

## **BSA Board Meeting**

**October 17, 2023**

Zoom Call, 11am-12pm Central

Present: Jenny Xiang, Allison Miller, Vivian Negron-Ortiz, Eli Hartung, Melanie Link-Perez, Brenda Molano Flores, Jennifer Cruse-Sanders, Emily Sessa, Tricia Jackson, and Heather Cacanindin

Absent: Norm Wickett, Josh Felton, Karolina Heyduk, and Rachel Jabaily

Tricia Jackson and Heather Cacanindin explain that since the BSA has spent more than \$750,000 in federal funds during FY2023, we are required to have an audit, completed and shared with NSF by June 30, 2024. The Request for Proposal was shared with eight firms, and we received two bids for an audit. Strengths and weaknesses of each audit proposal was discussed.

Brenda moved and Melanie seconded to selected Armanino as the audit firm to conduct the single audit and prepare the FY2023 financial statements. Motion passed.

Heather shared a list of a few award committees that were seeking to appoint a new member to the group.

Brenda moved and Vivian seconded the motion to approve the new committee members as presented in the meeting agenda.

During their July meeting, the Teaching Section approved a change in their section bylaws to allow them to hold nominations and elections electronically, taking place before the annual conference. They have presented this change to the Board for review and approval.

Brenda moved and Melanie seconded to approve the change in the Teaching Section bylaws. Motion passed.

Melanie Link-Perez provided an update to the Board about plants for Botany 2024 in Grand Rapids. Currently the Symposia and Colloquia are being vetted with all sections and societies.

At the planning meeting in Grand Rapids with the program partners, Melanie shared the BSA's Professional Disclosure Form and shared the suggestion from BSA that this form could be used for all invited speakers. Several society partners were not fond of the disclosure form in its current state. We will continue discussing ethical standards for our invited conference speakers with this group.

Melanie shared that there are several pieces of the conference where expenses are greater than the income. Field trips is one and especially the Botany in Action Field trip, which is currently free as a volunteering project, but many do not show up. The program planning committee was in favor of charging \$5 or \$10 to help defray the cost of food and transportation for the event.

Conference childcare has also come at great expense, costing \$13,000 in 2023 with only seven people utilizing the service. Therefore, after three years of experimentation with KiddieCorp, we will not be providing childcare at the conference in 2024.

Allison advocates for exploring providing childcare grants for future meetings.

Brenda moves and Jenny Xiang seconds that the Board move into a closed Executive Session at 11:55am to discuss personnel issues related to the Botany & Beyond grant. Tricia Jackson leaves the conference call.

Brenda moved and Vivian seconded the motion to end the Executive Session at 12:05pm.

It was decided during Executive Session that Brenda, Vivian, and Heather should feel free to reach out to our program officer at NSF regarding the current challenges and lack of progress on a subaward and restructure for the Botany & Beyond grant.

Meeting concluded at 12:05pm