

BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

2 August 1998
9:00 a.m.
Omni Inner Harbor Hotel
Baltimore, MD

President Nancy Dengler called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Members of the Council, Committee Chairs, and guests introduced themselves.

Karl Niklas moved, David Kramer second, that the minutes of the 1997 Council Meeting be approved. Motion passed.

Reports

Reports were presented by members of the Executive Committee, the editors of the Society's publications (Karl Niklas, Editor-in-Chief of the *American Journal of Botany (AJB)*, and Joe Leverich, Editor of *Plant Science Bulletin (PSB)*), BSA Business Manager Kim Hiser, and Webmaster Scott Russell. Written copies of these reports were published in *Plant Science Bulletin* and made available on the BSA web page. Hard copies of these and all other reports will be submitted with this record to the BSA Business Office and the BSA Archives. Only brief accounts of those reports will be repeated here, except in those cases where discussion and/or action followed directly from the report.

Karl Niklas moved, Ed Schneider second, that reports be made available electronically prior to the Council meeting in future years and then published in *PSB*. Webmaster Scott Russell agreed that this would be feasible. Motion passed.

President's Report. President Dengler reported on the following four issues.

(1) Karling Awards: The call for applications went out in the Spring 1998 *Plant Science Bulletin*, with a deadline of May 1. Twenty-four applications were submitted; 10 awards were made. Sectional officers and the BSA Executive Committee ranked the applications. In the future, administration of the awards will be by the Karling Awards Committee, a new standing committee of the BSA.

(2) ASPT Business Office: The American Society of Plant Taxonomists has requested that the BSA consider sharing Business Office facilities at Ohio State

University. This arrangement could benefit both societies as they work toward common goals. However, there are clearly some practical constraints, such as space, and discussions are still underway to resolve these issues.

(3) *American Journal of Botany* Search Committee: A search committee (consisting of Beryl Simpson, Chair; Peter Crane, Ned Friedman, Nels Lersten, and Diane Marshall) for *AJB* Editor for 2000-2004 has been established. The committee will advertise and solicit applications for Editor-in-Chief and submit a ranked list of applicants to the BSA Executive Committee.

(4) A new *ad hoc* Development Committee (Judy Jernstedt, Chair; Dan Crawford, Ed Schneider, John Herr, Joe Armstrong, Kim Hiser) will focus on raising funds for the BSA Endowment, including the Karling Fund for Graduate Student Research. Efforts are also underway to solicit funds to support student travel to the International Botanical Congress in St. Louis in 1999.

Past-President's Report. Past-President Dan Crawford, as Chair of the Elections Committee and the Corresponding Members Committee and coordinator of the Young Botanists Awards, presented his reports in the Committee Reports section of the Council meeting (see below).

President-Elect's Report. President-Elect Carol Baskin reported that all committees were set for 1998-99 except the Karling Committee.

Secretary's Report. Secretary Pam Soltis reviewed the duties of the Secretary's office and reported on her activities since taking over the office.

Treasurer's Report. See below for presentation and discussion of the budget proposed by Treasurer Judy Jernstedt.

Program Director's Report. Program Director Wayne Elisens reported on the success of electronic submission of abstracts, thanks to the efforts of Webmaster Scott Russell, and he emphasized that the system worked the first time it was used. For the 1998 meeting in Baltimore, Jim Reveal (University of Maryland) was the BSA's local representative; Beth Wells (George Washington University) provided some last-minute assistance. The 1998 program is small, compared to recent years, and banquet tickets were still available the day before the banquet. The 1999 program will be subsumed by the International Botanical Congress in St. Louis. However, the BSA will still hold its business meeting, Council meeting, and social event (jointly with all North American botanists at the Missouri Botanical Garden, on Thursday, August 5, 1999). The meeting in 2000 in Portland, Oregon, will be the first BSA-sponsored meeting, with participation from the AFS, ABLs, and ASPT. Contracts have been signed with the Oregon Convention Center, and arrangements have been made with host hotels. Program Director Elisens reminded us that we should support the host hotels so that we meet contractual obligations. The meeting should provide revenues for the Society that will result in lower registration costs

and additional funds for student awards for travel and research. The meeting site for 2001 has not yet been selected; negotiations are proceeding with Reno/Tahoe and Albuquerque.

David Lentz commended the work of Program Director Elisens and Webmaster Scott Russell in establishing electronic submission of Abstracts for the meeting; applause from all. Scott noted that the timesavings for the Program Director was as important as any financial savings. President Dengler thanked both Wayne and Scott for their efforts.

