cash award of \$250, a certificate, and all existing back issues. Kevin Tang chaired the subcommittee for the Stoye Award for Conservation. Tomas Near and Dawn Wilson served on the committee. **Tanya Darden**, University of Southern Mississippi won the Stoye Award in Conservation for her talk entitled "Dispersal in Enneacanthini sunfishes: A test of wetland regulatory assumptions".

Andrew Kinziger chaired the Stoye Ecology and Ethology subcommittee that included Pablo Delis, Mark Pyron, Christopher Shiel and John Switzer served as judges with Andrew. **M. Rockwell Parker**, Oregon State University, won the Stoye Award in Ecology and Ethology for his talk entitled “Revealing greater complexity in rattlesnake chemical ecology: Change is in the air.” Michael Ghedotti chaired the General Ichthyology Subcommittee; Jason Knouft, Kernard Kuhajda, and Nathan Lovejoy served as judges. **Rebecca Blanton**, Tulane University, won the Stoye Award in General Ichthyology for her talk entitled “The geographic distribution of genetic diversity in the *Etheostoma flabellarespecies* complex (Percidae, *Catonotus*) from the lower Atlantic Slope River drainages of North and South Carolina.” Jacqueline F. Webb chaired the Genetics, Morphology, and Development subcommittee. Jim Bogart, David Cundall and Paula Mabee served as judges for the subcommittee and **Lisa Lobel**, University of Massachusetts, won the Stoye Award for Genetics, Development, and Morphology for her talk “Field studies evaluation of developmental and reproductive effects of chemical exposure in the coral reef fish, *Abudefduf sordidus* (Pomacentridae).” Steve Beaupre was the chair of the Physiology and Physiological Ecology subcommittee; Steve Kaijura and Frederick Zaidan served as judges. **Rita Mehta**, University of Tennessee, won the Stoye Award in Physiology and Physiological Ecology for her talk entitled “Comparative epaxial motor patterns in snakes during constriction.” Carol Spencer served as the chair of the subcommittee for the Storer Award in Herpetology; Darrel Frost and Maureen Donnelly served as judges. **Krista Larson**, Purdue University, won the Storer Award in Herpetology for her poster entitled “Call complexity in northern leopard frogs: Are males advertising beauty or brawn?” Nancy Holcroft Benson served as the chair of the subcommittee for the Storer Award in Ichthyology. Hank Bart and Eric Hilton served as judges; **Kurtis Gray**, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, won the Storer Award in

Ichthyology for his poster entitled “Population genetic structure of the marlinsucker, *Remora osteochir* (Perciformes: Echeneidae) inferred from mitochondrial control (D-loop) DNA sequence analysis.”

Larry then called on Mo Donnelly to present the Robert K. Johnson Award, Stan Fox to present the Henry S. Fitch Award, and Joe Nelson to present the Robert H. Gibbs Award.

PRESENTATION OF THE ROBERT K. JOHNSON AWARD

The Robert K. Johnson Award was formalized by the ASIH membership during the 2004 meeting in Norman, Oklahoma. Bob was a very dedicated ASIH member and devoted much of his time to improving the quality of our professional lives through his service to ASIH. Bob served the ASIH as the editor of our journal *Copeia*, as the chair of the Long Range Planning and Policy Committee, and as Secretary. His legacy is large. Bob’s development of the policy manual has improved the quality of life for all those volunteers who govern the society. Constitutional changes formalized the Robert K. Johnson Committee that is charged with the review of nominations. The Johnson Committee consists of three members with three year terms. Each elected member serves as chair during their last year. Each year a replacement member is elected to serve on the committee by the Board of Governors.

The award is given annually and the first Robert K. Johnson Award was presented to Clark Hubbs in 2004. In even years the award is given to a deserving ichthyologist and in odd years, the award is given to a deserving herpetologist.

This year’s winner, like our winner in 2004, has a long, distinguished record of service to the ASIH. The winner has served as a reviewer for our journal *Copeia*, has reviewed books for *Copeia*, has served on the Editorial Board, and served a three-year term as General Herpetology

Editor. This year's winner served on the nominating committee, served 10 years on the time and place committee, and served a five year term on the Environmental Quality Committee. This year's winner attended several ASIH meetings, gave contributed papers, participated in ASIH symposia, and co-hosted an annual meeting. Our winner has been an active participant in our annual meetings which I believe are the best among those sponsored by academic societies. This year's winner greatly contributes to the spirit of what makes the joint meeting a great experience, and I personally was made to feel like a true member of ASIH because of my interactions at annual meetings with the 2005 winner. This year's winner has served several stints as session moderator, as a Stoye judge, and was honored by an ASIH-sponsored symposium in 1997.

