

## ***ad hoc* African Graduate Student Fund Committee**

**Committee Members:** B. Buttler, T. Demos, A. Ferguson, J. Goheen (Chair), L. Helgen, A. Hodge, A. Linzey, M. McDonough, P. Moehlman, R. Norris, B. Patterson, R. Rose, D. Schlitter, P. Webala.

### **Mission:**

The African Graduate Student Research Fund Committee grants awards to African nationals pursuing graduate degrees, in the form of \$1,500 grants and an online sponsored membership to the ASM. Eligible students must be citizens of African countries and currently enrolled in a graduate program.

### **Information Items:**

(1) The African Graduate Student Research Fund Committee is an *ad hoc* committee formed in 2013. Currently, thirteen members comprise the Committee. We are particularly interested in additional members who are from African institutions, and additional members who are fluent in French. Please contact Jake Goheen if you are interested in serving on this Committee.

(2) In 2012, the Committee began collecting contributions towards an endowment fund that would support this program in perpetuity. The balance of this fund stood at roughly \$32,000 as of March 2016. This represents a more than 500% increase in size since 2012; however, we are still roughly \$6,000 short of the amount needed to fund a single \$1500 award annually on interest income. ASM members interested in contributing to this fund should earmark their donations to ASM with the notation "African Graduate Student Research Fund."

(3) Through the generosity of Alicia Linzey, Art Hulse, and Bob Rose, the Committee's spending fund received \$3000 to make two awards in 2016, and the Committee's endowment is now sufficient to award one award permanently based on an average rate of return. We received 22 applications for an African Graduate Student Research Fund grant; applications were submitted from citizens of 10 African countries. This is the same number of proposals we received in 2015. The budget for the African Graduate Student Research Fund was set at \$3000 for 2016; we awarded 2 grants of \$1500 in 2016.

(4) In 2016, we opened a Go Fund Me account, which has helped with ca \$2000 in fundraising.

(5) The recipients of the 2016 African Graduate Student Research Fund grants will be announced at the Annual Meeting in Minneapolis.

Both awardees will receive a grant for \$1500 and a 3-year online sponsored membership to the American Society of Mammalogists.

**Action Items:** None.

**Respectfully submitted,**

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