

BSA Board Meeting MINUTES
January 24, 2023, via Zoom
11:00am-12:30pm Central

Who attended:

BSA Staff: Heather Cacanindin, Tricia Jackson, Catrina Adams

Board Members: Norman Wickett (left at 12:34), Vivian Negron-Ortiz, Rachel Jabaily, Brenda Molano-Flores, Ioana Anghel, Melanie Link-Perez, Michael Donoghue, Jennifer Cruse-Sanders, Allison Miller

Meeting called to order – Vivian

The board first discussed and celebrated that a publishing agreement with Wiley is in place.

The BSA Board then reviewed and considered the minutes from their meetings from [11/8/2022](#), [11/16/2022](#), [11/18/22 Email Vote](#), [11/28/22 - Exec Vote](#), [12/2/22 Email Vote](#), [12/15/2022 Email Vote](#)

Motion to approve the minutes by Michael. Second by Vivian. Approved.

NSF Desk Review – Tricia, Heather, and Catrina. The board discussed a desk review from NSF that is contracted by a third-party contractor. Responding to the queries is an ongoing process. There was no indication what triggered the review other than being randomly selected.

Investment Committee Report – Allison and Heather. The board discussed a recent meeting of the investment committee, the standing of the investment account, and updates from Morgan Stanley. The decision not to proceed with a new investment proposal to incorporate increased alternatives in the portfolio (due to the inability to verify/screen for consistency with BSA guidelines) was also discussed. The board discussed the process by which a committee member becomes the chair.

Root and Shoot LEAPS RCN Update – Brenda and Catrina. The board first discussed the overall strategy and goals of the Root and Shoot RCN. The use of existing frameworks for doing a self-assessment of DEI issues was discussed, as was the process of gathering data for the self-assessment, which usually takes around a year. The hiring of a consultant to help interpret data was discussed, using funds available from the Root and Shoot program. The role of the BSA DEI committee in this effort was discussed, as was the mechanism by which to select the point-person. One idea was discussed, which would start with a single point person (possibly a current member of the DEI committee) after which ad-hoc committees would be put together. The importance of maintaining communication with the board for regular updates was discussed.

The board discussed a series of travel awards through Root and Shoot for SACNAS/MANRS members to attend different meetings like Botany and Plant Biology conferences. There were over 60 applications received and they are currently being evaluated. There are 10 awards total. The inclusive conference working group and the document they produced on inclusive conferences was also discussed. BSA and ASPT are coordinating their review of this document to consider incorporating the recommendations.

Appointments for Kaplan Dissertation Award in Comparative Morphology – Brenda. The board discussed the nomination of two new committee members. The process is different than the “Committee on Committees” approach, with open nominations, and the board discussed whether this approach/model is appropriate for other committees. Award committees that have a very narrow focus generally follow this approach. In particular, it was discussed whether the new award committee should be handled in this way. Ken Olson and Natalia Pabon-Mora were under consideration as new committee members for this award committee.

Motion to approve the nominations: Brenda. Second: Allison. Approved.

Botany Conference Update – Melanie. The status of Botany 2023 was discussed. There are now 6 symposia, with one fully funded through *Annals of Botany*. There will be 6 colloquia. The finalization of funding decisions was discussed. The selection of a new platform for abstract submission (X-CD) was also discussed. The board also discussed how budget limitations have necessitated an increase in registration fees this year (first time since 2018). The board also discussed how Pathable is no longer an option for hybrid meetings (Pathable is no longer handling virtual meeting platforms), and the need to evaluate alternatives. The board then discussed how state-level issues regarding diversity, equity, and healthcare are leading to opposition to having an exclusively in-person meeting as some states may prohibit using funds for travel to these states.

The Board discussed their feelings about Grand Rapids as a location choice for Botany 2024 and whether it should be solely in person or a hybrid meeting.

Norm Wickett departs at 12:34pm.

The biggest concern about 2023 was producing a financially stable meeting that does not cause undue financial strain on all the smaller society partners in the conference. The Board also discussed the possibility of hosting a stand-alone meeting at a different time of the year.

Due to time constraints, no Executive Session was held.

Meeting adjourned at 12:38pm.