



SIL GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES
SIL2022: BERLIN, GERMANY
AUGUST 9, 2022

Presidential Address, Thomas Mehner : 12:49 – introduction

The future of SIL

1. SIL will only survive as long as we have stable/increasing member number, strong partnerships, and member involvement. SIL is made by its members, not its governing board.
2. Thinking about the values of SIL
 - a. SIL's values today are most similar to its values 100yrs ago, when the society was founded in 1922 by Einar Naumann and August Thienemann. What are those SIL values?
 - b. 1. Pure scientists valueing truth, knowledge, understanding and wisdom
 - i. The way SIL addresses this is with Naumann-Thienemann Awards, and the Brian Moss Student competition
 - c. 2. Usefulness, resourcefulness, and practicality
 - i. Educational programs
 - ii. Tonolli memorial awards, funding small projects that help us form links and progress limnological research in countries that are needing additional resources
 - d. 3. Love, sympathy, caring, altruism
 - i. Various mentorship programs and the development of partnerships in an educational setting
 - ii. Working groups and international meetings
 - e. 4. Power, leadership, influence, and competitiveness
 - i. SIL to develop political voice, ideally through partnerships with other societies, engage in sustainable use of natural resources and the UN's SDGs.
 - f. Harmony, beauty, artistry, uniqueness
 - i. We often have photography involved in lakes
 - ii. Graphics, posters, science communication
3. We are well under way of achieving broad reach of SIL in these aspects: for the first time, we now have a full board that covers these broad dimensions of science
 - a. We are growing and stable in recruiting members in several countries
 - b. Inland Waters is gaining broad scientific interest
 - c. Excited for the planning of SIL2024 and SIL2026
4. Empowering SIL to serve values long-term:
 - a. Need new sources of revenue in partnerships, pay-for-content, congresses, member fee structure, donation campaigns.
5. SIL is developing several strategic plans over the next year or two during Thomas' mandate and needs your engagement and support!

Tamar Zohary: General Secretary report

1. Presents the SIL team:
 - a. All the elected SIL officers are volunteers. SIL hires assistance to run its business office on a daily basis, currently with two paid persons.
 - b. New board members will be beginning their mandate at the end of the 2022 congress. Special thanks to Luigi Naselli-Flores as chair of the nominations committee.
 - c. These new board members enter the board, completing the new structure
 - i. Adding specific Vice President (VP) positions with more focus as well as integrating Early Career Representatives (ECRs) into the discussion
 - ii. SIL now has 4 focused VPs and 4 associated ECRs on its executive board .
2. SIL Programs:
 - a. Tonolli Awards: given in 2022 to 6 awardees for research in Dev Countries this year. Since the initiation of this award in 1985, over USD 200,000 were given as small awards of \$500-1500 each to >100 awardees from 32 developing countries.
 - b. Wetzel's Awards were given to 6 awardees for attending SIL2022. Another 2 awards were given for online attendance
 - c. New ECR for developing countries (Mihir Kulkarni) will help with the relations and outreach of SIL to developing countries. We hope to maintain conversation with all candidates who applied to this position for elections to maintain commitment and future networking.
 - d. The SIL Mentorship Program (with mentor-mentee couples in which the mentor assists the mentee in his/her progress as a scientist) was revived by Ines O'Farrell after several years of being out of commission. Ines O'Farrell held a mentorship workshop in Berlin as a way to receive feedback, and improve mentee engagement.
3. Education committee:
 - a. Maria de los Angeles Gonzalez Sagrario has established a clear mandate, supporting ongoing projects and developing a student survey to understand the needs of ECRs to create perspectives for future projects of the committee
 - b. Angeles will be taking over the SIL student competition from Tamar
 - c. SIL Limnology videos: Educational videos that accompany the new edition of Wetzel's Limnology: a project led by Warwick Vincent and Ali Ger.
4. Communications team:
 - a. Cecilia Barouillet, Juan David Gonzalez Trujillo, and Michelle Gros have been working this year to draft a contract for the design of a new logo, website, timeline of SIL and very active on social media.
5. Inland Waters
 - a. Editor in chief, David Hamilton has been doing great work
 - b. This is reflected in the recent increased impact factor to 3.000 of Inland waters (up from 1.663 in 2017)
 - c. Editorial mentorship program: paired with experienced associate editors, 9 students and ECRs have joined this program and do better work than experienced associate editors a great program setting them up for career and future
6. SILNews

