

BSA Board Meeting
July 27, 2023
Boise, Idaho

Present: Josh Felton, Eli Hartung, Karolina Heyduk, Vivian Negron-Ortiz, Brenda Molano Flores, Rachel Jabaily, Emily Sessa, Jenny Xiang, Melanie Link-Perez and Heather Cacanindin

Absent: Allison Miller, Norm Wickett, Jennifer Cruse-Sanders

The meeting starts with breakfast and then introductions led by the new President Brenda Molano-Flores.

Melanie Link-Perez led a discussion regarding feedback on the recently concluded Botany 2023 conference. Some suggestions from the Board after listening to members during the conference included:

- No alcohol at poster sessions, perhaps opening the bar after the session has concluded
- Having two nights of posters instead of just one, providing more time and professional courtesy to those presenting
- More space needed between the aisles of posters, it was too crowded this year
- More fruit and vegetables needed as we received complaints from vegans
- Make an option for getting an easily recycled printed program; attendees could check a box and pay extra for a PDF version of the program book
- Opt-in tote bag
- More clarity on the location and signage for gender neutral bathrooms
- More events without alcohol
- Ensuring there is a leader/person to welcome and make an introduction to special events, affinity groups, etc.

The Ombuds from the conference will be debriefing us in the coming month and providing feedback so we can update our Code of Conduct going forward.

Melanie also shared some of the planning currently happening for Botany 2024. Johanne is investigating dorms as an option. The Society for Ethnobotany will be joining as a partner in this meeting. We are trying to attract more non-academic and federal agency attendees. The theme has been decided as "Resilience in a Changing World."

Board members suggest that we create stickers with the conference logo and prepare a template that can be used for PowerPoint presentations.

The Conference Director is looking at several east coast locations for Botany 2026 and will gather pricing. We are already booked for Botany 2025 in Tucson. That contract was signed pre-pandemic.

Rachel Jabaily provides an update on the Professional Disclosure Form for nominated awardees. We have been using it for more than six months now. If issues arise after the form is filled out, we need to be able to address that. Our Code of Ethics/Ethical Guidelines for society members is important to work on in the next year.

The Board discussed the upcoming International Botanical Congress in Madrid, planned for July 2024. After discussions with NSF officers, BSA will not be able to receive funding just to support the travel of early career researchers to the IBC as was done in 2012 and 2017. NSF is now only funding the sort of travel that comes with putting on a workshop.

The Board spent quite a bit of time discussing different ideas for workshops we could put together and hold at the IBC including; global IUCN study of species groups, the future of botanical research, next generation phenotyping to understand plant ecology and evolution, etc. Ideas should be forwarded to Heather. We will discuss this with the IBC leadership and run ideas by program officers at the National Science Foundation to see if any of them are of interest before we pursue a grant proposal.

Botany 360 was discussed. Jenny Xiang shared that we could host one on Enhancing Student Scientific Communication skills. The Board discussed that there is a hidden curriculum and that students could benefit from more Botany 360s on topics like writing (mentored writing session), communication, writing abstracts, presentation skills, etc. Some sessions like this have already been held in the past 18 months. Recordings are available online.

Karolina mentions that the Early Career Professional Development Committee needs a Chair. That committee often helps put together Botany 360 ideas and sessions.

The Board also mentions that the recent BSA membership survey should be the feature of an article in the Plant Science Bulletin and/or the BSA e-newsletter.

Meeting concluded after two hours.