Editor, *American Journal of Botany*. Editor-in-Chief Niklas reported that time from submission to *AJB* to publication is down to 7.1 months for manuscripts that receive two favorable reviews (7.7 months for those receiving split reviews). He also reported that electronic publication of *AJB* will begin with the January, 1999, issue. An archive collection of *AJB* has been donated to the BSA by Mann Library at Cornell. This complete collection will be optically scanned by JSTOR and made available electronically to JSTOR's subscribers (at no cost to the BSA). Editor-in-Chief Niklas noted that the Editorial Office had been under budget for 3 of the last 4 years; only in 1997-98 did it go over budget, and this was due to the purchase of a new computer.

President Dengler thanked *AJB* Editor-in-Chief Karl Niklas for his efforts as the journal moves into electronic publishing.

Editor, *Plant Science Bulletin*. Editor Joe Leverich reported that four issues of *PSB* had been published during the previous year. Issues ranged in size from 24-40 pages, with an average of 32 pages. *PSB* received 141 books to review; 55 reviews were published in *PSB*. The Editor and Editorial Committee are working to develop additional articles of interest to the BSA membership; ideas from the membership are welcome. *PSB* is now on-line, thanks to Webmaster Scott Russell's efforts.

Webmaster's Report. Webmaster Russell reminded us that the Society's website is at www.botany.org. He has bookmarked a number of other sites of interest to the BSA membership. The BSA site has received 150,000 hits (95,000 so far this calendar year) from >70 countries. The website carries the following items: *AJB* abstracts, *PSB*, online publications, membership directory, list of Society officers, announcements, and web statistics.

There was some discussion of web-site issues following Scott's report. Issues discussed included: membership applications from the web-site, using the site to appeal to potential donors, advertising, sales of logo items, security of system for sales via credit cards, the use of color graphics and moving images in on-line version of *AJB*. Ken Wilson thanked Scott for his efforts once again.

Business Manager's Report. Business Manager Kim Hiser reported that the Business Office received a \$35,000 gain (due to the billing cycle and reduced costs of production for *AJB*). A new, three-year contract (retroactive to 1/1/98) was signed with Allen Press for publication (hard copy) of *AJB*. This contract saves \$4000/issue. Also, although

institutional subscriptions had been down slightly, some due to the Asian market, some institutions have recently requested subscriptions again. BSA has also received an additional \$40,000 from increased institutional subscription rates. The actual cost of a single issue of *AJB* is \$84.47; membership is \$65. Business Manager Hiser also reported that there are still more than \$7000 outstanding in mandatory editorial charges for volume 84 (1997), although over \$6000 were collected in voluntary editorial charges. Membership is down slightly (23), from 2769 in 1997 to 2746 in 1998. Receipts from institutional subscriptions are also down. No directory was published in 1998. A bound set of *AJB* beginning with Vol. 1 has been made available to the Society.

Joe Armstrong noted the number of foreign hits on the BSA web-site and suggested that BSA consider a 2-tiered membership--developed vs. less developed country--as the Association for Tropical Biology has. President Dengler noted that membership dues will be discussed when the 1998-99 budget is presented and discussed. *AJB* Editor Niklas indicated that the cost of sending *AJB* to developing countries is handled in other ways.

Old Business

Secretary Pam Soltis presented the results of the ballots on the proposed changes to the by-laws. The proposed changes: established the Karling Awards Committee, modified the description of the Pelton Award, updated the duties of the Treasurer, and established a Corporate Membership category. All changes passed.

Business Manager Hiser reported that the BSA was holding a "fire sale" of back issues of *AJB*, most of which were from the BSA store room and some of which were from Allen Press. The sale will run for about a year, and the left-overs will be recycled.

President Dengler reported that the recipients of the Karling Awards will be announced at the BSA banquet.

New Business

Budget for 1998-99, presented by Treasurer Judy Jernstedt.

The budget includes increased funds to cover a number of projects such as Karling Awards, Section and Committee budgets (e.g., Education Committee, \$5000), the meetings in 2000, and the webpage. Treasurer Jernstedt indicated that the Society has a number of important initiatives and programs, and that we need a dues increase to cover these programs. These increased costs do not include those expenses associated with electronic publication of *AJB*. The last dues increase was in 1994.

