

BSA Board Meeting
June 20, 2024
7:30-9:30 am
Grand Rapids, MI

Attending: Ken Cameron, Emily Sessa, Rachel Jabaily, Benjamin Ajayi, Karolina Heyduk, Allison Miller, Melanie Link-Perez, Jenny Cruse-Sanders, Josh Felton, and Heather Cacanindin.

Introductions were made by all in attending.

Heather shared the Code of Conflict policy and forms with all Board members for their completion.

There was a brief discussion of the Conference Manager position and what the next steps will be to fill that role after Johanne Stogran's retirement. The first step will be to create a document of all that the Conference Manager does and prepare a job description. The BSA may hire another employee for the role or seek to contract with a meeting planner.

Board members shared feedback that they heard during Botany 2024

- Room size was a mismatch with size of audience in several cases; room capacity with each session assignment needs to be reviewed by more people
- Kaplan and Regional lecture need bigger rooms
- Screens in the larger rooms were too small
- Celebrate should start after the BSA awards ceremony with no overlap
- There is so much science that we need either two nights of poster sessions or more time on Monday for the poster session – perhaps three hours of poster session on Monday was the consensus
- Make the poster session alcohol free
- To-go boxes on Sunday night were really a nice touch and we should see if other venues will provide this in the future
- General feeling on the Board and what they heard is that we could come back to Grand Rapids in the future
- Having people to lead affinity group gatherings was a nice improvement. What could these groups do next outside of the conference?
- Need to work further with X-CD and sections to improve award matching

Botany 2025 in Tucson was discussed. Melanie shared some of the items that were discussed at the program planning meeting. We will make an invitation to the Mexican Botanical Society and our botanical colleagues in Mexico to try to involve them more in this meeting. Michael Donoghue is reaching out to colleagues regarding a potential Symposia.

The conference location in Tucson is more remote and we will try for food trucks on site on Mon through Wed. We will also investigate the cost of having a bus that takes people back and forth to downtown Tucson once or twice per day. We also realize we may need more student rooms in the block than originally contracted and will need to explore that possibility with the hotel.

The theme that the program planning committee agreed on is Botany 2024: Botany without Barriers.

Along with that theme, we will appoint an Accessibility contact person as a new position at the meeting and provide more moderator training.

An ambassador program was discussed that could help individuals to connect with different groups of people, whether that is sectional, or affinity group related, people need better ways to find out how to meet others. One idea thrown out to the group was the possibility of having Dine Arounds with several openings and options for people to sign up and meet new connections.

Plenary or Regional Botany lecturers suggested include:

Gary Nabhan, Banu Subramanian, Daijn Lee???, Enrique Salamon and someone from the Native Seeds organization in Tucson.

Jenny Xiang brought up the topic of collaboration with other organizations beyond biology. It would be helpful to talk to groups in computer science or math regarding ways we integrate our sciences. Perhaps a Colloquium or Symposium in Tucson could be planned along the lines of Integrative Botany. A workshop could also be a possibility.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 am.