

# BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

## COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Sunday, August 6, 2000

9:00 AM

Doubletree Hotel, Morrison Room

Portland, Oregon

*Present:* Doug Soltis, Carol Baskin, Pat Gensel, Jennifer Richards for Pam Soltis, Ed Schneider, Wayne Elisens, Jeff Osborn, Karl Niklas, Marsh Sundberg, Scott Russell, Kim Hiser, Annette Coleman, David Kramer, Jean Gerrath, Jack Horner, Maxine Watson, Jeri Higginbotham, David Hibbett, Steve Manchester, Louise Lewis, Pete Straub, Mark Porter, Don Buckley for Rob Reinsvold, Jim Mickle for Kathleen Hornberger.

NB: Record of Motions is at end of Minutes.

### **1. Call to Order and Introductions**

President Doug Soltis called the meeting to order and made introductions.

### **2. Approval of Minutes of 1999 Council Meeting**

**Motion:** Karl Niklas moved approval of the 1999 Council Meeting Minutes; the motion was seconded.

**Motion Passed**

### **3. Reports of Executive Committee and Editors.**

Most reports were provided prior to the meeting and were available on the Web at <http://www.botnay.org/bsa/membership/2000reports/> prior to the Council meeting. Officers summarized reports and brought up items for discussion.

#### **A. President:**

President Doug Soltis summarized his submitted report. In addition to the usual duties of the President, he formulated an Associate Editor policy for the *AJB* and worked on an initial Strategic Plan for the Society, developed a series of information papers for the Website. He noted that publications of Abstracts in *AJB* would be discontinued. Tim Lowrey was appointed Local Representative for the 2001 meetings. A sizable contribution to the BSA endowment was made by the late Drs. Richard and Deana Klein. Doug worked with Meetings Coordinator Wayne Elisens to organize this first independent meeting in many years.

**B. Past President:**

Past President Carol Baskin reported that Elliot Meyerowitz would give the Plenary Session address, 34 Young Botanist awards were given, and the Past President's Symposium, "New frontiers in botany," was organized.

**C. President Elect:**

President Elect Pat Gensel reported that she attended the All Society Presidents' summit for AIBS, where the need to speak with one voice to Congress was emphasized; she also attended the Council of Presidents of Scientific Societies meeting, where the issue of how to communicate science issues was raised.

**D. Secretary:**

Secretary-elect Jenny Richards was filling-in for Secretary Pam Soltis, who was unable to attend. Pam's annual report was posted on the Web.

**E. Treasurer:**

Treasurer Ed Schneider reported that BSA's financial assets are in good shape, with a total of \$1.87 million in assets. We changed to a new fiscal year (Oct. 1-Sept. 30). Quarterly reports were posted on the Web for the Council. We received a generous endowment from the estate of Richard and Deana Klein. Ed developed a job description for a new full-time BSA office staff member, the Administrative and Meeting Assistant. He recommends that the Society conduct an "operational audit" of the Business Office.

Ed noted that we have \$27,841 of special Initiative money from the endowment. Requests for over \$50,000 have come in from various parts of the Society, so the Society needs to set budget priorities. Requests have been received for \$7,500 for Karling Awards, \$7,500 for initial Annual Meeting costs, and \$10,500 for the Education Committee, as well as money for a society fundraising person. David Kramer said that the Education Committee was shown as having spent no money, whereas they had spent \$6-7,000; Ed replied that perhaps this had been taken from the Teaching Section. Scott Russell questioned how the switch to the new fiscal year had gone; Ed replied that it looked o.k.

**F. Meeting Coordinator:**

Meeting Coordinator Wayne Elisens was attending to meeting business. His report was postponed until his arrival (see after "3.E" below)

**G. Program Director:**

Program Director Jeff Osborne summarized his posted report, including planning visits and coordination of the scientific program for Botany 2000, and plans for Botany 2001 in Albuquerque, NM, and Botany 2002 in Madison, WI. He reported that the electronic abstract submissions for presentations at Botany 2000 worked well. He tried to increase media coverage for the meeting, both regionally and with science magazines. He reported that we had 448 talks and 149 posters for the meeting, and the new "Recent Topics Posters", which allowed for late poster submissions of exciting new data, had resulted in 30 additional posters, with 27 new presenters. All participating societies at the

meeting had unified program listings, and there was 1 conference-wide poster session with no conflicting sessions.

