

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MAMMALOGISTS CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

Adopted 27 June 2009

Loyalty to the mission of the American Society of Mammalogists (ASM) is the essence of our work, whether volunteer or paid. When conflicts of interest arise (actual, potential, or perceived), this loyalty shall not be compromised. No individual may use his or her position in the Society for personal gain or to benefit another at the expense of the Society, its mission, its reputation, or the members it serves.

Disclosure is fundamental to understanding and dealing with potential conflicts of interest. Disclosure provides an opportunity to examine a proposed activity to determine whether an actual or potential conflict of interest may exist and if so, to resolve it in a manner that is mutually satisfactory to the Society and its membership.

Applications for Grants and Fellowships

An application may be received for review that could present a conflict of interest. Such a conflict could arise if the reviewer is an adviser of the applicant, serving on the applicant's graduate committee, has some other involvement with the applicant's institution, or is in a project related to the application. Through prior association, the reviewer may have gained knowledge of the applicant that would preclude objective review of an application. Past relationships or common research interests do not necessarily disqualify a reviewer so long as the circumstances of the association and interests are made known to the Committee Chair who will make the final decision on whether a conflict of interest exists or not.

A reviewer may serve, even if her/his student or institution is an applicant in the same application pool as long as the reviewer does not review any application submitted by her/his institution or any application in which her/his student(s) is (are) involved. However, if a reviewer believes that these or any other existing circumstances compromise objectivity, the Committee Chair must be notified.

It is not appropriate for a reviewer to make specific use of confidential information derived from individual applications that are read while serving as an ASM reviewer. In addition, pending applications are confidential. Accordingly, a reviewer must obtain approval before sharing any proposal information with anyone, whether for the purpose of obtaining expert advice on technical aspects of an application or for any reason.

Gifts, Favors, Entertainment, Dispensations, and Loans

Board members, Trustees, Committee Chairs, Editors, and other Members must not accept or offer gifts, favors, business entertainment, loans, or other dispensations or things of more than a nominal or modest value given to them in connection with their duties for the ASM where retention of such would impair their judgment or otherwise influence their decisions, or give the appearance of the same. Items of a nominal or modest value not to exceed \$100 and isolated invitations to benefits, lunches and dinners are acceptable. Any item received exceeding \$100 should be disclosed to the Board.

Outside Activity

Society members should conduct themselves so that their activities do not reflect adversely on the reputation or integrity of the Society. If a Society member could appear to be acting in an official capacity as a Member of the Society, disclosure to the Board is recommended to avoid possible misrepresentation.

Political Activity and Public Issues

While the Society encourages all members to vote and be active in the political process, it is the Society's policy not to contribute any funds, assets, or services to any political party, committee, organization, or candidate for any office at any level in any country.

Confidentiality

A Board member shall not use information he or she receives during Board service if use of such information could be financially or otherwise detrimental to the Society in any way. Any actions that might impair the reputation of the Society must also be avoided.

Board members, Trustees, Committee Chairs, and Editors are required to maintain the confidentiality of information entrusted to them by their relationship with the American Society of Mammalogists and its vendors, unless disclosure is appropriately authorized.