The proposed budget calls for a \$15 increase for regular members and a \$5 increase for students. The entire proposed new dues structure is given below; current dues for each category are given in brackets.

Regular Member [\$65]	\$ 80
Regular Family [\$70]	85
Student Member [\$25]	30
Student Family [\$27.50]	35
Retired Member w/AJB [\$40]	55
Retired Member w/PSB [\$10]	15
Retired Family w/AJB [\$45]	60
Life Membership [\$1,500]	2,000
Sustaining w/AJB [\$250]	250
Corporate [\$150]	150

Karl Niklas moved, second by Scott Russell, to accept the recommended new dues structure.

Discussion then turned to the specific recommendations. Jack Horner asked about the lack of increase for sustaining and corporate memberships. Judy replied that the corporate membership category is new, having just been approved by the by-laws ballot, and that we have only one sustaining member. Ned Friedman asked how many student members the Society has; Kim Hiser replied that there are 581. Ned proposed keeping student memberships as low as possible and not raising student dues. Judy pointed out that most of the new initiatives are largely for the students, so that it is not unreasonable that they should help pay for them; Jack Horner and Larry Dorr agreed. Ned suggested, though, that following this short period of subsidy for students, the students might become lifetime members--we would not want to lose them at this point. David Lentz agreed.

Ned Friedman proposed, David Lentz second, an amendment to hold student membership dues at the current level.

in favor: 7

opposed: 11

Amendment failed.

Returning to the original motion, additional questions were asked regarding the new contract with Allen Press, the timing of the new dues structure, costs of future meetings. President Dengler indicated that we will explore in the next year a new membership category: one that does not have *AJB* included in it. This option may increase membership without costing the Society anything.

The motion to accept the proposed dues structure passed unanimously.

Past-President Dan Crawford encouraged us all to attend the Business Meeting--we are not just raising dues, but are proposing an investment in the future of the Society.

AJB Editor Karl Niklas again reminded us that the dues increase is not only because of on-line *AJB*. Both Karl and President Dengler indicated that we need to get this message across to the Sections and the membership at large. Some of the new revenues will

activities that have been largely volunteer, such as Webmaster Scott Russell's work and that of the Education Committee.

Karl Niklas moved, Ed Schneider second, that the Council approve the proposed budget. Motion passed.

1998-99 Business Office Budget--Business Manager Kim Hiser
The Business Office should have a \$6000 excess because of increased institutional subscription rates.

Joe Armstrong asked whether there is still a need for a hard copy of Careers in Botany. Kim reported that requests were down significantly this past year. President Dengler noted that there may still be some who need hard copies. Kim thinks there are enough copies for one more year. Treasurer-Elect Ed Schneider reported that 27% of US households have e-mail and suggested that an electronic version would reach a large number of interested people, but there is still a need for a hard copy.

Karl Niklas moved, Judy Jernstedt second, that the Council approve the proposed budget for the BSA Business Office. Motion passed.

Miscellaneous items:

Karl Niklas reported that the National Agricultural Library needs a plant biologist who can serve on a national board on rural living. The board should have a BSA representative; Nancy Dengler agreed that we should have a representative by the first quarter of the federal fiscal year.

Judy Jernstedt asked about a hard copy of the BSA membership directory: how often will it be published? when is it next due? The previous directory cost \$5000. Kim indicated that her office could do it more cheaply now. Dave Kramer pointed out that the electronic version is better because changes are immediately available, but some people may not have as ready access. Joe Leverich suggested that hard copy might be useful as archival materials, for example, the by-laws section. Jeff Osborn suggested that there could be a check-off on the membership form--a hard copy of the directory could be supplied to those who request it. Karl Niklas suggested we should have a cheaper version and agreed that it should only be supplied when a member requests a hard copy. Perhaps the Business Office could provide it at cost. Paula DePriest and Ned Friedman agreed that a cheap version, printed as requested, would be sufficient. David Lentz suggested using recycled paper. Jack Horner pointed out that a hard copy can be useful. Joe Leverich suggested that perhaps we cooperate with ASPT in the production of a hard-copy directory, because most of ASPT's members are also BSA members. However, Jack Horner pointed out that BSA needs to maintain a separate image from ASPT.

Karl Niklas moved, David Lentz second, that BSA provide a membership directory and copy of the by-laws on the web page; a hard copy can be obtained from the Business Office at cost. Motion passed.

