

President-Elect Report

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June 2023

As President-Elect, during the period of July 2022 to July 2023, my focus was to develop a better understanding of the duties and obligations of the BSA President. I have attended the regular BSA Board meetings, replied to BSA emails, and chaired the Committee on Committees.

This year the Committee on Committees (CoC) was tasked to fill positions for 14 committees (41 slots—34 non-students and 7 students). The table below provides a summary of the committees and slots that were filled. As a committee, we had a Zoom meeting followed by several email exchanges, to evaluate applicants and come to consensus regarding appointments. Most applicants were assigned to their committee of choice. In addition, several BSA members were directly approached depending on committee vacancies. These individuals were either recommended by members of the CoC, other BSA committees, or the Executive Director. A big thanks to current committee members and the BSA Executive Director for helping with this process. It is important to note that during the June 2023 Board meeting, I pointed out that we are seeking advice from the Director at Large for Development, Jennifer Cruse-Sanders, to identify BSA members that could serve in the Development Committee. In addition, we asked the BSA student representative to assist with the efforts of filling the student vacancies for DEI and Financial Advisory.

| Committee | Slots | Need | Opening type |
|--|--------------|-------------|---------------------|
| <i>Committee on Committees</i> | 3 | 0 | nonstudent |
| <i>DEI</i> | 4 | 0 | nonstudent |
| | 1 | 1 | <i>undergrad</i> |
| | 1 | 0 | grad student |
| <i>Development</i> | 4 | 4 | nonstudent |
| <i>Distinguished Fellow/Emerging Leader</i> | 2 | 0 | nonstudent |
| <i>Early Career Professional Development</i> | 1 | 0 | nonstudent |
| <i>Education</i> | 1 | 0 | grad student |
| | 1 | 0 | nonstudent |
| <i>Election</i> | 1 | 0 | nonstudent |
| <i>Financial Advisory</i> | 1 | 0 | nonstudent |
| | 1 | 1 | <i>grad student</i> |
| <i>Grad Student Research Award</i> | 5 | 0 | nonstudent |
| <i>Information Technology</i> | 1 | 0 | nonstudent |
| <i>International Affairs</i> | 2 | 0 | nonstudent |
| <i>Investments</i> | 3 | 0 | nonstudent |
| | 1 | 0 | grad student |
| <i>Public Policy</i> | 3 | 0 | nonstudent |
| | 1 | 0 | grad student |
| <i>Publications</i> | 3 | 0 | nonstudent |
| | 1 | 0 | grad student |

As President-Elect, I acted as an *ad-hoc* member of two committees: Distinguished Fellow and Emerging Leader Award Committee (DFELA) and Charles Edwin Bessey Teaching Award. In the case of the DFELA, I was approached by the Chair of committee (Ann Sakai) to evaluate a nomination package for the Distinguished Fellow award due to conflict of interest by many members of the committee with a nominee.

Lastly, although not a main role of the President-Elect, I became one of two steering committee members of the NSF Root and Shoot group (<https://rootandshoot.org/>). Catrina Adams is the other BSA representative. The ROOT & SHOOT program is a collaborative effort among seven scientific societies (including BSA) to address issues associated with DEI within and among the participant societies. Being a part of this group has been a great experience as I have learned and continue to learn new ways to make our society and meetings more inclusive and safer. As part of these efforts, I attended a Bystander Training that provided new tools and mechanisms to make any event that I attend safer, including Botany 2023. Lastly, I was a member of the ROOT & SHOOT Capstone Project Team - BSA Election Processes, Outcomes, and Recommendations for Reform with Catrina Adams, Min Ya, and Imeña Valdes. For a summary of the project go to: <https://rootandshoot.org/bsa-capstone-bsa-election-processes-outcomes-and-recommendations-for-reform/>.