

BSA Council Meeting MINUTES
July 23, 2023, in-person at Botany2023, Boise ID
3:00pm-5:00pm Mountain

Who attended: 28 attendees

Meeting called to order – Vivian (3:02)

Introductions

2. Minutes approval

Motion to approve: Pam Diggle. Second: Jenny CS. Approved.

3. Executive committee reports

A. President – A summary of the year was provided as the BSA president's report. Highlights included the new ethical guidelines, the contract negotiation with Wiley, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the ESA, and the development of a climate change initiative.

B. Past president report – Past president was not present.

C. President elect – The president elect emphasized the efforts of the Root and Shoot capstone project and efforts to reform the election and committee processes, with the goal that leadership reflect membership.

D. Treasurer's report – An overview of financial management in BSA was provided, with a positive outlook reflecting over 100 years of strong and conservative management. The reports and the financial strength of the BSA were summarized, as were the areas in which BSA made investments (e.g., student research, DEI initiatives). While BSA is financially strong, the impact of the expected reduction in revenue from the new contract with Wiley was also summarized. The Treasurer explained the need to make a draw on the investment account because of the expected reduction in publication revenue, but that draw is likely to be below the maximum allowed amount (4% of unallocated funds). The draw will be used to ensure that the BSA can continue to meet its strategic goals without dipping below the \$400k in liquid reserves that is mandated by the BSA board.

E. Program director – Participation in the Botany2023 meeting was summarized. The new meeting platform (XCD) and the new ombudsperson and mediation system was also discussed.

F. Editor (AJB) – The goals of AJB to publish papers that span all areas of plant biology, and to serve the society rather than the goals of the publisher (Wiley) were summarized. The upcoming open call for Associate Editors for both AJB and APPS was mentioned, with an emphasis on increasing the diversity of the editorial board.

G. Editor (APPS) – The editor of APPS reminded the council that APPS is celebrating its 10th anniversary. The editor also celebrated the tenure of the previous EIS and the fact that APPS now has an IF of >3. The collaboration with AJB to increase the diversity of AEs was also presented, as was the waiver system for APPS.

H. Editor, PSB – The editor of the PSB reminded everyone that PSB exists, and also encouraged council members to submit articles that may focus on diversity and inclusion in the society.

I. Business Office Report

Motion to accept documents as presented: Pam; Second; Jenny C-S. One objection (Ben Montgomery) – discussed how it may be more in line with parliamentary procedure to simply vote to enter reports into the record, since we may not be able to vote on the accuracy of the reports.

4. Committee and section reports

A. Standing Committees

1. Executive Committee –

2. Annual meeting Program Committee – The efforts of this committee were discussed by the program director earlier in the meeting (see 3.E above).

3. Committee on Committees (Brenda) – The role of the committee and current efforts of the committee were presented by the president-elect. For the past year there were 40 open positions for 14 positions; the successes in filling those positions were discussed.

4. Director at large of Development (Jenny CS) – summarized the critical need for fund raising to support BSA, particularly in light of the expected reduced revenue from publications. The support of students (particularly since 2019) in graduate research awards was emphasized. The establishment of a new award named for AJ Harris was also presented.

6. Education Committee (Rachel Jabaily) – The chair of the committee emphasized the need for people to serve as Planting Science mentors. A new initiative to improve and provide resources (e.g., state-specific floras) on the BSA website was also presented.

15. Student representatives (Eli Hartung) – A summary of student membership was provided. Efforts made to increase student participation (including having student specific Botany360) were discussed. The proportion (32, 17) of students (graduate vs. undergraduate) attending the meeting and members of the society was discussed.

Motion to accept reports: Pam; Second: Emily. One objection (Ben).

B. Standing Committees (Awards and Prizes)

The new transformative award in plant develop (Mosely?) was noted.

Move to accept: Pam; Second: Krissa. No objections or discussion.

C. Section reports

2. Development and Structural section – The difficulty in having undergraduate or graduate students identifying themselves as belonging to these sections and therefore eligible for the awards was brought up. The possibility of opting-out rather than opting-in for these awards was discussed, with an emphasis on the fact that BSA must discuss this with XCD. In general, having a better handle on who is eligible for these awards.

15. Northeastern Section (Amy) – field trips by the section was presented

motion to approve: Pam; Second: Krissa. No objections.

4. Old Business – None

5. New Business –

A. FY2024 Budget – The treasurer reiterated the expected revenues (likely to be down due to the Wiley contract) and expenses for 2024. The draw that will be made from the investment account was also reiterate. Ways in which BSA staff have cut costs to help mitigate the effects of both the reduced income from Wiley and general economic issues over the past two years. Critically, the budget is designed to address the goals of the BSA as laid out by the strategic plan.

Motion to approve budget to pass to the Business/members meeting: Pam; Second; Rami.

B. Board Recommendations

- a. Gift memberships** – The motion: Rami; second: Krissa. No objections.
- b. Dues** – In particular the increase in student membership was discussed, including a grace period until the end of September where students can renew membership at the 2022 rate. A point was made that increases are less than inflation over the time. As professional membership dues were increased twice since 2008 but student dues were not increased over that time.

Motion: Emily; Second: Kyra. Objections: 3.

c. Membership committee ad hoc

The role of BSA in engaging with students and ECRs was discussed in relation to was discussed.

Motion: Rachel; Second: Jenny CS.

d. PSB

The number of copies that go out (~300 per issue) and the costs (~8-10k) were discussed, as is the importance of opting out of the print issue. A point was made that if PSB will be purely digital, perhaps the format should be revisited.

Motion: Ben; Second: Emily. No objections.

e. Corresponding member

motion: Emily; Second: Rachel. No objections.

Remaining Business – People who ran Botany360s were thanked

Meeting Adjourned.