Early Career Representative - Education

This position will play a key role in supporting the VP – Education and will be part of the Education committee who will design the new SIL educational programs. He/She will also be asked to contribute insights into how the education functions may support the SIL business and revenue model in the future.

Along with other elected ECRs on the SIL Executive Board, this person will also be called to form and supervise the Early Career Researchers Committee, bring forward the voice of early career researchers and students in our field and represent their interests through all decisions made by the Board and its committees. He/She will assume leadership in integrating ECRs into SIL activities.

The 3-year term for this position will start in August 2021 at the end of the SIL 2021 Congress in Korea. The expected time commitment for Early Career representatives is approx. 10 hours/month, divided between official Board duties and committee steering and membership. Eligible are SIL members that are students at the time of application and those that have received their PhD degree not more than 5 years ago. Candidacies from female applicants and early-career researchers in low to middle-income level countries are strongly encouraged.

1) General moral and legal duties of board members:
   a) Understand the legal duties for Board members of a US not-for-profit corporation (501 (c) -3)
   b) Oversee the running of the Society
   c) Read and know SIL Statutes, minutes of meetings, Inland Waters journal, SILNews, website
   d) Participate in on-line board meetings (6-8 per year) and e-mail correspondence, and be present physically at one face-to-face Board meeting per year if the conditions permit it
   e) Be proactive and engaged in formulating SIL’s strategy for the future
   f) Be proactive and engaged in implementing our decisions
   g) Participate in SIL Congress, related Board meetings and General Assembly held at that time (virtual participation is planned for 2021 and physical presence will be required for 2022 and onwards)

2) Duties of individuals:
   a) Be in charge and take responsibility over SIL committees you co-chair (approx. 4 hours/month)
   b) Participate actively in at least one other committee or Working Group (approx. 2 hours/month)
   c) Promote SIL and SIL membership within your own networks, take active role in increasing SIL visibility
   d) Provide content for SILNews twice a year
   e) Submit articles for publication to Inland Waters at least once during your term
   f) Announcing open positions/opportunities and circulating SIL announcements
g) Advocacy on issues related to inland waters world-wide

3) **Opportunities for board members**
   a) Opportunity to take part in steering an active change, to be a leader in limnological science
   b) Exemption from SIL congress registration fees
   c) Inclusion in the “SIL Scholars” directory; become a resource for potential speaking opportunities as an official SIL representative and act as mentor and expert during SIL events

**Mandate of the Education Committee**
This new committee will be tasked to develop programs delivering global education regarding topics as: freshwater ecology, novel aquatic systems, invasive species, climate change, pollutants, toxicants, management/protection, as well as build training programs on new techniques and technologies, and other topics of relevance.

Early in its mandate the committee will have to conduct an education needs assessment amongst the limnological community, and issue a report outlining the needs of our various constituency groups. The committee will be asked to submit an educational plan for review and discussion by the SIL Board. Upon approval, the committee will oversee the design of the business model around our new educational programs and manage its implementation and promotion, with the help of the SIL Secretariat and the other VPs and ECR Board members.

**Mandate of the Early Career Researchers Committee**
This committee will be comprised of all ECR members of the SIL Boards and volunteers and together, they will ensure that the interests and the voice of students and ECRs from all over the world, and particularly from countries with emerging economies, is being included for all considerations. They will develop programs for early-career researchers in conjunction with the Communication and Education committees and will oversee existing mentorship programs. The committee may take on the following tasks:

- Develop ways for ECRs to become active within SIL and by engaging ECRs to take over roles with the Society
- Contribute to the engagement of ECRs in Inland Waters (e.g. efforts to increase its IF, become AEs, submit articles, organize special issues), SILnews, SIL congresses, SIL Working Groups SIL networks and social media
- Coordinate continuous ECR contributions to SIL communication pathways
- Develop and coordinate ECR formats on SIL congresses, e.g. short courses or career events.