The 2005 winner of the Robert K. Johnson award not only served the ASIH, the winner served her department, her university, and several other professional societies. Over 100 seminars and popular lectures were presented to a variety of professional and civic groups during the winner's academic career, and countless lives were touched in the process.

The winner served several years on the ASIH Board of Governors, served as the President, and most importantly served five years as the Historian. Our professional lives are better because of the efforts she put forth capturing the stories of our members. The 2005 winner of the Robert K. Johnson award is Margaret McBride Stewart.

PRESENTATION OF THE HENRY S. FITCH AWARD

First of all, I would like to thank the other members of the Henry S. Fitch Award Committee: Al Savitsky and Julian Lee. It was a pleasure to work with them, I wish Al the best of luck as he serves as the chairperson of the committee for next year.

The Henry S. Fitch Award for Excellence in Herpetology from the ASIH is awarded to an individual for long-term excellence in the study of amphibian and/or reptile biology, based principally on the quality of the awardee's research, with consideration given to educational and service impacts of the individual's career in the field of herpetology. It honors individuals who in a loose way carry on the powerful contribution that Henry Fitch made to our field, especially in the field of natural history, taken in the broad sense.

The Henry S. Fitch Award is a relatively new award for ASIH; we have only 6 past recipients since the first in 1999. They are: A. Stanley Rand, David B. Wake, Jay M. Savage, Robert F. Inger, Richard Shine, and Harry W. Greene.

The 2005 winner of the Henry S. Fitch Award for Excellence in Herpetology is a past-President of ASIH and has made her career as an Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Full Professor, and now Professor Emeritus at the State University of New York at Albany. Her most famous research was a long string of herpetological field studies conducted in Puerto Rico. Ingenious, clever, careful studies of a small, abundant, vociferous anuran. There are but two words that sum up her long and industrious career: [Co-quí whistle]. This distinguished herpetologist published a long string of papers not just in *Copeia*, *Herpetologica*, and *Journal of Herpetology*, but also in *Science*, *Oecologia*, *Ecology*, *Animal Behavior*, *Physiological Zoology*, and many others. This string of papers on the biology of *Eleutherodactylus coqui* is legendary and a powerful contribution to herpetology, but she has also published widely on other topics.

This 2005 Fitch Award recipient has been extremely active in professional societies and outreach activities. She has been past president of ASIH and also SSAR and served on many of their committees, board of governors, editorial positions, etcetera. She has been ASIH historian

since 1999 and instituted and authored the popular (I hope not just among the old codgers) *Historical Perspectives in Copeia*.

In closing just let me say that this esteemed herpetologist served as a role model for young women with a passion and desire for field biology, for field herpetology--and this in a time when that was not such an easy thing to be. She has been a role model and mentor for many sitting in this room today. Times have changed--look around you--and this changed environment of herpetology is due in large part to this 2005 award winner and those like her.

For this lifetime commitment to excellence in herpetology in the tradition of Henry Fitch, ASIH makes the 2005 Henry S. Fitch award to Margaret "Meg" Stewart.

PRESENTATION OF THE ROBERT H. GIBBS AWARD

It is a pleasure for me to present this year's award to an outstanding ichthyologist. Ichthyology is alive and well as we have seen with the wonderful talks at this meeting. These are very exciting times.

Our thanks to all those who have submitted nominations for the Gibbs award.

The Robert H. Gibbs, Jr. Memorial Award for Excellence in Systematic Ichthyology is presented by the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (ASIH) to a citizen of a Western Hemisphere nation (the Americas) for "an outstanding body of published work in systematic ichthyology". The award is offered annually and consists of a plaque and a cash award [and this year—a book!].

The award is in memory of Bob Gibbs (1929-1988), a truly wonderful person. I encourage all young members to read Bob's obituary in *Copeia* for 1989 written by Vic Springer and Bruce Collette.

The first winner of the Gibbs Award was Bruce B. Collette in 1989—and there have to date been a total of 16 winners.

This year's award committee consisted of Larry Page, myself, and David Greenfield and was ably chaired by Larry Page. Larry is this year's Master of Ceremonies, so to bring some diversity to the program I will present the award (thanks Larry for this privilege)! It is exciting to win this prestigious award and also to present it!

This year's winner had educational training in Indiana, Michigan, California, & Massachusetts (Harvard).

Those familiar with the history of collection builders will know these states as home to many outstanding ichthyologists!