Jean Gerrath noted that the Canadian Botanical Society would meet with BSA in 2002; she is the coordinator. Jeff reported that the call for 2001 symposia, workshops, and field trips would be extended to Sept., 2000.

Doug Soltis said that the Executive Committee had discussed publication of the meeting Abstracts and decided that they would no longer be published as part of the *American Journal of Botany*. Instead, they will be published as a separate item, listed just as Meeting Abstracts. The question of the status of such a publication for CV's and tenure decisions was raised. Editor Niklas noted that the abstracts were not reviewed, did not have to be on archival paper and bound by the library. The question was raised whether they would be indexed. Editor Niklas said that they could be; Past Pres. Baskin suggestion that they be published under a new Miscellaneous Series.

#### **F. Meeting Coordinator (see above):**

Meeting Coordinator Wayne Elisens referred to his posted report for details. He said that, with this has our first self-organized meeting in a number of years, we had learned a lot. The big problem is financial planning for the meeting. He reported good preliminary reports on attendee satisfaction. Steve Manchester wondered about the hotel blocks; Wayne projected that there would be no shortfall because of lack of reservations.

#### **H. Editor, *American Journal of Botany*:**

Editor Karl Niklas deferred to his report on the Web. He provided the Council with statistics on institutional subscriptions for the last 10 years, which have been declining, while membership in the society has been rising, except for last year. The last year was discussed in light of Web access to the journal and the possibility that this was a statistical fluke. Karl recommended following trends for another year. He also brought up the problem of the steadily increasing backlog of manuscripts and requested increased support from the Society for the journal. One hundred and eighty-three manuscripts are waiting to appear, although he had increased the rejection rate. The rejection rate can be further increased through the handling of split decisions, which were either summarily declined, or authors were asked to resubmit them as new manuscripts. He also reported that we would gain 16 new pages in August by changing the journal font and suggested that we could gain additional pages by changing the paper grade to a different type of archival paper.

*Discussion:* Judy Jernstedt questioned how the decisions on split reviews would be made; Karl responded that the Associate Editors would be involved. Jean Gerrath said that the *Canadian Journal of Botany* allowed 28 days for the author(s) to do revisions in response to split decisions. Scott Russell suggested that we move data tables on-line so that they don't take up space. Mark Porter responded that we need archival copies of electronic data supplements; Karl said that institutional subscribers must have archival material, and so on-line wouldn't work.

#### **I. Editor, *Plant Science Bulletin*:**

Editor Marsh Sundberg deferred to his posted report; 4 issues of *PSB* were published in 1999 and 2 issues in 2000. Marsh took over from Joe Leverich on Jan. 1,

2000. He has made some format changes, including having feature articles at the beginning of each issue; he requested ideas for features. He noted that the Editorial committee recommended not instituting charges for announcements in *PSB*, although it would be acceptable to charge for advertising.

**J. Webmaster:**

Webmaster Scott Russell reported that there had been a lot of changes in our Web service. BSA now runs its own web servers, domain name servers, mail service and security systems. Steve Wolfe runs the BSA Directory. The number of websites and domains had multiplied, and page requests increased at a rate of 50-60%; our site had hosted visitors from 120 countries. Image site use increased 40%/year and was sensitive to the school calendar. *AJB* Online is used around the clock, with a 100% increase in use per year and more than 60,000 reprints downloaded.

President Soltis thanked Karl, Marsh and Scott for their service.

**K. Business Manager:**

Business Manager Kim Hiser reported that the Business Office budget was on track. They had produced the Membership Directory and new recruitment posters and brochures. Membership was down from last year. The spring and fall mailings were done by an outside vendor rather than the University. Institutional subscription rates were increased by \$10. Circulation is down. The “fire sale” was terminated. The Business Office employs a part-time student and a full time assistant.

