

## **2021 BSA Business Meeting MINUTES**

July 22, 2021

Botany 2021 - Virtual!

*Meeting called to order at 7:03pm ET (52 participants at start and 60 at adjournment)*

1. Introductions (Board members)
2. Minutes of 2020 Business Meeting

### **MOTION to approve the minutes from the July 30, 2020 Business Meeting -> APPROVED**

### 3. Reports

The following reports were made available on the BSA website prior to the meeting. Each reporting officer gave a very brief summary:

A. President (Cynthia Jones): Strategic Plan was a primary activity and will be discussed later

B. President-Elect (Michael Donoghue): Chaired Awards Committee; Chaired Committee on Committees to fill open slots using a new and improved system based on applications. DEI was a focus in developing new process and DEI Committee Chair is now on the Committee on Committees.

C. Treasurer (Lucinda McDade): Financial status of BSA is strong. We are now able to expand research awards in number and size, and will be emphasizing diversity, equity and inclusion. The proposed budget that members are being asked to approve includes a very small (2%) draw on the investment portfolio

D. Publications, AJB and APPS (Amy McPherson): Impact Factors both increased. We are negotiating a new 5 year contract with Wiley. They have been having many discussions about how we can move toward open access (OA).

E. Editor, Plant Science Bulletin (Mackenzie Taylor): Focused on pandemic effects on teaching and research in 2020/21. Reminder to submit articles.

F. Conference Program Report (Melanie Link-Perez): Over 1900 attendees. We incorporated demographic data collection into registration to help achieve DEI goals. We had a joint session with Plant Biology conference (ASPB). Planning/hoping for Anchorage in 2022 and there will be meeting on this later in the conference (7/23).

G. Business Office Report, Executive Director (Heather Cacanindin): Membership numbers are up for a third year in a row; conference attendance is amazing and our investment account is doing extremely well. Strategic Planning was a major focus. We collaborated with other societies on LEAPS grants. Wanda Lovan retired after 18+ years are we are interviewing candidates.

H. Elections Committee (Linda Watson): Chaired election committee. DEI Comm Chair was also on this committee. Also chaired Corresponding Members Committee (nominated members appear below)

I. Investment Committee (Cynthia Jones) – ESG [Environmental, Social, Governance) transition is complete and still doing very well

J. Development Committee (Jennifer Cruse-Sanders) - see Business Office Report.

K. Education Committee (Catrina Adams) – They’d like more nominations for the Bessey Award. They have been involved in some of the LEAPS awards. PLANTS III was funded (<\$3M over 5 years) now has three parts: Science identity workshop + Students being mentored through conference (a continuation) + Professional development

L. Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (Heather Cacanindin standing in for Chelsea Specht): Strategic Planning received DEI training and we’d like to extend this to more members. We brought Dr Asai to the conference. Various social activities were sponsored and popular.

#### 4. New Business

A. Corresponding Members (Linda Watson)

- Dr. Peter Linder
- Prof. Jianquan Liu
- Dr. Marie-Stéphanie Samain

**MOTION to approve the proposed corresponding members -> APPROVED**

B. Membership Rates (2022)

**MOTION to continue offering \$10 gift student memberships -> APPROVED**

**MOTION to a create a new option for a 3-year gift membership for students and developing nations for \$30 -> APPROVED**

C. FY2022 Budget (Lucinda McDade)

The Treasurer thanks the section leadership in helping to clean up and streamline sectional funds.

Current budget is a small amount “in the red” (a deficit of about \$41k for operations; deficit of about \$19k overall) which exists because we wish to support DEI initiatives and stronger research awards, all supporting the mission of the society – and importantly, because we have the money! This should also inspire members to give to the BSA. Any draw is based on the rolling 12-quarter (3 years) average, which is about \$5M.

Question about the award budget: Last year was the first time that we asked professional members to contribute to a fund to increase research awards in size and number, and most members did. These were combined with existing accounts dedicated to the awards to fund the \$30k expenditure.

**MOTION to approve the proposed FY22 budget -> APPROVED**

**MOTION to approve up to a 2% draw on the unrestricted portion of the BSA investment account  
-> APPROVED**

D. BSA Strategic Plan FY2022 - FY2026

We hired a professional consultant to guide us through the process. Identified strategic priorities and then assembled a representative committee with multiple members (~7 for each priority) to focus on each priority. The committee went through racial intelligence training and began working on goals (in BLUE on document) and strategies (in BLACK on document). A smaller working group distilled the work of the larger group to develop the current plan, which then went back and forth between the two groups for refinement. The plan was approved by the Council yesterday.

**MOTION to approve the Strategic Plan as presented -> APPROVED**

4. Acknowledgments (President, Cindi Jones)

Many thanks to outgoing Board Members and welcome to incoming members.

*Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm ET*