

Human Diversity Committee

Committee Members: L. J. Dizney, C. M. T. Himes, H. E. Hoekstra, D. M. Kaufman (Chair), D. W. Kaufman, M. Knapp, D. Martinez, K. McBee, D. A. Parish, O. R. W. Pergams, K. C. Rowe, J. A. Salazar-Bravo, V. Turner, C. K. Welch

Mission:

The purpose of the Human Diversity Committee is to ensure active participation in the ASM by all members, regardless of gender, race, ethnic background, age, physical disabilities, or sexual preference. Further, we remind all ASM members that our ombudspersons (R. W. Thorington and F. A. Smith) are available to listen, mediate, or advise on issues regarding discrimination, inappropriate conduct, or other unprofessional behaviors (see *Journal of Mammalogy* 78:268 [1997]).

Information Items:

(1) The Human Diversity Committee (HDC) continues in its efforts to promote and support diversity in all facets of the ASM. Accordingly, we have worked to assemble a series of websites that will form a clearinghouse, which will be presented as a web page served from the ASM website. These sites are directed toward providing information, data, and approaches to address the value, support, recruitment, and retention of human diversity in science (especially Mammalogy). Further, these sites are aimed at addressing all facets of human diversity (particularly any impediments to full participation in ASM or science, which may include gender, race, ethnic background, age, physical disability, or sexual preference). We hope to have this clearinghouse in operation yet this summer.

(2) We continue to deliberate the format and potential topic(s) for a diversity-promoting activity for the future and hope to sponsor such an activity at the 2008 Annual Meeting. ASM members and meeting attendees who have provided suggestions are welcome to speak with (or contact by email) any of the above committee members or Chair of the HDC.

(3) We continue to examine the role of our committee. The HDC always seeks feedback from current members and meeting attendees related to the general goals of the committee, potential activities, and possible obstacles to full participation in the ASM. In addition to further widening the potential participation of current and future members, we also seek to retain the diversity already achieved within the ASM and strive to maintain gains made, such as working to ensure equal-gender participation.

(4) Last year, we nearly doubled the size of this committee, but we still are interested in involving additional ASM members who are committed to the mission of the committee and interested in participating in the HDC. Anyone so interested should contact the Chair. Finally, for his input and many years of service, we would like to thank Brock R. McMillan, who rotated off of the committee in 2005.

Action Items: None

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn M. Kaufman, Chair
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