

Notes: IUSSI-NAS Business Meeting held on November 11, 2024

Meeting Overview

- **Facilitator:** James Nieh.
 - **Agenda:**
 - Award Announcements.
 - Committee Reports (Treasurer, Secretary, DEI Committee).
 - Fundraising Initiatives.
 - Membership Updates.
 - Constitutional Amendments.
 - Student Travel Support Proposal.
 - Nominations for Upcoming Elections.
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Key Highlights

Award Announcements

1. **Mary Jane West Eberhart Best Paper Award:**
 - Winner: Taylor Hart (Rockefeller University, Daniel Kronauer Lab).
 - Research: Transgenic ants mapping glomeruli response to alarm pheromones.
 2. **Robert and Louise B. Jeanne's Social Wasps Research Grant:**
 - Winner: Garrett Behrend (University of Missouri, Sarah Miller Lab).
 - Focus: Diet and parasitism in paper wasps across urban gradients.
 3. **Charles Michener Bee Research Grant:**
 - Winner: Morgan Moore (Iowa State, Amy Toth Lab).
 - Project: Morphological markers of disease in wild bumblebee populations.
 4. **William L. and Ruth B. Nutting Termite Research Grant:**
 - Winner: Chan Lau (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign).
 - Study: Associative learning in *Reticulitermes flavipes* termites.
 5. **George Eickort Student Research Award:**
 - Winner: Edward Che (University of Illinois, Adam Dolezal Lab).
 - Work: Stressor impacts on honeybee physiology across life stages.
 6. **Tschinkel Ant Natural History Research Grant:**
 - Winner/Presenter: Karen Robles Lopez (University of Southern Mississippi).
 - Topic: Non-predatory relationships between army ants and other species.
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Committee Updates

Treasurer's Report

- **Budget Overview:**
 - Total Expenses: ~\$12,000 for student awards.
 - Investment Account: \$466,000 with strong returns.
 - Recommendation: Hold investments and use liquid cash for immediate expenses.
- **Membership and Donations:**

- Encouragement for members to renew to ensure financial stability.
- Transition to JointIt platform for streamlined tracking.

Secretary's Report

- **Membership Trends:**
 - Membership dropped by 100 members from 2023 to 2024.
 - Goal: Increase active memberships via streamlined renewal systems.
- **JointIt Platform:**
 - New system to consolidate PayPal and Google Forms.
 - Features: Auto-renewal, directory updates, and donation tracking.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEI) Committee

- **Initiatives:**
 - Professional development workshops every 3-4 months.
 - Outreach Fund Advisory Board:
 - Seeking members with fundraising expertise.
 - Goal: Support travel and outreach activities.
 - Turner-Collins Outreach Program:
 - Focus: Promoting biology among African-American and Native American communities.
 - Feedback requested by November 20.

Fundraising and Student Travel Support

- **Travel Grant Campaign:**
 - Goal: Raise \$12,000 to support student attendance at international meetings.
 - Mechanism: Zappy donation platform (fee-free).
 - Estimated cost per student: \$3,000.
 - QR code distributed for contributions.

Constitutional Amendments

- **Approved Changes:**
 - Extended terms for Treasurer and Secretary to three years.
 - Implemented a six-week feedback period for electronic voting.
 - Quorum set at 25% for elections.
 - Established protocols for officer transitions.

Upcoming Elections

- **Positions:**
 - President-Elect.
 - Representatives for various committees.
 - Call for self-nominations.
- **Next President:**
 - Anna Dornhaus (term begins January 1, 2025).

Action Items

1. **Membership:**
 - Renew memberships and encourage peers to join.
 - Leverage the JoinIt platform for streamlined processes.
 2. **Student Awards:**
 - Promote applications for underutilized awards.
 - Encourage nominations for the LaFage Student Award.
 3. **Outreach:**
 - Join DEI advisory board or participate in upcoming initiatives.
 - Provide feedback on the Turner-Collins Outreach Program.
 4. **Fundraising:**
 - Share the travel grant campaign widely.
 - Explore additional avenues for donations.
 5. **Elections:**
 - Submit nominations promptly.
 - Encourage diverse participation in leadership roles.
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Closing Remarks

- Facilitator emphasized the importance of sustaining membership and increasing involvement in society initiatives. Attendees were encouraged to reach out with suggestions for enhancing society activities. Anna Dornhaus reiterated goals for her term as incoming president, focusing on member needs and resource access.
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Action Items

Membership

- Renew memberships.
- Encourage peers and colleagues to join, emphasizing the benefits of membership.
- Utilize the new JoinIt platform for streamlined renewals, directory updates, and donations.

Student Awards

- Promote applications for underutilized awards, such as the LaFage Student Award.
- Faculty members should encourage students to apply for multiple awards when applicable.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

- Join the DEI Advisory Board, particularly if you have fundraising experience.
- Provide feedback on the Turner-Collins Outreach Program by November 20.
- Participate in or propose ideas for the virtual professional development workshop series.

Fundraising

- Share the travel grant campaign widely using social media and personal networks.
- Encourage donations via the Zappy platform, ensuring all contributions go directly to the fund.

- Explore outreach to international sections to boost funding and participation.

Elections

- Submit self-nominations or nominate colleagues for upcoming elections.
- Encourage diverse participation, especially for roles on committees and in leadership.

General Outreach and Communication

- Share information about open positions and awards with relevant networks.
- Utilize IUSSI resources such as the website to post or view PhD, faculty, and other job opportunities.

Ongoing Engagement

- Contribute ideas for the 2024 DEI initiatives or society-wide priorities.
- Encourage members to use JointIt's auto-renewal feature for long-term membership stability.