**Motion: Karl Niklas moved to accept the reports of the Executive Committee and Editors. Nels Lersten seconded.**

**Motion passed.**

**4. Reports of Committees, Sections, and Representatives**

**A. Committees**

**1. Annual Meetings Coordinating Committee**

Meeting Coordinator Wayne Elisens reported that his committee consulted professionals and people with meeting experience, such as Carol Baskin and Jeff Osborn, in organizing the meeting. They conducted site visits for coming meetings. They also created the forms, protocols, and brochures for the meeting. He thought that additional infrastructural help was needed in the Business Office in order to organize and execute the meetings. He reported that almost all contracts were signed for the 2001 meetings in Albuquerque. The 2002 meeting would be university-based in Madison, WI, which required different kinds of contracts. This type of meeting may be more of a challenge from the coordinating perspective. Site visits to potential sites for 2003 had narrowed the possibilities to Jacksonville, FL, and Mobile, AL, and the Committee recommended Mobile.

*Discussion:* Judy Jernstedt asked where people were staying for the current meeting; Wayne responded that 40% of registrants did not use the recommended hotels. Maxine Watson raised the problem that hotel rates were too expensive for many,

especially graduate students. Wayne responded that our current prices were the lowest in 5 years and, although dormitory housing was available, only 14 people signed up for it, although 32% of the meeting registrees were students. Students can get reduced costs by working as AV projectionists. Maxine suggested that we have a roommate-request page on the Website, to make it easier for students to find roommates and cut costs; the suggestion was also made to include a model student budget in the registration material, to clarify costs and potential cost reductions for students. Carol Baskin raised the need to educate Society registrants about the costs to the Society of not meeting targets at host hotels. David Kramer noted the need to communicate with other societies about meeting times; Wayne reported on which societies had been contacted concerning times for the next 3 meetings.

**Motion: Judy Jernstedt moved that the Society move to final discussions with Mobile about the 2002 meetings; Karl Niklas seconded.**

**Motion passed.**

**2. Annual Meeting Program Committee:**

Program Director Jeff Osborn reported that they had tried to streamline the programming process. He noted that issues of room size and concurrent sessions were especially hard to coordinate.

**3. Archives and History Committee**

Chairperson Ron Stuckey was not present.

**4. Committee on Committees:**

President-elect Pat Gensel reported that the Committee had completed its work of finding members for open positions, and she thanked the Committee members for their help in this task.

**5. Conservation Committee**

Chairperson Bill Hahn was not present but posted his report on the Web.

**6. Corresponding Members Committee:**

Past President Carol Baskin reported that there were not openings for Corresponding members this year.

**7. Darbaker Prize Committee:**

Chairperson Annette Coleman reported that there was no prize awarded this year.

**8. Education Committee:**

Chairperson David Kramer reported the Education Committee worked on (1) the improvement of pre-college science education through BSA participation in science teacher conventions (NABT, NSTA); (2) digitizing the BSA's slide collection and making available on the Web; (3) improving undergraduate education through cooperation with other professional societies in plant biology, such as Project

Kaleidoscope. He reported that the committee spent all of its budget allocation and was requesting the same amount this year. Some of it went to participation in Project Kaleidoscope. Susan Kramer organized the project, which brought together the education chair people for different scientific societies. When they go to NSTA, all plant exhibitors are now together. The Committee is trying to develop a poster project with McGraw-Hill. The Council agreed that it was o.k. to do this if the BSA logo was larger than any other logo on the poster.

President Soltis thanked Dave Kramer and the Education Committee for their proactive work and for staffing the Education booth at the meetings.

**10. Esau Award Committee:**

Chairperson Jean Gerrath reported that there were 7 candidates for this year's award.

