

## Minutes of the BSA Council meeting July 10, 2011

### Lucinda McDade presiding.

**Attending:** Theresa Culley, Bruce Kirchoff, Stephen Weller, Anitra Thorhaug, Megan Ward, Rachel Meyer, Stokes Baker, Kent Holsinger, John Freudenstein, Beverly Brown, Dennis Stevenson, Melissa McCormick, Judy Jernstedt, Marissa Grant, Rebecca Drenovsky, Chris Haufler, Michael Windham, Marshall Sundberg, Brain Absmith, Mike Dunn, Amy Litt, David Spooner, Elizabeth Kellogg, Judith Skog, Carol Goodwillie, Bill Dahl, Lucinda McDade, Pamela Diggle

1. Call to Order and Introductions (Lucinda McDade)
2. Approval of [Minutes of 2010 Council Meeting](#) Report in place as of: 07-Jul-11 **motion to approve, seconded, approved unanimously**
3. Reports of Executive Committee, Editors, and Staff
  - A. [President](#) (Judy Skog) Report in place as of: 26-Jun-11
  - B. [Past President](#) (Kent Holsinger) Report in place as of: 09-Jul-11
  - C. [President Elect](#) (Steve Weller) Report in place as of: 14-Jun-11
  - D. [Secretary](#) (Pam Diggle) See 2010 Council Meeting Minutes
  - E. [Treasurer](#) (Amy Litt) Report in place as of: 07-Jul-11
  - F. [Program Director](#) (David Spooner) Report in place as of: 28-Jun-11
  - G. [Editor, American Journal of Botany](#) (Judy Jernstedt) Report in place as of: 07-Jul-11
  - H. [Editor, Plant Science Bulletin](#) (Marsh Sundberg) Report in place as of: 26-Jun 11
  - I. [Business Office/Executive Director](#) (Bill Dahl) Report in place as of: 08-Jul-11

**Motion to approve all reports, seconded, no comments on any of the reports. All accepted unanimously.**

4. Reports of Committees, Sections, and Representatives
  - A. Standing Committees (Administrative)
    - Executive Committee (Kent Holsinger)
    - [Annual Meetings Program Committee](#) (David Spooner) See Program Director's Report
    - [Committee on Committees](#) (Steve Weller) Report in place as of: 14-Jun-11
    - [Election Committee](#) (Kent Holsinger) See Past President's Report
    - [Financial Advisory Committee](#) (Michael Dunn) Report in place as of: **No File**
    - [Investment Committee](#) (Jack Horner) Report in place as of: 07-Jul-11
  - B. Standing Committees (Awards and Prizes)
    - [Corresponding Members Committee](#) (Kent Holsinger) See Past Presidents Report
    - [Karling Awards Committee](#) (Lucia Lohmann) Report in place as of: 09-Jul-11
  - C. Ad hoc Committees
    - [BSA Development Committee](#) (Edward Schneider) Report in place as of: **No File**
    - [BSA International Committee](#) (Anitra Thorhaug) Report in place as of: 08-Jul-11

[Committee on Human Diversity](#) (Ann Sakai) Report in place as of: 09-Jul-11

D. Sections

[Bryological and Lichenological Section](#) (Karen Renzaglia) Report in place as of:

No File

[Developmental and Structural Section](#) (Bruce Kirchoff) Report in place as of: 12-Jun-11

[Ecology Section](#) (Rebecca Drenovsky) Report in place as of: 08-Jul-11

[Economic Botany Section](#) (Rainer Bussmann) Report in place as of: No File

[Genetics Section](#) (Theresa Culley) Report in place as of: 05-Jul-11

[Historical Section](#) (Marissa C. J. Grant) Report in place as of: No File

[Mycological Section](#) (Melissa McCormick) Report in place as of: 05-Jul-11

[Paleobotanical Section](#) (Michael Dunn) Report in place as of: 28-Jun-11

[Physiological Section](#) (Anitra Thorhaug) Report in place as of: 08-Jul-11

[Phytochemical Section](#) (Lalita Calabria) Report in place as of: No File

[Pteridological Section](#) (Michael D. Windham) Report in place as of: 07-Jul-11

[Systematics Section](#) (John Freudenstein) Report in place as of: 15-Jun-11

[Teaching Section](#) (Stokes Baker) Report in place as of: No File

[Tropical Biology Section](#) (Fabian A. Michelangeli) Report in place as of: No File

