

***ad hoc* Student Science Policy Award Committee**

Committee Members: J. A. Cook, A. V. Linzey, M. Schlis-Elias, A. Shenko, S. A. Smiley (Chair).

Mission:

This Committee administers the Student Science Policy Award, which can be bestowed upon multiple graduate students each year. This Award was created to facilitate ASM student members' involvement in science public policy. The Award would not be possible without the collaboration of the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS).

Information Items:

- (1) In September 2021, the committee welcomed a new member – Mariah Schlis-Elias. Mariah was a 2018 student recipient of the Student Science Policy Award and we appreciate her commitment to selecting future student recipients.
- (2) In coordinating with Jyotsna Pandey of the AIBS Public Policy Office, it was confirmed that ASM did not offer this award in 2021, but did pay AIBS for student awards. Thus, the payment for last year's award was transferred to support 2 students this funding year. ASM should not owe AIBS additional monies to support students for the 2022 award cycle.
- (3) In December 2021 and January 2022, our committee advertised the ASM Student Science Policy Award available to graduate student members. The committee received 3 student applications and all were deemed acceptable quality for society support.
- (4) Our 2022 award recipients were Conner Philson of the University of California Los Angeles and Matt Lacey of the University of Vermont. Both graduate students accepted the award. Because of uncertainty associated with the omicron wave, AIBS held Congressional Visits Day virtually this spring. Student award recipients attended the virtual program from April 25-29, 2022. A face-to-face event will take place in the future in Washington, DC with previous award recipients from 2020 and 2022 supported to attend. The committee will continue to communicate with AIBS concerning honoring our students.
- (5) The SSPA committee members desire to continue to offer this program. We ask ASM members to help promote the award to current graduate students who have interest in science policy. We anticipate next year's application deadline will be in mid-January 2023, contingent on funding renewal.

Action Items:

- (1) The SSPA Committee requests \$4,800 to sponsor two students to attend Congressional Visits Day in Washington DC in spring 2023. Note, that the award was not included in last year's budget. The Award cost includes transportation, lodging, food, planning, logistical support, and a full day of policy training (Communications Training Boot Camp) provided by AIBS.

This award will continue to engage mammalogy students in conversations with policymakers on Capitol Hill. These interactions increase the scientific awareness of policymakers through discussions with awardees concerning the benefits of funding mammalian research, natural history collections, biological field stations, the National Science Foundation, and other programs. The awardees benefit from policy training, experiential learning, and interactions with federal scientists and respected policy decision-makers. The award is important for creating a future generation of mammalogists who are engaged in the science-policy interface and can serve as an active voice for our community. We've had very positive feedback from past student participants.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Smiley, Chair

(ssmileywalters@valenciacollege.edu)