

## **BSA Advisory Council Meeting MINUTES**

July 28, 2019

JW Marriott Starr Pass, Tucson, AZ

In attendance (*at start of meeting; alphabetical*): Dave Barrington, Heather Cacanindin, Jeremy Coate, Theresa Culley, Mararet Devall, Pam Diggle, Mike Donoghue, Ned Friedman, Sean Graham, Jocelyn Hall, Cynthia Huebner, Cindi Jones, Ingrid Jordon-Thaden, Kyra Krakos, Andrew Leslie, Amy Litt, Chris Martine, Rick McCourt, Lucinda McDade, Brenda Molano-Flores, Amelia Neely, Madhav Nepal, Loren Reiseburg, Patty Ryberg, John Schenk, Scott Schuette, Arthur Schwarz, Emily Sessa, Krissa Skogan, Rachel Spicer, Mackenzie Taylor, Kal Tuominen, Linda Watson

Call to Order - 3:15pm

1. Approval of Minutes of the 2018 Council Meeting (available online)

**MOTION & VOTE to approve July 21, 2018 minutes -> PASSES**

2. Reports of Executive Committee, Editors, and Staff

Written reports available online; some will provide comments here as well

**MOTION & VOTE to approve written reports -> PASSES**

President (Andi Wolfe)

- Represented BSA at the Latin American Congress in Ecuador; two author workshops offered with Wiley
- Represented BSA at AIBS workshop to discuss implementation of Nagoya Protocol; other groups have already given this some deep thought
- Board initiatives included increasing graduate research funding to 2k; three-year student membership discussed; funded field trips for close to 30 students (ASPT provides half of funding); we decided to provide childcare at BOTANY2019; discussed investment strategy and budget categories; will be establishing policy for new gifts

Past President - (Loren Rieseberg)

- Election committee, Corresponding Member committee, drive to improve international membership (developing Nations category is increasing each year)

Director-at-Large for Development (Ned Friedman)

- Large gift from Kaplan (~400k) and committee to establish its administration
- Plug for Legacy Society in which you agree to provide funds to BSA in your will; not legally binding (reception Wed at 4:30)

AJB Editor (Pam Diggle)

- Wiley funded strategy meeting. Developed plan to add regular reviews and Janice Friedman has agreed to solicit these. Mostly these will be by invitation and will ultimately involve a proposal.
- Request to share this new initiative with the Sections
- Question: re: OTNOT (1500 word max and 20 references max; one per month) impact
  - They are highly downloaded and being cited and are bringing new eyes to AJB.
  - They are not counted as citable items (considered “front matter” but we count the citations)

APPS Editor (Theresa Culley): New article type called Skill Builder (tutorials); also call for review articles

PBS/MacKenzie: Requests articles on policy, community outreach, teaching, etc. It is peer-reviewed

- Both Pam Diggle and MacKenzie Taylor have been renewed for a second 5 year term.

### 3. Reports of Committees, Sections, and Representatives

#### Standing Committee Reports: Administrative

Written reports available online; some will provide comments here as well

**MOTION & VOTE to approve written reports -> PASSES**

#### Election Committee (Loren Rieseberg)

- Very few nominations received; a handful of people nominate people; self-nominations are welcome
- 20 noms for 5 open positions, committee ranks them and the top two are contacted to see if they'll run
- Cindi Jones is President-Elect; Lucinda McDade is re-elected as Treasurer; Emily Sessa is the new Publications-at-Large Director; Michelle Gaynor is new student rep

#### Investment Committee (Ned Friedman)

- Investment portfolio has grown substantially over the past 20 years
- Reactivating Finance Committee and approach to budget planning
- Toby Kellogg chair of Investment Committee
- Discussing ethics within investment policy (e.g., environmentally, socially ethical investments etc.)
- We have a pro bono finance expert on the committee; Ned, Lucinda and Linda are on the committee as ex officio
- President-Elect is the person responsible for populating committees (Cindi Jones now)

#### International Affairs (Tom Rost) - no report

- Note that there is no report here because Tom Rost signed off from the committee and the committee will not be fully populated until the end of this meeting (some confusion or disagreement here)

#### Public Policy Committee (Kal Tuominen and Krissa Skogen)

- BSA endorsed the reintroduced Botany Bill (H.R.1572)
- Andi charged committee to discuss the recent proposal/plan to move much of the D.C. BLM staff to CO and the threat of sale of public lands