[Northeastern Section](#) (Nancy N. Williams) Report in place as of: No File

[Southeast Section](#) (Lytton Musselman) Report in place as of: No File

**Motion to approve all reports, seconded, no comments on any of the reports. All accepted unanimously.**

5. Representatives to other Organizations

AAAS (Kent Holsinger) See Presidents Report

[AIBS](#) (Kent Holsinger) Report in place as of: No File

[Biological Stain Commission](#) (Graeme Berlyn) Report in place as of: No File

[CSSP](#) (Kent Holsinger) See President's Report

**Motion to approve all reports, seconded, no comments on any of the reports. All accepted unanimously.**

6. Discussion and reports on old business

- Bill Dahl gave a brief summary of events at the business office, including hiring of new personnel: Katrina Adams, education coordinator; Birgit Spears development; Beth Parada Primer Notes and Protocols editor.
- Financial Advisory committee has had intensive discussion of long-term financial sustainability of BSA.
- Hiring of development person is an important new step for society. Bill thinks that the time is right because the BSA has more diverse "selling points". Journal now in PubMed, Planting Science getting awards, student involvement very active.
- Membership is over 3000, about 1/3 students. Botany is thriving.
- Membership- Bill recommends that we hold membership rates at 2012 levels,

continue with student and post doc rates at ? \$10 if they renew membership early. Faculty can give 10 dollar memberships to new students. This will be discussed at business meeting. Council gave their endorsement of these proposals.

- AJB – individual subscription rates will stay the same. Institutional subscription rates have gone up 4.9%.
- Print rates up 4.5% for US institutions, 7.3% for Canada/Mexico, and 6.9% for international
- Ann Hirsh and Ann Sakai received NSF PLANTS grant. 20K per year for next 5 years to bring undergraduate students to meetings. Pam Soltis has used her own NSF funding to bring women students to the BSA meetings.
- BSA supports services for other societies: American Fern Society, Society for Economic Botany, Society for the Study of Evolution. These societies are paying us for this service and this pays about ¾ of a staff position.
- Sustainability of sections: Bill wants to discuss with individual sections mechanisms to maintain activities.
- Planting Science will be changing—BSA wants to build a pipeline for students to end up in University. Planting Science was invited to come to meet with OSTP! They discussed how to make science in the classroom exciting.
- Education committee is working with ESA, SSE, and others to create web site repository for teaching botany resources. It will all be peer reviewed. Committee will need reviewers and submitters.
- US Science and Engineering Festival in April 2012. BSA will participate again. Board needs to think about what we should do as an exhibit. Teaching Section is taking lead. We are trying to link up with other plant societies. ASPB is an obvious partner. Hands on activities are most effective.
- Space: Business office has been at the Mo Bot for 8 years. No maintenance on the building in all of that time. The building is in very bad shape. Bill is working with Mo Bot to attend to the building. If they do not respond, we will have to find a different home for the business office.
- New Public Policy Committee-Kent Holsinger is chair. Some activities: Testimony to House appropriations committee, currently preparing comments to NSB on NSF's proposal for new evaluation criteria for proposals. Kent went to Hill as part of a larger plant science group. Committee welcomes suggestions from the membership about what BSA should weigh in on.
- Student involvement in public policy. One activity was a letter addressing confidence in NSF's peer review and funding process. Signed by thousands of students. Letter sent to congress. (letter can be viewed at BSA web site).
- Committee charges have all been rewritten. See policy section on BSA web site. All committee members should make sure that they review these.
- Society bylaws have been rewritten. Sections should review their own bylaws to make sure that they are consistent with BSA bylaws.

## 5. New Business

A. Corresponding Members: John Dransfield from Kew Botanical Garden.

B. Awards – Board would like awards committee to aggressively pursue nominations . Sections should contribute.

Bill suggested that sections make sure that all award funds are in good shape and can support the monetary awards given. This stimulated a discussion of who is responsible for the finances of the awards. Amy Litt (treasurer) outlined three different types of awards: BSA wide awards, Sectional awards that are specific to sections and have endowments but the awards are administered by committees appointed by the Board, Awards from sections that don't have an endowment (paid for from money from BSA or other sources). The BSA and sections do not have a good mechanism for discussing and deciding on whether the amount of these awards should be increased. Resolution: oversight of society administered awards is not sectional responsibility, but sections might be encouraged to donate to awards associated with their sections. This discussion led to an:

**Action Item:** New project for Board to examine awards committees. What is the chain of command? Document how awards are administered. Steve Weller volunteered to see this project through.

C. Membership Rates (2012) No change.

D. American Journal of Botany Rates (2012) - See treasurer report

E. 2011/2012 Budget - See treasurer report. Council endorsed report (will be approved in business meeting). Council commended investment committee (and Smith Varney) for work of managing \$\$

F. Investment Committee funds for special initiatives

Development committee and new development person. Long term goal is to increase endowment, increase \$ to annual operating expenses. Pursue corporate and foundation contributions. Planting Science will be selling point; an example of what we do as a society. BSA needs members to help represent society in their part of the country. Legacy Society-70 people who have made a commitment to include BSA in their will. Living Legacy-Pledge to give \$100 year in perpetuity

Other suggestions-tape some of the seminars and put on web site and you tube.

For all student Award winners, we need ASAP!!! Name of award, name of student, title, mentor, institution.

Future meetings:

2012 Columbus July 7-11, With CBA

2013 New Orleans

2014 or 2015 have meeting over a Friday to host NPR Science Friday  
Minneapolis, Santa Fe, Boulder were suggested as future sites

G. Board Recommendations - no discussion of this agenda item

6. Adjournment at 1:50

Minutes respectfully submitted by BSA secretary Pamela Diggle  
July 10, 2011