

## **BSA Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

**July 21, 2018**

**Mayo Civic Center, Rochester, MN**

1. Called to order at 3:22pm Central Time (Loren Reiseberg for Erika Edwards)

2. Introductions

3. Approval of Minutes and Reports

**MOTION** to approve minutes of 2017 Advisory Council meeting -> **APPROVED**

**MOTION** to approve the following Executive Committee, Editors and Staff reports -> **APPROVED**

- Past President - (Gordon Uno) posted 7/14
- Treasurer's Report, FY2018 P&L, FY2018 Summary P&L vs. Budget, FY2019 Budget (Lucinda McDade) posted 7/20
- Program Director (Amy Litt) posted 7/10
- DAL - Development (Ned Friedman) 7/20
- DAL - Education (Allison Miller) 7/10
- DAL - Publications (Sean Graham) 7/11
- Student Representatives (Chelsea Pretz and James McDaniel) 7/11
- Editor, American Journal of Botany (Pamela Diggle) (see Publications Report)
- Editor, Applications in Plant Sciences (Theresa Culley) (see Publications Report)
- Editor, Plant Science Bulletin (MacKenzie Taylor) posted 7/14
- Business Office/Executive Director (Heather Cacanindin) posted 7/17

**MOTION** to approve the following Standing Committee (Administrative) reports -> **APPROVED**

- Annual Meetings Program Committee (Amy Litt) See Program Director's report
- Development Committee (Ned Friedman) See DAL Development report
- Education Committee (Phil Gibson) posted 7/5
- Election Committee (Gordon Uno) posted 7/18
- Committee on Human Diversity (Jim Cohen and Ann Sakai) posted 7/10
- Investment Committee (Jack Horner) posted 7/17
- International Affairs (Tom Rost) posted 7/5
- Public Policy Committee (Kal Tuominen and Krissa Skogen) posted 7/10

**MOTION** to approve the following Standing Committee (Awards & Prizes) reports -> **APPROVED**

- Corresponding Members Committee (Gordon Uno) posted 7/18
- BSA Distinguished Fellows Awards Committee – (No Nominations Received)
- Bessey Award Committee (Phil Gibson/Madhav Nepal)- see Teaching section report
- Donald R. Kaplan Memorial Lecture Committee (Cindi Jones) posted 7/19

**MOTION** to approve the following Ad hoc Committee reports -> **APPROVED**

- Graduate Student Research Awards Exploration Committee (Allison Miller) updated 7/21

**MOTION** to approve the following Section Committee reports -> **APPROVED**

- Developmental and Structural Section (Jocelyn Hall) posted 7/22
- Ecology Section (Phil Gibson) posted 7/5

- Economic Botany Section posted 7/22
- Historical Section (Nuala Caomhanach) posted 7/19
- Paleobotanical Section (Fabiany Herrera) posted 7/9
- Physiological Section (Jorge Lopez-Portillo) posted 7/9
- Pteridological Section (Melanie Link-Perez) posted 7/18
- Systematics Section (Amanda Ingram) posted 6/29
- Teaching Section (Madhav Nepal) posted 7/22
- Tropical Biology Section (Margaret S. Devall) posted 7/20
- Southeastern Section (Chris Havran) posted 7/9

#### 4. Conference business (Amy Litt)

- GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) document was approved; affects EU citizens and in future there will be a check box for the conference for them to agree to a data policy
- Instituted a Code of Conduct
  - It's on the conference website
  - Was modeled on other societies' language and we are working with an outside consultant to evaluate reports of misconduct
  - Committee formed with representatives from each participating society (Ann Sakai is the BSA rep)
- Second lighting talk session added that focuses on education & outreach
- Two new session topics added, although they ended up being combined (systematics)
- Thirteen colloquia was a record high (many switched from symposium)
  - Tried to discourage longer talks (>15 min) so as not to blur the lines between the two formats, but there is a desire for longer talks so they are discussing ways of accommodating this without making it cumbersome or more complex than the current structure
- Some have registered dismay about the "anti-GMO" stress ball included in the registration bag and for now they have been removed. It was a promotional product from a sponsor.
- Ann Sakai: They are working on planning for next year's conference to have a more concerted effort in inclusion/diversity/representation in the various featured talks.
- Call for 2019 symposia will come out right after conference.

#### 5. Publication and Wiley contract update (Sean Graham)

- Contract negotiations were extensive and extended.
- Jan 2018 formally started a 5 year contract
- Has not been a seamless transition (notably we changed the publication platform not once but twice in three months; latter one coincided with a giant special issue), but things have improved significantly 6-7 months in
- We can now have virtual special issues; we have access to new tools and metric; we have Wiley's powerful marketing team and access to new international markets
- Wiley web hub will make all three journals available from the same place
- Our acceptance times are down (< 1 month to first decision) despite challenges
- Impact Factor is down in both journals (2.788 for AJB after cracking 3 last year). Recommends viewing these as minor fluctuations around 3
  - Doing a deep dive into why we are not higher overall
  - One obvious explanation is our lack of emphasis on review articles

- Q: re: How we selected Wiley. A: Lengthy and exhaustive process that involved Board and membership in various ways
- Q: re: page fee increases A: Only page fees are for OpenAccess in AJB (and all OpenAccess for APPS). We have the final decision on publication fee increases
- Subscription fees increase annually, typically. For 2019 Wiley requested a 6% increase and we negotiated it to 4%.
- Wiley will sell our titles individually but we are also (predominantly) sold through Wiley as part of bundled titles.