#### Standing Committee Reports: Awards and Prizes

Written reports available online; some will provide comments here as well

**MOTION & VOTE to approve written reports -> PASSES**

#### Corresponding Members Committee (Loren Rieseberg)

- 5 nominations were put forward, 4 from South America + 1 from UK
- No limit to how many are allowed; No term currently but having a 10-year-term could help with turn-over
- Link to their CVs on the website
- Question re: whether they are ever re-evaluated, because there was a problem at BOTANY2019 with a large number of abstracts being cancelled at the last minute; This is related to the BSA Code of Ethics needing to be updated (was passed in 1997)

BSA Distinguished Fellows Awards Committee (Lucinda McDade)

- Four nominated and awarded: Sean Graham, Anne Sakai, Steve Weller and David Lee

Ad hoc Committee Reports: One is established for website revision but it hasn't met yet

#### Section Reports

Written reports available online; some will provide comments here as well

**MOTION & VOTE to approve written reports -> PASSES**

Ecology Section (Brenda Molano-Flores): Increasing travel awards in number and amount

Genetics Section (Ingrid Jordon-Thaden): Struggling financially and had to cut back on awards; it was recommended that they consider raising section dues.

Paleobotanical Section (Andrew Leslie): Considering post-doc research awards

Pteridological Section (Melanie Link-Perez): Revising bylaws; trying to clarify relationship with American Fern Society; revisiting financial policies

Teaching Section (Kyra Krakos): NSF grant for BOTANY2019 diversity and inclusion was funded

Tropical Biology Section (Margaret S. Devall): Session of both talks and posters this year

Southeastern Section (Jeremy Rentsch): Raised dues from \$3 -> \$5 and had to cut student awards down. Dues go to awards and hosting social events.

Phycological Section: Rejuvenated; symposium this year; voted to meet with BOTANY in 2023

PUI Section: This is its first year; had 119 people sign up so very encouraging

#### Reports from Representatives to other Organizations

AAAS - Andi Wolfe: Recommends joining and signing onto an email alert for breaking Washington news relevant to science

AIBS - Charles Fenster (President of AIBS)

- Umbrella organization with individuals, societies and other orgs as members
- Gives members voice to influence policy; promote policies supported by member orgs; training for students, postdocs and faculty
- Wants more submissions to BioScience
- Provides panel reviews and auditing for government contracts at affordable rates
- Question about why AIBS didn't step up when NSF did away with the DDIG awards? Answer: They couldn't afford to take that on.
- Public Policy Committee meeting at 7am

PSRN / Plant Summit - Michael Donoghue

- Plant Science Research Network; drafting decadal vision that would guide funding decisions
- Discussion Wed at lunch (12-1)
- 50 people at meeting and BSA was well represented
- Please comment on and pay attention to drafts coming around

#### 4. New Business

##### Wiley Publishing Transition

- New review editor for AJB
- Bumpy transition but improving and overall positive change so far

### Sectional Funding Issues

- Some sections struggling financially in the wake of shift to BSA-funded symposia
- A poll was to be sent to section chairs to discuss alternative funding models to sections; we'll be discussing this at the Thurs Board meeting
- Suggestion that many sections should consider raising dues if they are down in the \$2-\$5 range
- Request that section chairs discuss funding at their respective meetings; BSA wants to know big picture of how sections spend their money, how they'd like to request it, and when the process should occur.
- Symposia are funded roughly equally by BSA, but the BSA does not support colloquia financially. Originally, colloquia were supposed to be composed of people who were going to be at the meeting anyway.

### Corresponding Members Approval

**MOTION & VOTE to approve 5 new corresponding members -> PASSES**

### FY2020 Budget

**MOTION & VOTE that the Council recommend adopting the proposed FY2020 budget to the full membership at the Business Meeting -> PASSES**

### Board Recommendations

- We have about 630 student members, about 25% of members, 40+% of people registered for this conference are students

**MOTION & VOTE to continue offering Student Gift Memberships at \$10 -> PASSES**

**MOTION & VOTE to offer a new 3-Year Student Membership at \$50 -> PASSES**

### New Gift Policy

We are working to sort out the many, many small accounts that are being maintained and to clarify their purpose. A new policy for permanently restricted gifts has been drafted with the following parameters:

- Requires threshold of \$25k for any new endowed (permanent) accounts
- Maximum 4% annual draw, set by the BSA
- Willing to work with any groups or donors to reach that threshold. Urging sections to reevaluate all of their separate accounts and whether they can consolidate.
- Specific agreement between donor and BSA must be on file

**MOTION & VOTE to recommend adoption of this new gift policy to the full membership at the Business Meeting for a vote -> APPROVED**

### 5. Member New Business

MOTION that we request that AIBS re-open discussions with NSF to reestablish the DDIGs (the idea being that AIBS could administer them)

**MOTION & VOTE to TABLE this agenda item -> passes although with some opposition**

*Meeting adjourned at 5:10pm.*