Meeting Notes: SAC

Date: 11/12/2020, 9:00-10:30 am PST

**Attendees:** Kindra De’Arman, Susie Sidder, Elizabeth Golebie, Michala Hendrick, Colby Parkinson, Leah Jones, Dana Johnson, Mark Rouleau (Guest)

**Absent:** Tanya Howard, Wusu Conteh, Asif Siddiqui, Kira Dlusskaya, Benjamin Leitschuh, Shanice Jones, Hsuan-Hsuan Huang, Brooke McWherter

**Agenda Item 1: Mentorship Conversation (facilitated by Kindra De’Arman and Mark Rouleau)**

Kindra, Mark, and others are working to revise the mentorship program within IASNR. Mark attended the SAC meeting to hear directly from students their thoughts on potential improvements to the IASNR mentorship program.

Of the meeting’s attendees, Leah attended a focus group during the IASNR virtual conference; other meeting attendees did not participate in the mentorship focus groups at the conference. Kindra and Dana facilitated the student-focused mentorship focus groups at the conference.

Mark 🡪 Has anyone participated in the mentorship program with IASNR?

* Susie: I tried to participate as a mentor when I was a professional member of IASNR for the Houghton Michigan conference (2016) but was never matched with a mentee.
* Mark: This matching process is of interest and ongoing discussion, is there a way that the matching between mentors and mentees?
* Elizabeth: Matching based on career path would be of interest. I have previously participated in the IASNR mentorship program and was matched based on research interests and ended up being matched with someone that I already knew based on our shared research interests.
* Mark: What about mentorship outside of academia? Is that what you are referring to with regard to career paths?
* Elizabeth: Not necessarily, either academic or non-academic paths would be OK.
* Michala: Career-based guidance is of interest, whether we are going into academic careers or outside of academia. One of the hardest things to conceptualize is what the in between period looks like [after degree completion] and how to get a job after graduation. One of the hardest challenges I see is just the limited time constraints that students face.
* Mark: Logistics is certainly a concern. We’re hoping to address this and perhaps move mentorship outside of just one lunch at a conference. We hope to continue to maintain mentorship relationships throughout the year. Logistically speaking, I know we have so many demands for our attention right now, what would be an appropriate frequency for mentorship-related meetings/activities?
* Michala: Bimonthly (sort of like SAC), every person should leave the mentorship meeting with some goals/tasks/objectives so that there are deliverables to bring to bear during the next meeting.
* Mark: What might a deliverable look like from your perspective?
* Susie: Perhaps there are ways that deliverables could be customized for career opportunity preparation. For example, maybe a student brings a CV to a mentorship meeting and discusses career interests and ways that their CV can be customized to being prepared for a specific career path. [Susie gave the example of different requirements for private-sector resumes, academic CVs, and uploading a USAJobs compliant resume for federal positions in the USA]. A deliverable for the mentor would be reviewing the CV and identifying the gaps and together the pair could work to address gaps in the mentee’s professional development. (Michala seconded this thought).
* Kindra: Networking is a goal (personally for her and for other students as well) and perhaps there are ways that mentors can work to facilitate those connections that are outside of their university network.
* Mark: I can see several deliverables coming from this approach, there would need to be a reason for the connection being built to ensure that there is a reason for connecting.
* Susie: Perhaps a mentorship deliverable to this end would be something like the mentor and mentee working together to craft email communication (or other) that can be used for networking. It can be intimidating to email someone out of the blue, but having a mentor review your communication and discuss a strategy prior to sending an email may help.
* Mark: Yes, and perhaps even a component of the mentorship could be the mentor facilitating a meeting with the person in their network that the student is interested in connecting with that all three people (mentor, mentee, and additional person within the mentor’s network) attend the meeting.
* Michala: Perhaps there should be a way for standardization across experiences or a tiered approach/framework for mentorship based on the students’ experiences.
* Mark: Yes, we are thinking about a menu of options to offer.
* Colby: [offering experience from a previous mentorship experience with a professional organization] A mentorship community that generates a pool of information that others can learn from, the format would be primarily virtual with a hub for those participating and then there are ways that others can connect outside of the smaller mentorship groups that get established with the organization.
* Mark: Yes, that would help prevent “dead ends” if the mentorship pair is not active or not a good fit.
* Mark: What could we focus on to benefit you the most? (no real response but think on it)
	+ Mark signed off, 9:34am. Thank you Mark!
* Kindra: One follow-up question that I had surrounding mentorship: What do students need in terms of a mentorship program from IASNR? Is it something tied to the conference, an email call to all members, and online form that you fill out if you are interested?
* Elizabeth: Pairing it with the conference is a good way to do it and an easy introduction, facilitating a larger group of people joining at once. There might not be a lot of momentum if introduced not at a conference.
* Leah: Launching it with the conference gives the momentum of it to start up and start up well.
* Michala: I think an open information session for mentees and mentors collectively to talk about the goals of the program would help entice student participation (from the chat).