**11. Financial Advisory Committee:**

Chairperson Jack Horner reported that the endowment was currently \$1,867,492. The Endowment fund has grown 111% since its inception 6.5 years ago, or at an average increase of about 17% per year. He had met with the Solomon Smith Barney representative to restructure investments to increase income. The Klein endowment was \$200,000 plus some smaller amount to be given this fall. He presented 2 recommendations: (1) The Society use \$27,841 of Endowment income for "special initiative" during the 2000-2001 fiscal year (this is a \$5,000 increase over last year); and (2) The Society send out an endowment letter and brochure this Fall to members over 50 years of age or members of more than 20 years. He also requested \$1,500 to cover the cost of the brochure, of which \$500 has already been provided by discretionary funds. He noted that *AJB* Editor Karl Niklas has asked for a restricted endowment for the *AJB*.

**Motion: Karl Niklas moved that the Council accept Recommendations 1 (use of \$27,841 in special initiatives) and 2 (production and mailing of an endowment letter) from the Financial Advisory Committee; Scott Russell seconded.**

**Motion passed.**

**12. Karling Awards Committee:**

Jeff Osborn, reporting for George Yatskievych, noted that the number of awards had been increased by 5 this year. There were 43 submissions and 15 awards.

**13. Membership and Appraisal Committee:**

Chairperson Leo Bruederle was not present; his report was posted on the Web. President Soltis led a discussion of decline in membership. Efforts have been made to pinpoint reason. Karl Niklas suggested was result of on-line access to *AJB*. President Soltis suggested that the Publications Committee investigate the pros and cons of on-line vs. hardcopy journal. Marsh Sundberg suggested that we reconsider a 2-tiered membership, hardcopy vs. on-line.

**Motion: Scott Russell moved to set up an *ad hoc* committee to develop a plan on Membership Tiers; Carol Baskin seconded.**

There was discussion of the need for considering membership changes in the broader context of the future of *AJB* and of *BSA*. A need for a tripartite composition of the committee, with representation from membership, finance and publications, was discussed.

**Motion passed.**

**Motion: Karl Niklas moved that Kim Hiser, Ed Schneider and Scott Russell make of the Ad Hoc Membership Tiers Committee; Jack Horner seconded.**

**Motion passed.**

#### **14. Merit Awards Committee**

Chairperson John Doebley was not present; his report was posted on the Web. Dr. Leslie Gottlieb was recommended for a BSA Merit Award this year.

#### **15. Moseley Award Committee**

Chairperson Larry Hufford was not present; his report was posted on the Web. No Award was presented in 1999 because of the International Botanical Congress.

#### **16. Pelton Award Committee**

Chairperson Fred Sacks was not present; his report was posted on the Web. The 2000 Pelton Award was given to Prof. Ben Scheres.

#### **17. Publications Committee:**

Chairperson Judy Jernstedt reported that the committee dealt with the issues of (1) how and when to initiate special issues of *AJB* and (2) how to reduce the backlog of *AJB* manuscripts. The Committee devised a procedure for soliciting and selecting special issues, but recommended reducing the backlog of articles at the *AJB* before implementing special publications. The Committee also recommended increasing each issue of *AJB* by 3 signatures (48 pages) and provided a proposed mechanism to fund this increase, which included \$10,000 of the special initiatives money, requiring approval of the Executive Committee and BSA Council.

#### **18. Webpage Committee:**

Chairperson Scott Russell said that all aspects of our Web service and now done on in-house servers controlled by BSA. He reported that Steve Wolf runs the BSA Directory. BSA has lots of domains, which cost \$19 to register and are maintained at \$12/year. He noted that a large volume of material is being downloaded. He recommended that the Webmaster serve a 5-year term, noting that his term would be finished in 2001.

#### **19. Development ad hoc Committee:**

Chairperson Judy Jernstedt said that the Development *ad hoc* committee was never fully constituted and charged. She noted that the Financial Advisory Committee has undertaken much of the proposed work of the committee.

#### **20. Endowment ad hoc Committee:**

Chairperson Nancy Dengler said that the committee had made recommendations about how to handle the 2% interest from the Endowment that the Society had decided to spend. Recommendations included support for the Karling Research awards (\$5000), Conant Travel Fund (\$5000), subsidy for BSA memberships for botanists in Mexico, Central, and South America (\$5000), annual meeting plenary and outreach lectures (\$5000), *AJB* special issue (\$18,000), Conservation Committee symposium (\$2500), and a part-time fundraiser (\$23,000).

