

International Relations Committee

Committee Members: P. Busher, I. Castro-Arellano, M. R. Gannon, S. Gardner, C. Himes, M. E. Hopton, C. Iudica (Chair), E. P. Lessa, W. Z. Lidicker, Jr., A. V. Linzey, R. K. Rose, K. Rowe, L. Ruedas, J. A. Salazar-Bravo, D. A. Schlitter, A. T. Smith, R. Stevens, J. Mary Taylor, S. Vignieri, and S. Weyandt.

Mission:

The Board of Directors established the International Relations Committee in 1960 to maintain and enhance communication between members of the Society and mammalogists outside North America. The mission of this committee is to advance the field of mammalogy by encouraging and facilitating international collaboration among members of the ASM and mammalogists from other countries.

Information Items:

(1) The Sponsored Membership Program: In collaboration with the Membership Committee, a number of sponsored memberships and subscriptions have been awarded since this program started. The Committee has continued to receive nominations and requests, and has worked towards expanding the geographical distribution of these memberships. The Committee maintains a waiting list of potential recipients, again in collaboration with the Membership Committee. Currently we have created a subcommittee charged with the task of developing a set of guidelines to manage the program. This program started under the visionary guidance of Enrique Lessa, gracias Enrique!

(2) The Buddy System: The Committee has worked in using a "buddy system" to help international authors prepare their manuscripts for submission to the *Journal of Mammalogy*. An ad hoc subcommittee for this program is working in finding better ways to advertise this service and to coordinate efforts.

(3) Links to Mammal Societies of the World: Committee members have continued to serve as links with mammal societies throughout the world, providing information on mammal meetings to appear in the *Journal of Mammalogy* and other international issues as well. A specific subcommittee had recently updated a list of international mammal societies and their current web pages and will post it in our website soon. This is an on-going task.

(4) International Meetings and the newly created International Federation of Mammalogists (IFM): Bill Lidicker (newly elected president of the IFM) as a member of the IRC keep us current on the next international mammal meetings (IMC 10: 2009 and ASM/AMS: 2011).

(5) Rotating Off members: The Committee has initiated gradual changes in its membership, to allow the participation of additional members of the society in our

activities. Every member at the IRC must be part of any of our four basic “task forces”. In addition, we welcome new initiatives as new task forces may develop in the future. At our 87th annual meeting, I will provide to the ASM president the most current list of members of the IRC.

(6) The Chair would like to thank the support of all Committee members, especially the continuing efforts of Mike Gannon and Serena Reeder to ensure the success of the sponsored membership program, the solid work of Barbara Blake to ensure the continuation of the “buddy system”, the leadership of Ivan Castro—Arellano maintaining a current list of all links to mammal societies of the world, and the determination of Bill Lidicker, who wears many hats and is always available to wear an extra one. Thanks to all!

Action Items: None

Respectfully submitted,
Carlos A. Iudica, Chair
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