- a. Lead: Giovanna Flaim, doing a great service to SIL as can be seen in the latest issues of the newsletter
- 7. Necrology
 - a. Several have passed away in the past two years, many of them LONG time SIL members: D.W. Schindler (1940-2021), Takayuki Hanazato (1957-2021), Brij Gopal (1944-2021), Winfried Lampert (1941-2021), and Petur M Jonasson (1920-2020), and Susan Killham (1943-2022)
 - b. Special mention to Sue Kilham, Thanks to her, we have the Kilham fund, supporting the Kilham lecture at every congress.
- 8. Financial report: - same as presented to the executive board meeting on 7 August
- 9. By the end of the congress, Tamar will be terminating her role as the General Secretary and Treasurer of SIL, after serving for 9 years (2013-2022) and 4 congresses. She summarized her contribution to the society
 - a. Contributed to all SIL activities: SIL News, SIL Website maintenance, Inland Waters Editorial Board, Other SIL Communications, N-T medals, student competitions, SIL Finances, congresses and more
 - b. Most proud of the Student Competition, which she established when she started in 2013.
 - c. Thank you SIL for the opportunity, lots of fun and people
 - d. Congrats Björn Wissel who's mandate begins after the congress
- 10. N-T Medals
 - a. The medal is the highest honor for outstanding scientific contributions to the field of limnology
 - b. Unfortunately, the two awardees could not be present in Berlin. Instead, they sent a short video
 - c. Awardee #1: Sally MacIntyre - For her contributions to the field of physical limnology, studying turbulence links to biology and biogeochemistry of lakes around the world.
 - i. Plays thank you video
 - d. Awardee #2: Jose Tundisi - For his work on the integrated management of watershed, reservoirs, and lakes. His research is focused on tropical and subtropical inland waters of South and Central America.
 - i. Plays thank you video
- 11. Award lectures: The Kilham Award Lecture was given by Susie Wood. The Baldi memorial lecture was given by David Hamilton . Both were given on Wednesday after lunch.
- 12. There is a clear task of the nominations committee, but their duties stop at the elections. Therefore, there is no clear path for elections conduct and management.
 - a. During this year's elections, there was a misuse of members data where lists of members were circulated to SIL National Representatives. SIL is apologetic and has worked with National Representatives to mitigate this error.
 - b. A committee will be formed to scrutinize the procedures of the SIL elections, how they are to run, and who will manage them once the nominations committee provides candidates.
- 13. SIL's 100th anniversary: special activities:

- a. Jack Jones has dug deep into the publications of SIL and created an impressive written summary of 100 years of SIL publications (Proceedings, Communications, Inland Waters), that appeared as an article in Inland Waters right before the congress. He made a short presentation is planned for the closing session.
- b. Logo reveal by Cecilia
 - i. Meaning: Water drop composed of a landscape and a flow of water underneath. Different colors could represent thermal or chemical stratification of water. An empty circle in the middle is symbolic for the unity of SIL and the opportunities it provides to its members.
 - ii. There is a version of the logo highlighting SIL's 100th anniversary with the founding year 1922 on the logo.
- c. SIL's Timeline
 - i. A first attempt to recapitulate all the archives of SIL and create the history of SIL
 - ii. Anyone can comment, add milestones
 - iii. Available in the SIL congress app, please send us your content
- d. Angeles & Wetzel videos
 - i. SIL Education committee activities:
 - Next year, the new edition of Wetzel's limnology will be released, with many notable limnologists, each authoring 1-2 chapters of the book (whereas previously Robert Wetzel wrote the entire book alone).
 - Initiative of Warwick Vincent and the education committee
 - Tribute to the memory of Robert Wetzel as well as standing limnological education material
 - Can find the first video in the exhibition area
 - ii. Student Survey
 - The objectives of the survey, held by the SIL Education Committee, were to identify main topics of interest and needs of students and young professionals working in the field of limnology, for the design of an Education Program.
 - Recognize the effectiveness and impacts of SIL resources (Awards & Mentorship Program) for the career development of young researchers.
 - The survey was distributed via the SIL website and social media and networks. It was open to all limnologists, not just SIL, and had 126 responses from all continents
 - Almost half (48%) of respondents were SIL members and students or ECR (78%)
 - 5 categories of skills were analyzed
 - Theoretical Knowledge: Metacommunities, Water resource management, Food web dynamics
 - Methods: General standard methods, eDNA, Remote sensing, Microplastics

- o Statistic & Data: Multivariate analyses, Data visualization, Bayesian Modeling, GLMs
- o Softwares & Databases: ArcGIS, R programming
- o Career & Personal Dev: Writing Grants, Writing papers, Experimental design, Science communication, Work-life balance

14. Thomas thanks the board members for their engagement and the momentum they've given for the next 100yrs
 - a. First we must look back in the years: so we thank Tamar
 - b. Always a good reminder about the past and maintain the legacy and traditions of SIL