This year's winner [he or she—you do not yet know their sex!] has worked on many diverse fish taxa and been involved with many international expeditions. Although the winner is truly a person of honor & integrity, [a good ambassador for the US—I have witnessed this first hand—of course this is not relevant to the award & I digress!] the winner seems to have shown a particular, peculiar, AND perverse interest in male sexual parasites.

The winner is a near neighbor of myself, hailing from Seattle Washington—please join me in congratulating Dr Ted (Theodore) W. Pietsch.

Congratulations Ted—I know what a thrill it is to have this award bestowed on you by your peers.

Ted came forward and said “I'm not worthy” and then expressed his gratitude for the special honor.

Larry then called on Mo Donnelly to announce the results of the election which were reported earlier in the summary. Larry then called on Adam Summers to come forward and read the Banquet Resolutions.

BANQUET RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION FOR THE LOCAL HOSTS.--WHEREAS the Tampa meeting was a great success, and

WHEREAS the local color was interesting, tasty, and, in Ybor City even titillating,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the society heartily and sincerely thanks Phil Motta and Henry Mushinsky for their hard work as local committee chairs.

RESOLUTION ON MATURATION.--WHEREAS 20 years ago Henry Mushinsky, then a callow assistant professor hosted a meeting of SSAR and HL in Tampa, and

WHEREAS the information packet for that meeting contained a list, complete with extensive reviews, of the local topless bars,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the society recognizes Henry for having matured and mellowed into a politically correct, tactful, and tasteful full professor.

RESOLUTION OF GRATITUDE.-- WHEREAS the society recognizes that a substantial portion, some would say all, of the work associated with the meeting was accomplished by the many students associated with the Motta, McCoy and Mushinsky labs, and

WHEREAS these students put their own research efforts aside while they helped run the meeting,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the society recognizes and thanks them for their efforts.

RESOLUTION ON WEATHER.-- WHEREAS, the timing of the Joint Meetings of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists coincides with the tropical hurricane season, and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Dennis caused some anxious moments for participants at this year's meeting, altering plans for yet another outdoor picnic, preventing most participants from venturing from the meeting hotel for two full days, overwhelming hotel's restaurants and bars at the hotel, and stranding those brave enough to dine elsewhere, but causing no harm to anyone, and

WHEREAS, Floridians have had to deal with far too many Hurricanes in the past few years, with many people losing their life and homes or were otherwise massively inconvenienced, and

WHEREAS, the Florida Keys and Panhandle had to endure the wrath of Hurricane Dennis,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that participants at the Joint Meetings of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists send well wishes to Floridians affected by Hurricane Dennis and previous hurricanes, and hopes that the state will be spared from future hurricanes.

RESOLUTION FOR CLARK HUBBS.--WHEREAS Clark Hubbs, Past-President of ASIH and long term managing editor of *Copeia* was unable to our annual meeting for health reasons, and

WHEREAS no one at this meeting could remember, or was indeed alive, the last time Clark missed an ASIH meeting, and

WHEREAS it is simply not the same without him,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we wish Clark Hubbs a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him at an annual meeting next year in New Orleans.

RESOLUTION ON STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN JMIH.--WHEREAS these meetings are greatly enhanced, and even defined by the contributions of our student members, and

WHEREAS student members made up more than 50% of our total attendance, and

WHEREAS students rather than professors brought the vast majority of the captured herps to the hotel bar,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the society thanks the students for their presence and reminds them to attend business meeting and volunteer their service to the society.

RESOLUTION ON THE VALUE OF GLOBALIZATION.-- WHEREAS many foreign members have attended this meeting, and

WHEREAS these members endure greater expenses, and border crossing indignities, and

WHEREAS on their return they are likely to encounter further border related indignities, in the case of herpetologists perhaps not even stopping short of cavity searches, and

WHEREAS the meeting is greatly enhanced by their participation, and perspectives

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we express our heartfelt gratitude for your unfailing attendance at these meetings.

RESOLUTION ON WEATHER II.-- WHEREAS last year in Oklahoma the picnic was moved indoors on account of a tornado, and

WHEREAS this years picnic was moved indoors on account of a hurricane, and

WHEREAS God, if she exists, has shown either poor aim or a desire to scare the bejabbers out of us, and

WHEREAS in Tampa the temperature was 90 degrees, the humidity 90% and the winds 90 MPH,.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that next year the annual meeting will be held in someplace cool, calm, dry, safe, quiet, sober, and grey...like New Orleans in hurricane season!

To conclude the banquet, Larry Page called Bob Cashner to the podium. Bob invited all of us to New Orleans for 2006. We look forward to seeing you there.

Repectfully submitted,

Maureen A. Donnelly

ASIH Secretary