

**BSA Board Meeting**  
**June 15, 2024**  
**5:00pm - 9:00pm**  
**Grand Rapids, MI**

Attending: Brenda Molano-Flores, Vivian Negrón-Ortiz, Emily Sessa, Jenny Xiang, Jenny Cruse-Sanders, Karolina Heyduk, Eli Hartung, Ken Cameron, Jen Hartley, Catrina Adams, Tricia Jackson, Amelia Neely, Rich Hund, Beth Parada, Amy McPherson, Heather Cacanindin. (Allison Miller and Josh Felton joined the meeting later)

Brenda presented the previous minutes for Board review and approval.  
[March 27 Board Call](#), [April 23 Email Vote](#)

Emily moved. Vivian seconded. Approved.

Heather provided highlights from the [Business Office Report](#). Board members discussed the pros and cons of in-person meetings vs. all virtual vs. hybrid options. We are seeking accessible models for meetings that won't break the bank.

Josh Felton and Melanie Link Perez arrived at the meeting at 5:40pm.

Amelia Neely provided an update on BSA membership and communications from the past year. She stressed the importance of providing gift memberships and the work of the Ad Hoc Membership Committee. She also stressed that the Botany360s are continuing, and ideas for future 360s are welcome.

Amy McPherson provided highlights from the Publications report. Emily Sessa mentioned that one of the most important tasks during 2024 has been the search for new Editors-in-Chief for the American Journal of Botany and the Plant Science Bulletin. There were three candidates for each position and two were interviewed for each.  
[EIC Recommendations](#)

Jenny Cruse-Sanders moved that BSA contract with Sean Graham at the University of British Columbia as the next EIC for AJB. Vivian seconded the motion. Approved.

Melanie Link-Perez moved that BSA contract with Carolina Sinalscalchi as the next EIC for the PSB. Jenny Cruse-Sanders seconded the motion. Approved.

Catrina Adams presented highlights from the Education report. Dr. Joan Edwards will be honored at this meeting with the Bessey Award. Catrina stressed that more mentors will be needed this fall for PlantingScience and shared an update on the work of the Root & Shoot RCN.

Dinner Break from 6:30-7:15pm

Melanie Link-Perez provided a [Conference Update](#) on the upcoming 2024 conference and that a contract is in the works for a meeting in Omaha, Nebraska, for 2026. Johanne Stogran, BSA Conference Manager, has announced that she will be retiring after the 2024 meeting. Johanne has been planning Botany conferences for twenty-five years.

Catrina Adams provided an in-depth analysis of grant proposals involving BSA that are in the works. [BSA Future Grant Proposals and Discussion](#)

In particular, BSA has been invited to be part of a LEAPS proposal led by PI Teresa Mourad at the Ecological Society of America related to inclusive teaching practices. BSA would have a contract for a piece of the project work. BSA is working on a grant proposal for an IUUSE grant related to making bio faculty more aware of evidence-based research in inclusive teaching.

Catrina addressed capacity and coverage of grants by BSA staff, as we will also expect to have one no-cost extension year of the F2 PlantingScience grant. All of these must be balanced.

Emily suggested that it may be time to put specific wording in our policies about how to structure these grants for the future. For example, do we want to codify that if we are CoPIs on a grant that it must be structured as a subaward or that the scope of work must be laid out in a certain way for BSA to agree to partner. The staff will consider this suggestion.

Emily Sessa moved, and Jenny Xiang seconded the motion to collaborate and contract with ESA on their SASS LEAPS proposal. Approved.

Heather presented an analysis of future BSA publications revenue and APC increases. Staff had asked Wiley to prepare an analysis for the Board to consider.

[Publications Revenue Projections and APC Analysis](#)

Allison Miller moved and Emily Sessa seconded the motion to approve APC increases as proposed in Scenario 1 of the analysis document. Approved.

Allison Miller presented the Treasurer's report regarding BSA finances from FY2023 and the current fiscal year. BSA is on solid financial footing and the investment account has been growing. There are several committees and people with eyes on BSA finances, including the Financial Advisory Committee, Investment Committee, Board, Treasurer, and BSA staff, as well as the auditors.

Allison stressed that fundraising and grant activity are increasingly important to the Society's financial health. It would be worth considering some type of longer-term projections of 3-5 years or more to analyze if there are bigger gaps in revenue coming.

Vivian Negron Ortiz moved, and Emily Sessa seconded to approve the FY2025 budget with a 4% draw on the investment account unallocated. Approved.

## [FY2025 Budget](#)

Jenny Cruse-Sanders presented highlights from her Development report. She stressed the increasing importance of fundraising and donations to the future of the Society. A “Day for BSA” has been planned for August 26-27. She is also exploring whether the Garden Clubs of America or BCGI would be interested in partnering with BSA, especially since the percentage of students who attend our conferences and hold membership in the Society is so high.

Karolina Heyduk presented a report on the work of the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee. They have formed several subcommittees throughout the year. In the coming year, they will send out a survey to get a sense of what the community wants in this area.

Josh Felton and Eli Hartung presented a report from the student representatives. Student participation at the Botany 2024 conference is half of our attendance. Also, they noted that they will be coming to the Board for financial support for a workshop sometime in the next year.

Vivian Negron-Ortiz presented an update on the Climate Change Virtual Symposia, which has been set for November 14-15, 2024. The ad hoc committee is moving from planning to implementation. Six speakers have agreed to present so far. There will also be a special issue of AJB, which is in the works for 2025. Ken Cameron suggested that Board members encourage faculty to incorporate this symposium into their syllabi for the fall semester.

Vivian presented the recommendations from the Corresponding Member committee. The committee received two nominations and voted in favor of providing both of them with the honor of Corresponding Member.

[Elsa Marie Friis](#)

[Mark Olson](#)

Karolina Heyduk moved and Jenny Cruse-Sanders seconded the motion to recommend Elsa Marie Friis and Mark Olson for Corresponding membership. Approved.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.