

BSA Board Meeting MINUTES
March 27, 2024, via Zoom
9:00am-11:00am Central

Who attended:

BSA Staff: Heather Cacanindin, Amy McPherson, Johanne Stogran, Tricia Jackson, Catrina Adams, Amelia Neely

Board Members: Brenda Molano-Flores, Vivian Negrón-Ortiz, Rachel Jabaily, Eli Hartung, Karolina Heyduk, Josh Felton, Jenny Xiang, Allison Miller, Jenny Cruse-Sanders, Melanie Link-Perez,

Other Attendees: Kathy DeerInWater (AISES), Sky Wildcat (AISES)

Link to reports:

<https://botany.org/bsa-board-agendas/bsa-governance-information-spring-2024-part-2.html>

1. Minutes approval – Brenda (in the absence of the Secretary)

The minutes for the following meetings were discussed and approved:

3/6/2024 Board Call

Motion: Vivian Negrón-Ortiz; Second: Allison Miller. No objections.

2. Indigenous Voices Update – Kathy Deerinwater, Sky Wildcat (AISES)

Kathy Deerinwater and Sky Wildcat from AISES-Advancing Indigenous People in STEM joined the Board meeting to explain more in depth about the LEAPS grant partnership that is ongoing between AISES, BSA, ESA and the Entomological Society.

The purpose of the grant is to understand the current state of inclusion of indigenous knowledge and people and to increase indigenous membership and belonging in the scientific fields represented in the partnership. The grant is in its third year and there will be a stakeholder convening this fall at HHMI. BSA has already invited ten attendees to the meeting.

3. Root and Shoot RCN Update – Catrina Adams

Catrina provided a brief update on the activities of the Root & Shoot RCN. Bystander intervention training and a refresher course has been advertised to members from BSA and the other R&S RCN societies. There is also a new working group on culturally responsive mentoring that will be working to put together a curriculum with the goal to have a pilot program ready by this fall.

4. DEI Committee Report – Karolina Heyduk

Karolina updated the Board on the Impact Award and encouraged nominations, the Belonging in Botany panel happening at the conference this summer and the affinity group gatherings.

5. Physiological/Ecophysiological Section Request – Heather and Brenda

The Physiological Section approached Brenda and Heather with a financial request related to a \$10,000 donation that was made to the section many years ago and then returned to the donor in 2019. The section requested that the interest earned on that previous donation be returned to the Physiological and Ecophysiological section so the section can use this interest to fulfill the original goal of the donation to support awards for their section members.

The request from the section that the amount of interest earned on the original donation (~\$5,900) be returned to the section from BSA unallocated was approved.

Motion: Josh Felton; Second: Jenny Cruse-Sanders. No objections.

6. Education Report – Rachel Jabaily and Catrina Adams

Catrina presented some highlights from the Education report. More nominees are needed for the Bessey Award. Also, the committee is in the process of ramping up educational resources online and seeking help from BSA members. Catrina has been talking to past collaborators in the Life Discovery Conference and PLANT-Ed efforts regarding putting together a proposal to NSF for a new multi-year grant. Discussions will continue for the next several months until a draft proposal is prepared.

Break – 5 minutes

7. Climate Change Virtual Symposium – Vivian Negrón-Ortiz

The Ad Hoc Climate Change Committee has been working to put together a 2-day virtual symposium that will address two subtopics and attract federal government, policy makers and academics. The symposium will include invited speakers and submitted talks. Potential avenues for funding were discussed and will be explored. NSF has already denied funding of the prospectus that was floated their way as they do not want to fund virtual meetings.

8. Student Representatives Report – Eli Hartung and Josh Felton

Our students pointed out that students make up one-third of the Society. Also, they are excited by the prioritization of student research being made by BSA.

9. BSA Financial Projection 2024-2025 – Heather and Tricia

Heather and Tricia briefly go over the financial projection document that looks forward and tracks financial revenue and expenses of the Society through a span of 18 months.

Allison points out that it may be worthwhile to engage a financial analyst at some point since we are dealing with many unknowns regarding future revenue.

A special fundraising campaign for BSA is discussed, based on examples like the ones that universities run. Heather and Jenny Cruse-Sanders will explore this idea.

10. Committee Appointments – Jenny Xiang

Jenny explained the process that the Committee on Committees went through in reviewing applications and filling holes on committees where no applications were received.

Motion was made to approve the committee appointments as forwarded by the Committee on Committees.

Motion: Jenny Xiang; Second: Melanie Link-Perez. No objections.

At 10:50am the Board agreed to go into Executive Session to discuss the Performance Review of the BSA Executive Director, Heather Cacanindin and everyone was excused from the meeting except for current BSA Board members. The Board emerged from Executive Session at 11am.

Meeting adjourned at 11 am.