Peter Hoch & Barbara Kitrel from the Missouri Botanical Garden reported on the International Botanical Congress (IBC) for August, 1999. The scientific program is coming together. It is not quite complete, another 10-15 symposia need to be submitted in the next few weeks. There will be 170 general symposia and 20 Keynote symposia; there will be no contributed talks, but they expect 4000 posters, and nearly 1500 speakers.

Evolution and systematics are the best represented disciplines so far, with 70 symposia; the rest of the program is also rounded out. Information is on the IBC website. Registration materials are being prepared and will be sent out in the fall along with the schedule.

The BSA schedule for IBC is:

BSA Council meeting, Sunday, Aug. 1, to be finished by 1:30 in time for the Congress opening ceremony at 2:00.

BSA Business meeting, Tuesday, Aug. 3, 7:30-9:00 a.m.

BSA "Banquet", Thursday, Aug. 5, evening; heavy hors d'oeuvres, open bars, indoors & out.

BSA sectional business meetings need to be set up; sectional officers need to confer with Wayne for logistics.

President Dengler indicated that it would help in our planning for funding symposia and travel if we had a complete list of symposia and speakers. Peter Hoch indicated that some symposia have obtained their own support. David Kramer asked how BSA (or the sections) would be recognized if we donated directly to IBC, and Carl Taylor asked about recognition for donors. Peter indicated that we would be given credit for whatever "donations" are made.

Education Committee Report: (David Kramer was in a workshop at 1:00, so this was taken earlier in the agenda than planned.) The Committee wants to expand its activities at the National Science Teachers' Association (NSTA) by staffing a booth PLUS conducting a workshop. They also propose to attend the National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT) annual meeting. The Committee requests \$5000 for next year's activities, already approved in next year's budget.

David Kramer moved, Jack Horner second, that \$5000 be allocated for these activities. Motion passed.

David Kramer moved, Jack Horner second, that \$500 be allocated to cover the remainder of the costs of digitizing the BSA slide collection. Motion passed.

Judy Jernstedt has already budgeted for Scott Russell to do this; Scott and the Education Committee will work on it together.

Karl Niklas asked whether or not the slides would be suitable for courses, and Ned Friedman asked whether the slides were of sufficiently high resolution. David Kramer answered yes to both questions.

President Dengler noted that the Education Committee had been very active, and she thanked them for their efforts.

Report of the *AJB* Ad Hoc Task Force, Jack Horner, Chair

Jack Horner moved, Karl Niklas second, that all 4 recommendations (see report) be approved as a single motion. Motion passed.

President Dengler thanked the Committee. Jack noted that the budget had already been approved as part of the Business Office budget.

A lunch break was taken from 12:30-1:30.

President Dengler described two models for support of IBC symposia:

1. As presented by Peter Hoch, BSA would simply turn money over to IBC for disbursement.
2. Half of sectional allocation for 1998-99 + half of allocation for 1999-00 could be earmarked for IBC support. This model would not jeopardize symposia for 2000--a new allocation would be available 7/1/00. Priorities for support would be, in order, students, speakers from developing countries, speakers from other non-North American countries, speakers from North America.

Not all sections want to fund IBC symposia with their allocations. Sections should decide how to spend allocations. Other funds for IBC are available through the Past-President's Symposium funds (\$2500), from the endowment (\$20-25,000, according to Joe Armstrong), Conant Student Travel Award Fund.

Ned Friedman moved, Joe Leverich second, that Sections should maintain normal control over their own funds. Motion passed.

Sections may return funds to BSA for student travel through Conant Fund. Discussion continued on what restrictions should be placed on centralized BSA funds.

Joe Armstrong moved, Dan Crawford second, that the Executive Committee can determine the amount of BSA centralized funds to be spent for IBC support, and

the priorities for funding. Ned Friedman asked if this motion could be amended to have funds committed to students only; Joe replied no. Motion passed.

Reports of the Remaining Committees. As noted for the Reports presented earlier, the contents of the reports will not be summarized here, except as needed for the context of any Council actions.

Corresponding Members Committee, Past-President Dan Crawford, Chair.
There is one vacancy, an Dan has obtained a strong package nominating Konrad Bachmann.

Dan Crawford recommended, Ken Wilson second, that we present this nomination to the membership at the Business Meeting. Recommendation supported.

Financial Advisory Committee, Jack Horner, Chair.
There has been a significant increase in the endowment fund. The FAC makes two recommendations regarding guidelines for expenditures (see report):

Two recommendations (see report) were presented and seconded by FAC; recommendations passed.