**Agenda Item 2: Committee Updates**

Election committee update (Susie): In 2021 a new Student-Representative Elect will be elected. This position is a two-year commitment; the first year of service is as the Student-Representative Elect and then the second year of service is as the Student-Representative. The call for nominations should go out in January. Please consider seeking a nomination for this position. If you are interested in learning more about the Student-Representative and Student-Representative Elect positions, please contact either Kindra or Susie.

Virtual Conference Planning Committee (Leah): Live engagement of conference will only be 4-5 days, dates beginning June 22 (Sunday through Thursday). The goal of the conference is to expand to more of a global network; the committee is currently looking at the conference theme “Building a Global Network for Social and Natural Resource Sciences.” The idea would be to use a hub-model where the hub lead works to organize research that is ongoing in a specific geographic area to help facilitate networking and the scheduling of the sessions to be more inclusive of time-zones. Late January will be the deadline for the abstracts.

* Dana is interested in joining the virtual conference planning committee, Leah volunteered facilitate the connection to that committee.

**Agenda Item 3: Student Initiatives (led by Susie and Kindra)**

Susie: IASNR has two student-focused events at its conference each year that the Student Representatives are responsible for planning: Quiz Bowl and Student Forum. In 2020, we did not host Quiz Bowl and focused our efforts on transitioning to a successful online Student Forum. In 2021, we plan to host both events. In early 2021, we’ll need to focus our efforts on getting planning going for these events. We’ll be looking to put together one or more small working groups to help these conference events get planned. We’ll be looking for input on creative ways to migrate Quiz Bowl to an online platform in a meaningful way. We’ll also be looking for input on the content and focus of the Student Forum for this year.

Susie: Student chapters at universities – What is going on? This has been an ongoing topic of interest at Council meetings. Student chapters is one of the ways that exist within IASNR for students to engage with the organization; however, we are not sure if this model is well utilized and/or if it still a useful model for student engagement. As part of my term, I plan to dig into this question to hopefully compile some data that can be presented to council and that can be used by Kindra and other student leaders to help integrate these students into SAC and other student-led initiatives within the organization.

* Kindra asked if anyone present at the meeting is a part of a student chapter at their university? No one on the call is aware of or participating in a student chapter at their university

Kindra: PD committee is planning webinars – What are we interested in?

* Career pathways webinar? That is one where PD is actively planning to put it on, but there is not a date set yet for this webinar
* Kindra provided the example of a qualitative research methods webinar: Kindra is interested in this topic; pre-COVID IASNR put on a quantitative methods webinar but a qualitative hasn’t been put on yet. Perhaps there are individuals in IASNR that have more experience with qualitative research method implementation and the unique ways that researchers doing place-based work can work with this type of data in a way that meets confidentiality but also allows for immersion in the place-based component of the work.
* Michala: What about a webinar that is COVID-19 research focused seminar. For example, impacts of COVID on recreation and in academia; perhaps it could look at the impacts across the disciplines in the organization.
* Susie: What about the formatting of webinars? Sometimes its not the topic that is a barrier to participation but rather the format (or an unfulfilling format)
	+ Leah: Panels with 3-4 individuals presenting have been the most engaging, each speaker getting 10-15 minutes.
	+ Colby: Agrees with Leah’s points. As much as hosts can be encouraged to engage with the audience outside of just the Q&A would be helpful.
	+ Leah: Polls are helpful for engaging the audience. For example, [Leah recently attended a] cultural competency and values webinar, where the framework presented in the webinar displayed values and the audience had to self-identify a place on the scale reflective of their personal values. A zoom poll was used so that in real time the audience could see where people are at; polls can be used to gauge audience baseline knowledge on topics, gauge where people are professionally (students, government work, academia, etc.).

Additional Student-Focused Activities for Engagement (Kindra): Maybe a reading group or screening of a film that can lead to conversation with the author.

Susie described the book/film idea and its origins as a way for students to engage in a topic using multiple modes. The focus would be on trying to select a topic that students want to engage with but maybe haven’t had time to engage with it given other academic requirements.

* Susie gave the example of reading Braiding Sweetgrass with her lab group as a book relevant to her field and development as a researcher overall but that she had not read [before it was assigned in her lab group] because of her focus on recreation research.

Book/film showing supported by Michala 🡪 a series a book and a film so that there is a variety of options, specifically liked the idea of focusing on things that we need to do or are important to do that we don’t make space for

* Michala also identified that stress, anxiety, time management are things that students struggle with 🡪 perhaps a focus of student-related content of IASNR could be resources for student wellness, perhaps professionals that are trained and guided in this as a topic area

**Agenda Item 4: Other Announcements**

Kindra: Keeping in Touch Newsletter Student Spotlight

* Kindra and Jessica have worked together to introduce a Student Spotlight Section in the newsletter (KIT). This is an opportunity for students to self-promote and/or share innovative work that they are doing that might benefit the IASNR community. Here are some topics of consideration:
	+ Dissertation work for those going on the job market
	+ Innovative teaching strategies
	+ Community involvement work/service
	+ Other relevant ideas!
* You can submit your content to Lee Cerveny at lee.cerveny@usda.gov with “IASNR KIT” in the subject line. Kindra is happy to respond to any inquiries or look over drafts of your proposed content.

Next meeting will be in late January. Look for a scheduling poll in early January.