

Minutes from the Second Meeting of the Animal Geography Specialty Group
Thursday, April 15th, 2010, Washington, DC

Present: 9 attendees (Board Members present: Monica Ogra, Julie Urbanik, Stella Cappocia, Shari Adams, Jennifer Blecha)

The meeting began at 8pm.

1. Monica Ogra called the meeting to order and initiated a round of personal introductions. She also provided comments on the successful AnGSG 'Teaching Roundtable' session that was held on Wednesday morning. In addition, Monica pointed out that in our first official year as a specialty group, we met our major goals for the year. We now have an official website (<http://www.animalgeography.org>), an official listserv (angsg@utlists.utexas.edu), our first newsletter (on the website), an animal geography page on Facebook, and also sponsored 7 sessions at the DC AAG meeting and 1 field trip.

Our long term goals are: 1) develop resources for students on the website such as a detailed bibliography, 2) develop and implement an AAG student paper award, and 3) build up the website with short bios, papers, etc. that might lead to an eventual Animal Geography journal. Numbers 1 and 2 are our priorities for the 2010-2011 academic year.

2. Julie Urbanik provided an update on the budget and membership. As of the meeting date, the AnGSG has 86 official members (paid dues to AAG). Of those, 48 are students and 38 are faculty. As of the meeting date we had \$270.75 in our AAG account. An additional \$50 in donations was collected at the meeting and submitted. Our only expenditure in 2009-2010 was \$111.25 for our domain name and website setup. She also suggested that we develop a specific invitation to remind people to pay their dues and/or contribute donations – one that can be posted in multiple locations.

3. Motions to amend bylaws.

- a) A motion was introduced to amend the bylaws to allow the student officer to serve a one year term with the option to run for a second year for a maximum of two years served. Additionally, the motion included a name change from Student Officer to Graduate Student Officer.
 - i. The discussion around this motion focused on whether advanced graduate students should participate because it might lead to problems with continuity if students are leaving every year – meaning there was concern about turnover. However, the importance of participation for students in terms of their CV and career preparation was seen as very important and there was also recognition that the dissertation process is flexible.
 - ii. Consensus was reached that the best solution was to elect 2 Graduate Student Officers in staggered one year terms. This would allow participation and continuity.
 - iii. Final wording of motion to change Article 5, Section 1d of the bylaws:
OLD: Student Officer. The student officer must be a graduate student. The student officer serves a one year term and should serve no more than two consecutive terms.

NEW: Graduate Student Officers. The graduate student officers serve staggered one year terms with the option of each to run for a second year for a maximum of two years of service.

This amendment was passed unanimously.

- b) A motion to amend bylaws to invite all non-student board members to pay a \$20 donation per year to ensure a minimum amount of funding for student awards was introduced. The goal of this amendment was to try and ensure a set amount of funding each year for student awards. After discussion it was decided to reject the motion because there was a concern that this would coerce people into paying more than the required dues.
4. Elections/Changes to the Board. With the passage of the previous amendment we needed to vote on two Graduate Student Officers. Stella Cappocia indicated that she would like to continue for another year and Suzi Wiseman indicated her interest for her first year as the second Graduate Student Officer. Stella and Suzi nominated each other and they were both elected unanimously.
5. Communications/Publicity.
- a) It became apparent at the meeting that something was wrong with the listserv and messages had not been going out or coming in. This was unfortunate because it meant that no one had seen our newsletter or had a specific list of animal geography sessions to consider attending. Shari Adams, the Communications Officer, agreed to figure out what the problem is and whether we need to move our listserv.
 - b) The issue was raised of whether we could use our logo for fundraising via selling tote bags, water bottles, t-shirts, etc. Shari Adams agreed to look into this.
 - c) Stella Cappocia expressed interest in ramping up the newsletter to 4 times per year and to include bios, short pieces, and other materials to lay the foundations for a peer-reviewed animal geography journal in the future.
 - d) Stella and Suzi, as graduate student officers, agreed to work on the bibliography and to research possibilities for a graduate student award. There was discussion around what to include in the bibliography as Sharon's first call for papers led to an influx of biogeography papers and raised the question of how we want to organize our web bibliography. The concern is to keep an open door and build dialogue, but maintain an identity as animal geography. Once a more complete bibliography is built, suggestions for organizing via keywords or short statements might be possible.
 - e) The formation of a sub-committee for awards was tabled until next year after further information could be gathered.

We adjourned at 9:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Urbanik, Secretary/Treasurer