Membership and Appraisal Committee, Marsh Sundberg, Chair.
President Dengler raised the possibility of a membership category without *AJB*; a membership drive should coincide with this new option, if it is adopted.

Annual Meetings Organizing Committee, Wayne Elisens, Chair.
Wayne presented options for managing our own meetings. He favors his "option 3": contracting out for some services rather than trying to do everything ourselves.

President-Elect Carol Baskin moved, Judy Jernstedt second, that we follow option 3 as presented. Motion passed.

Based on preliminary information from Conferon, the Committee targeted Reno and Albuquerque for the 2001 meeting.

Wayne Elisens moved, Karl Niklas second, that the Council endorse the work of the Program Director and Committee in selecting a site for 2001. Motion passed.

President Dengler thanked Wayne for all of his efforts for the Society. The Council echoed her words with applause.

10 min. break at 3:35

Public Affairs Committee Report, J. Shipman, Chair.

Chair Shipman suggested that we consider making this a regular committee rather than an ad hoc committee; Judy Jernstedt agreed. [This would take a by-law change to change to regular rather than ad hoc.]

She also proposed that a press kit be developed for distribution to institutions. This proposal was approved. Chair Shipman, the Committee, and Webmaster Scott Russell will develop the press kit.

Sectional Reports.

No reports were received from:

Phytochemical Section

Northeastern Section

Pacific Section

Reports were scheduled from **BSA's representatives to other Societies**. There was no report from the representative to AAAS; the representative position to AIBS is vacant; Nancy Dengler, as representative to CSSP, recommended that the BSA President who is serving as representative should attend one meeting of CSSP per year; the report of IBC representative Barbara Schaal was covered by Peter Hoch.

Final comments and reminders:

Jack Horner thanked all outgoing Council members and Committee Chairs for their service.

Treasurer Judy Jernstedt reminded all Section Chairs to submit names and addresses of new officers to Secretary Pam Soltis.

PSB Editor Joe Leverich reminded everyone to submit electronic versions of their reports to him for publication in *PSB*.

President Dengler thanked everyone for their efforts on behalf of the Society.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

List of Motions:

Karl Niklas moved, David Kramer second, that the minutes of the 1997 Council Meeting be approved. Motion passed.

Karl Niklas moved, Ed Schneider second, that reports be made available electronically prior to the Council meeting in future years and then published in *PSB*. Webmaster Scott Russell agreed that this would be feasible. Motion passed.

Karl Niklas moved, second by Scott Russell, to accept the recommended new dues structure.

Ned Friedman proposed, David Lentz second, an amendment to hold student membership dues at the current level.

in favor: 7

opposed: 11

Amendment failed.

The motion to accept the proposed dues structure passed unanimously.

Karl Niklas moved, Ed Schneider second, that the Council approve the proposed budget. Motion passed.

Karl Niklas moved, Judy Jernstedt second, that the Council approve the proposed budget for the BSA Business Office. Motion passed.

Karl Niklas moved, David Lentz second, that BSA provide a membership directory and copy of the by-laws on the web page; a hard copy can be obtained from the Business Office at cost. Motion passed.

David Kramer moved, Jack Horner second, that \$5000 be allocated for these activities [of the Education Committee]. Motion passed.

David Kramer moved, Jack Horner second, that \$500 be allocated to cover the remainder of the costs of digitizing the BSA slide collection. Motion passed.

Jack Horner moved, Karl Niklas second, that all 4 recommendations ([of the AJB ad hoc Task Force] see report) be approved as a single motion. Motion passed.

Ned Friedman moved, Joe Leverich second, that Sections should maintain normal control over their own funds. Motion passed.

Joe Armstrong moved, Dan Crawford second, that the Executive Committee can determine the amount of BSA centralized funds to be spent for IBC support, and the priorities for funding. Ned Friedman asked if this motion could be amended to have funds committed to students only; Joe replied no. Motion passed.

Dan Crawford recommended, Ken Wilson second, that we present this nomination [of Konrad Bachman for Corresponding Member] to the membership at the Business Meeting. Recommendation supported.

Two recommendations (see report) were presented and seconded by FAC; recommendations passed.

President-Elect Carol Baskin moved, Judy Jernstedt second, that we follow option 3 [for managing future BSA meetings] as presented. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela S. Soltis
BSA Secretary
August 1, 1999