
I here summarize the various activities associated with the office of the president over the year.

- In December 2014, President-Elect Dick Olmstead and I met via Skype with all of the BSA staff members. They each summarized their duties and recent activities as BSA employees. I certainly concur with the conclusion that Pam Diggle stated in her report last year: Our conclusion was that we have a truly wonderful staff who are working hard every day to support and develop the BSA. One of the great rewards of this last year has been to work with them.
- Provided performance evaluation for Executive Director, Bill Dahl.
- Chaired the BSA Board Skype meeting on December 5, 2014. Major items of discussion included:
  - Financial update, including discussion of cash flow, the Swets Blackwell bankruptcy and its impact on library journal subscriptions, investments.
  - Publications, including discussion of open access issues, ways to make AJB more attractive to authors, APPS is doing well, PSB new Editor - MacKenzie Taylor!
  - Opening a bank account with Scotia Bank in Edmonton for meeting expenses
  - Discussion of Edmonton meeting
  - Development and the need for Board members to be involved with fund raising efforts
  - Other reports on file mentioned: Education, Technology, Strategic Plan
- Chaired the annual Spring Board Meeting held March 13-14, 2015 at the Business Office in St. Louis. Too many items of discussion to list here; see minutes of meeting.
- Participated in conference call with BSA Investment Committee and Morgan Stanley re: BSA endowment investments on May 27, 2015.
- Other issues and activities:
  - Participated in #iamabotanist/#reclaimthename campaign, including responding to one member who thought it was a waste of time
  - Participated in over 200 email discussions concerning various issues, including the following (and more): the Legacy Society, fund raising, various awards, committee membership, investments, finances, name change of Merit Award to Distinguished Fellow, queries to BSA about various plant science things, with Heather Cacanindin re: email communications to members, with Birgit Spears and Joe Armstrong on fund raising, financial support for Plants Are Cool Too videos, rising costs of professional meetings, sending a BSA member to a NSF sponsored workshop on broadening participation, BSA representation at a Data Practices workshop, postings on BSA website, contingent faculty members, AIBS board participation, signing up BSA as a charitable organization with Amazon Smile, UNESCO conference, nominations for Decadal Vision steering committee, CourseSource website launch, predatory open access journals, BSA rep to AAAS (decision: not needed), BSA support for symposia, BSA support for Common Math and Science Standards from STEM Education Coalition, issue of BSA Lifetime membership and hard copy journal, HGTV and turf grass, supporting letter to Congress on sequestration from AIBS, dropping participation with Council of Scientific Society Presidents, supporting letter for DC Principles
Coalition, BSA rep to meeting of Plant Conservation Alliance Non-Federal Cooperators Committee, BSA endowment business, ID of orchid photo for Glamour magazine, coordinating NSF proposal with multiple plant societies seeking travels funds for members to IBC 2017 (still in planning stages), possible membership in Global Plant Council (decision: not - too expensive), query about tree seeds to grow on the moon

- Signed letters for BSA, after discussion with the Board on:
  - Letter to USDA expressing appreciation for USDA leadership actions to create the Foundation for Food and Agricultural Research
  - Letter of Support for the International Center for Tropical Botany at Florida International University

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Tom A. Ranker