## 6. Corresponding Memberships

- Past three presidents form the committee who solicits potential nominees
- These are honorary memberships for distinguished scientists working outside of the U.S.
- Policy is for the Council to ratify the names of the nominees before they go to the full membership for a vote
- The three nominees for a 2018 award are
  - Dr. Brigitte Meyer-Berthaud (France)
  - Dr. Harufumi Nishida (Japan)
  - Dr. Vashist Pandey (India)
- **MOTION** to accept three nominees -> **APPROVED**

## 7. PSRN Update (Mike Donoghue)

- Goal is to develop a one-two decade vision for the future of plant science research priorities and activities
- Mike is our representative thus far and Heather has gone to some of the meetings
- ASPT is also involved
- There are 14 different societies represented
- There have been three workshops already and a fourth coming up in January on undergraduate participation and representation
- Summit of 30-40 people at Biosphere II in early February with the goal of producing a document
  - BSA should nominate a number of people (6-10), but they wouldn't all go
  - Goal of a balanced representation of career levels (grad student and up) and disciplines
  - Nomination form is being developed; will happen within the next two weeks
  - You can self-nominate
  - Q: Who will actually pick the final representatives (Mike Donoghue and Chelsea are on the steering committee and will be there)
  - Q: Concern that the document becomes an ASPB missive and is not broadly represented; We need to send good people to make sure that our interests are represented and that we should take this opportunity seriously.
  - The document that gets produced will be editable
  - It is unclear at this time how important this document will prove to be ultimately
- Q: Is there an international component? NO – It is effectively representing North America although it is supposed to be a global vision.
- Q: re: PLANTAE.org and the fact that it is clearly dominated by ASPB. We have been approached by ASPB to contribute financially in order to be able to influence the content, but the request was substantial. Timing was also difficult given the Wiley transition.

## 8. Budget (Lucinda McDade)

- BSA is in good shape financially
- Wiley shift caused a short term gap in income that we bridged with funds from the investment portfolio.
- Roughly speaking, our revenue stays the same, but our costs go down, and we will receive royalties, although we need more time to know what those will look like.
- The Board voted last year to maintain several months of the operating budget available as cash in order to prevent these kinds of short-term cash flow problems. Over the next few years we will develop a better picture of the income that we can expect from the Wiley royalty payments. These payments will likely support the cash-on-hand policy such that any surplus can be directed back into the investment portfolio.
- Expenses in the administrative office are down due to some reorganization
- They are reviewing the complexity of small (mostly sectional) accounts and virtual partitions; this number of small accounts amounts to an administrative burden (there are 60+ small 'accounts').
- They are working to improve transparency for tracking donations.
- FY2018 & 19 BUDGET
  - Looking at ending the year substantially in the black (operations ~50k ahead)
  - Administrative expenditures are going to increase for 2019 due to replacing Heather as Membership and Communications Coordinator
- **MOTION** to approve FY2019 budget as posted online (dated 7/20) -> **APPROVED**

#### 9. Graduate Student Research Awards (Allison Miller)

- Alison Miller spearheaded survey; 300 members responded (30% students)
- 98% respondents favored expanded role of BSA and most supported 2k for PhD and 1k for MS
- Most favored giving 20 awards (vs giving 10 or fewer)
- \$25,000 total support supported (currently we spend 11k)
- In summary, support was for fewer but larger awards
- 92% respondents said they'd support a \$30 increase in dues if it went to research
- Board voted last night to support 11k -> 25k increase, but we need to figure out how to pay for it
- The Board discussed a \$25 increase in professional membership fee with an opt-out option if anyone does not want to pay it, with the hopes of raising the necessary funds
  - Technically we do not need the Council approval because it is not mandatory
  - What will the structure be to review and distribute the money? The committee already exists and the format would remain roughly the same. Proposed ten at 2k and five at 1k but this is very tentative. We would also want a diverse portfolio and make sure that they do not all go to the same lab.
  - Q: re: the 2.5% draw and whether we should increase this to 5%? \$440k sum is the Bill Dahl reserve in the investment account with a 2.5% draw yielding about 11k that we needed/distributed previously.
  - Our dues are \$60 and ASPB is \$145 – we can afford to increase by \$25 easily (to \$85)
  - Society for the Study of Evolution gives out \$2-2.5k awards already.
- **MOTION** to approve recommending a \$25 increase in dues with an opt-out clause, where the new funds will go toward (100%) higher amount grad student awards -> **APPROVED**

#### 10. PHYCOLOGICAL SECTION (Rick McCourt)

- Phycological Society used to meet with AIBS meetings

- They are similarly structured with about 1000 members and a \$2M endowment
- Have a nascent Legacy Society
- They are meeting in Fort Lauderdale next year but the following year is not established; will be in Vancouver this summer
- Could consider colloquia or symposium in Tucson even if it's not a joint meeting
- He's around all week if we have suggestions or want to talk
- About 200-250 phycologists typically attend their meetings
- The Darbaker award was last given about 5 years ago; the language may support activities beyond an award.
- **MOTION** for the Advisory Council to encourage relevant BSA officers to contact the other participating societies (six) to discuss and plan a joint meeting in the future -> **APPROVED**

Meeting adjourned 4:58pm Central Time