**Motion: Jack Horner moved to accept the Committee Reports; Scott Russell seconded.**

**Motion passed.**

#### **B. Sections**

**Motion: Karl Niklas moved to accept the Section Reports; Jack Horner seconded.**

**Motion passed.**

#### **C. Representatives to other Organizations**

**Motion: Karl Niklas moved to accept the reports of Representatives to other organizations; Jack Horner seconded.**

**Motion passed.**

**Motion: Scott Russell moved to dissolve the Development ad hoc Committee; Judy Jernstedt seconded.**

**Motion passed.**

### **5. Old Business**

The bylaws changes put forward in the spring mailing passed.

### **6. New Business**

#### **A. 2000 BSA Budget**

Treasurer Ed Schneider presented 2 budget-planning sheets. He reported that we had \$27,000 to spend and \$33,900 in requests, not counting a proposed \$20- \$25K for a professional fund raiser: \$10,000 to Publications, \$4,500 for an audit, \$7,500 for Karling Awards, \$1,500 for a fundraising brochure, and \$10,400 for the Education Committee. A big unknown this year in our budget is the annual meeting costs or benefits. Sections are



all currently allocated \$700 or \$1000; discussion of these allocations was tabled; a Membership Marketing business plan would cost \$10,000; Ed likes to keep a 5-10% contingency fund; educational posters would cost \$2,800; a discussion of these was tabled. Karl raised the question of what are the best expenditures to meet the mission of the society? He said the change in *AJB* font gave us an additional signature/year (=16 pages), while changing the paper grade saved \$5,000/year.

**Motion: Jack Horner moved to recommend the change in paper quality, dependent on the approval of the *AJB* Editorial Board and with the proviso that we re-visit the issue in 1 year; Maxine Watson seconded.**

**Motion Passed.**

Discussion returned to the Budget. Scott Russell moved to invest \$5000 in the Karling Awards; Marsh Sundberg seconded, but after discussion Scott withdrew the motion. The Development person was taken out of the requests, with the understanding that the Financial Advisory Committee would look into other ways to fund this position.

**Motion: Marsh Sundberg moved to allocate \$1,500 for the fundraising brochure; Jean Gerrath seconded.**

**Motion passed.**

The decision was made to prioritize by vote the remaining requests for Publications, Education, Membership, and Student Scholarships. The prioritization was done by voting for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> priorities among the 4 categories. The final prioritization was Publications, Membership, Education, and Student Scholarships, with Publications being the clear front-runner.

**Motion: Jenny Richards moved that the Executive Committee use the prioritizations to allocate funds as they became available up to the amount requested; Judy Jernstedt seconded.**

**Motion passed.**

The suggestion was made that sections be requested to use dues allocations to support the Karling Awards.

**Motion: Jim Mickle moved to approve the Budget; Jack Horner seconded.**

**Motion passed.**

#### **D. 2000 Business Office, *AJB*, and *PSB* Budgets**

Business Office and *AJB* budgets were dealt with earlier.

**Motion: Karl Niklas moved to approve the budget for the *Plant Science Bulletin*; Ed Schneider seconded.**

**Motion passed.**

**C. Search for new position in BSA Business Office**

**Motion: Karl Niklas moved to approve the description as amended by Pat Gensel for the new position in the BSA Business Office; Jack Horner seconded.**

**Motion passed.**

Ed Schneider noted that it would take \$1000 to do the interviews for this position.

**D. Strategic Plan**

President Soltis reported that the Executive Committee is working on the strategic plan and will post it on the Web for membership input. The main goals outlined are to raise public awareness of botanical issues; encourage basic plant research, support education about plants and ecosystems; foster communication within the botanical community; and improve Society organization.

**E. BSA Meetings, 2001**

Meetings Coordinator Wayne Elisens said that this had already been covered in his report, above.

