

STUDENT SUBSECTION PLAN OF WORK

I. Defining the Roles of Officers and Division Representatives

A. Officers – When I assumed the role as President this year, I read the bylaws to guide me in establishing my goals. I found that some of the officer roles are becoming mixed among the officers. I see two solutions to this problem:

- 1) Revise the bylaws to reflect the current roles exercised by the Subsection officers.
- 2) Develop a Procedures Manual for the Subsection. This goal is currently being pursued by Steve Ranney and Jeff Jolley (South Dakota State). The hope is that the manual will help guide officers and representatives during their year of service. The development of the manual is among my top three priorities for the Subsection.

B. Division Representatives – Past President Justin Davis identified this as an issue during his term as President, and it's something we've long struggled with in the Subsection. One of the issues inhibiting the involvement of representatives is identifying how the representative actually fits in with the governing of the division. Some divisions identify the student representative as an integral part of the division's governing board. However, other divisions don't recognize our representatives. Quinton Phelps (Southern Illinois University-Carbondale) has been charged with the task of contacting the presidents of each division and determining how our Subsection representatives can be better integrated into the divisions. Ideally, I hope the role of the representative will be consistent among divisions.

Further, I hope to have the representatives more involved in the functioning of the Subsection. Justin Davis established two listservs (one for all students and one for Subsection members) that he would like to hand over to someone new to run. In addition, we now have a website and will soon have a database of expertise (see details below) that will need to be updated regularly. I think it would be easy to assign one of these tasks to a representative. These roles could also be outlined in the procedures manual. Overall, clearly identifying the roles of the division representatives is my top priority for the year.

II. Increasing Visibility of the Subsection among Students and the Parent Society

A. Annual Meeting – This is likely the best opportunity we have to reach out to students and is among my top three priorities of this office. I see several opportunities for visibility.

- 1) Within the past year or so, the Subsection has relinquished their role in organizing the Student-Mentor Lunch to the annual meeting planning committee in favor of organizing a Student Colloquium. The first colloquium at the San Francisco meeting (on writing and publishing) was very well attended and received. I launched an online survey to determine whether the colloquium setup was effective and to identify topics that students would be interested in the future. From this survey, I selected "Employment Opportunities in Canada and the U.S." as the colloquium topic at the Ottawa meeting. I've been working with a committee of committed Subsection members and the student representative to the Ottawa Planning Committee Michael Donaldson in the planning of the colloquium. I believe this colloquium is going to be well received by students attending the annual meeting. I will be sending out reminders about the colloquium through the listservs as the annual meeting gets closer. Michael Donaldson and I are working on a Student's Angle article for Fisheries to advertise not only the colloquium but other student activities (Student-Mentor Lunch, Student Social, Job Fair) at the Ottawa meeting as well.

2) The Ottawa Planning Committee is doing a great job in organizing this year's student activities. But as anyone who has ever helped to plan a meeting knows, there always seems to be a shortage of help. I will be calling on Subsection members to help out with student activities as needed. I hope that Subsection members will also attend these events for their own enjoyment and as representatives of our group.

3) At the San Francisco meetings, the Subsection meeting was scheduled on a separate day from the Education Section. I believe this helped to increase attendance at our meeting. However, I think more needs to be done to recruit students to our meeting. I plan to use all forms of advertisement (listservs, Student's Angle article, Subsection website, word of mouth) to make students aware of the meeting. The Education Section has already offered to raffle off 10 student memberships to the Parent Society at the Subsection meeting (must be present to win). I am also working on a "Recruit-a-Student Contest." Perhaps we can award an AFS book up to a certain value as a prize.

B. Student's Angle Articles in *Fisheries* – I spoke with the managing editor of *Fisheries* Beth Beard at the San Francisco meeting. She assured me that there is always room for a Student's Angle article in the magazine. My goal this year is to have 6 articles published in *Fisheries*. I've identified topics and solicited authors for several pieces in addition to the one previously mentioned regarding student activities at the annual meeting. Topics include:

1) "Student Subunits of Excellence" – I've asked the presidents of the Palouse, East Carolina University, and Montana State University subunits to write an article about what makes their subunits so great and what challenges they've overcome. I've chosen these subunits for various reasons (which will be highlighted in their articles). I hope this will be a learning tool for other subunits to strive for excellence.

2) A survey regarding why students join (or don't join) AFS – Tom Lauer (Ball State University) and his students are going to work on this project. I hope the answers received from the surveys will help subunit, the Subsection, and the Parent Society in their endeavor to recruit more students.

3) "What is the Student Subsection?" – I often receive emails from the student listserv asking me about what the Subsection is or what it does. Justin Davis and I are working on an article answering these questions. Hopefully, it will drum up new members to the Subsection.

C. Visibility within the Parent Society – Not only is our visibility to students important, but I believe we need to continue to be or increase our visibility in the Parent Society. There are two small ways in which I think we can achieve this:

1) Participation at the Mid-Year and Annual Governing Board meetings – Although the Subsection has no vote on the Governing Board, we've always been encouraged to attend the meetings. In March, I will be representing the Subsection at the board meeting. I recently applied for a travel grant through the Parent Society to cover the cost of the meeting rather than having the Subsection treasury pay.

2) Expertise Database – Following the student colloquium in San Francisco, Jeff Jolley has been working to revive a database that will identify potential student reviewers for the AFS journals. Jeff will be setting up the database, communicating the information to the editors, and updating as needed. Information on this database will be added to the Subsection website.

III. Odds and Ends – These are smaller goals I will be working for during my remaining time in office. These goals are listed in no particular order.

A. Recruitment – We currently have about 40 dues-paying members. I would like to see that number increase by 50% by the Ottawa meeting. Visibility (as identified above) will be crucial to our recruitment. I will also be looking into possible Subsection membership awards to help increase our membership.

B. Communication between the Subsection and all student members of AFS – The listserv and the website are great outreach tools. I think our communications through Fisheries magazine can be improved via an increased publication of Student's Angle articles. Further, my goal is to electronically publish one (possibly two) newsletters updating everyone on the activities of the Subsection.

C. Boost the treasury of the Subsection – We presently hold about \$4,000 in the Subsection treasury. I would like to see this money put to good use, such as helping to pay for student activities at the annual meeting or awarding travel grants and scholarships. Recruiting new members will help, but we may need to look at investing our money in accounts that will generate interest. Along with boosting our treasury, I would like the help of the Subsection to identify where we spend our money.