**F. Expanded Meeting Format, 2002**

Program Director Jeff Osborn described the format for the Education meeting for K-12 teachers that will precede the BSA meeting in Madison, 2002. The meetings will open on Friday night, have sessions on Saturday, with a Public Outreach lecture on Saturday night, then Sunday field trips and workshops, overlapping with the BSA field trips and workshops. Pat Gensel noted that the Biology in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century meeting pulled in a lot of teachers. Pete Strauss wondered if we could arrange for teachers to get accreditation for attending.

**G. Special Publications/Initiatives**

It was noted that we have money available but it will go to reducing the journal backlog.

**H. Annual Meeting Coordinator to serve on Executive Committee (per change in by-laws)**

Point of information: Meeting Coordinator Wayne Elisens will serve on the Executive Committee.

**I. Addition of Editor of *AJB* as *ex-officio* member of Executive Committee**

Judy Jernstedt noted that the Executive Committee consists only of elected officers, but the Business Manager and Editor are appointed; the exception is the Meeting

Coordinator. The Council recommended that the Executive Committee investigate the history of the relation of the EC and the Editor (it was reported that a decision had been made in the past for the Editor not to be on the EC) and consider the addition of the Editor to the EC.

#### **7. Other Business**

It was reported that the American Society of Plant Physiologists was thinking of changing their name to the American Society of Plant Biology; the President was directed to make contact with them about this possibility, express our disapproval, and follow what they do.

#### **8. Adjournment**

**Motion: Karl Niklas moved to adjourn; Jenny Richards seconded.**

**Motion passed.**

#### **Record of Motions:**

**Motion: Karl Niklas moved approval of the 1999 Council Meeting Minutes; the motion was seconded.**

**Motion Passed**

**Motion: Karl Niklas moved to accept the reports of the Executive Committee and Editors. Nels Lersten seconded.**

**Motion passed.**

**Motion: Judy Jernstedt moved that the Society move to final discussions with Mobile about the 2002 meetings; Karl Niklas seconded.**

**Motion passed.**

**Motion: Karl Niklas moved that the Council accept Recommendations 1 (use of \$27,841 in special initiatives) and 2 (production and mailing of an endowment letter) from the Financial Advisory Committee; Scott Russell seconded.**

**Motion passed.**

**Motion: Scott Russell moved to set up an *ad hoc* committee to develop a plan on Membership Tiers; Carol Baskin seconded.**

**Motion passed.**

**Motion: Karl Niklas moved that Kim Hiser, Ed Schneider and Scott Russell make of the Ad Hoc Membership Tiers Committee; Jack Horner seconded.**

**Motion passed.**

**Motion: Jack Horner moved to accept the Committee Reports; Scott Russell seconded.**

**Motion passed.**

**Motion: Karl Niklas moved to accept the Section Reports; Jack Horner seconded.  
Motion passed.**

**Motion: Karl Niklas moved to accept the reports of Representatives to other organizations; Jack Horner seconded.  
Motion passed.**

**Motion: Scott Russell moved to dissolve the Development ad hoc Committee; Judy Jernstedt seconded.  
Motion passed.**

**Motion: Jack Horner moved to recommend the change in paper quality, dependent on the approval of the AJB Editorial Board and with the proviso that we re-visit the issue in 1 year; Maxine Watson seconded.  
Motion Passed.**

**Motion: Marsh Sundberg moved to allocate \$1,500 for the fundraising brochure; Jean Gerrath seconded.  
Motion passed.**

**Motion: Jenny Richards moved that the Executive Committee use the prioritizations to allocate funds as they became available up to the amount requested; Judy Jernstedt seconded.  
Motion passed.**

**Motion: Jim Mickle moved to approve the Budget; Jack Horner seconded.  
Motion passed.**

**Motion: Karl Niklas moved to approve the budget for the Plant Science Bulletin; Ed Schneider seconded.  
Motion passed.**

**Motion: Karl Niklas moved to approve the description as amended by Pat Gensel for the new position in the BSA Business Office; Jack Horner seconded.  
Motion passed.**

**Motion: Karl Niklas moved to adjourn; Jenny Richards seconded.  
Motion passed.**