

# Notes - BSA Board Meeting

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March 8, 2022, 10:00 am CST, Zoom

## Attendance:

- Michael Donoghue
- Cynthia Jones
- Emily Sessa
- Rachel Jabaily
- Vivian Negrón-Ortiz
- Chelsea Specht
- Imeña Valdes
- Lucinda McDade
- Melanie Link-Perez (Arrived: 11:05am)
- Ioana Anghel
- BSA Staff
  - Heather Cacanindin
  - Catrina Adams
  - Amy McPherson
  - Richard Hund
  - Amelia Neely
  - Rob Brandt
  - Johanne Stogran
  - Tricia Jackson
  - Beth Parada

## AGENDA

1. Minutes Approval (Board Email Votes)
  - [December 2, 2021](#), [December 13, 2021](#), [January 10, 2022](#), [February 9, 2022](#)  
**CJ motioned to approve, VN seconded. Motion passed.**
2. [Business Office Report](#) provided by Heather Cacanindin
3. [Membership and Communications Report](#) provided by Amelia Neely
4. [Education Report](#) provided by Catrina Adams

Board expresses their appreciation for all the amazing work going on in education and outreach and their excitement over the F2 / PlantingScience grant. The fact that NSF has funded us to do a replication of the same basic design with even more students is pretty great.

5. [IT Report](#) - provided by Rob Brandt

Board discusses the redesign of Botany.org. There was a small Ad-Hoc committee appointed for that two years ago,, but that was before the pandemic. It's been on the back burner largely due to Botany 2022

planning and the need to shop around for virtual platforms, abstract submission systems and such. We do have \$20K in the budget allocated to an outside contractor eventually but FY2023 may not be the year to do this work due to publication revenue cuts. The timeline is not clear as other things have taken precedence, but Rob is taking steps in the background.

6. [2022 Election Slate](#) - Cindi Jones presents the 2022 ballot and candidates brought forward by the Election Committee.

Board discussed potential vacancies on the Board and what would happen in that instance. Bylaws state "Each elective officer of the Society shall be elected prior to the annual meeting by the members of the Society. The President-Elect serves for three succeeding years as President-Elect, President and Past-President. The Secretary, Treasurer and Program Director each serve for three years. Each shall hold office until a successor is elected and qualified or until their death, resignation or removal. **Vacancies of unexpired terms may be filled at any meeting of the Board of Directors.**"

**The Board unanimously approved the 2022 Election Slate as presented.**

7. Johanne Stogran provided a verbal update on planning for BOTANY 2022

Break – 10 minutes

8. Corresponding Member Award revisions - Michael

The Board discussed potential revisions to the Corresponding Member honor.

Questions.

- Should we specify that CMs must be non-US citizens?
- Would we consider US citizens working outside the US?
- Would we consider non-US citizens who live and work IN the US?

There seemed to be general agreement that this isn't so much about citizenship but rather where they built the majority of their careers. Do we focus on where they live, work and build their careers?

Heather notes that the description of Corresponding Member is from the bylaws and any changes we make to this description would need to be approved by the BSA membership. Michael and Heather will meet to discuss the wording and will present at a future meeting.

The Board also considered the use of a Professional Conduct Disclosure Form and whether at least one letter of nominations must come from someone from the country in question. We could possibly require that one

letter must come from an international colleague, preferably from the country in question, and one who is extremely familiar with the candidate's work.

Heather points out that we could reference the BSA professional guidelines on Ethics/Ethical policy. We could put in here that nominees must adhere to the highest ethical standards, including the BSA policies on ethical guidelines. We could also reserve the right to revoke status if someone fails to live up to this standard. Some people are in favor of the disclosure form but there is not consensus. It is also pointed out that perhaps we should include the chair of the International Affairs committee in the Corresponding Member Committee. General consensus that this would be a good idea.

Michael states that we will revisit this topic with the Board at a later date.

#### 9. [Student Reps Report](#) - Imeña Valdes and Ioana Anghel

Record 889 student members! Botany 360 initiatives are expected to help with engagement and retention. Some stronger language that recommends that students be included in Symposia and Colloquia should be considered for 2023.

#### 10. DEI Committee Report shared by Chelsea Specht

Roots and Shoots LEAPS grant with ASPB and other partners takes a lot of time which is impacting Chelsea's capacity to head the DEI committee. Consulting Company for Root and Shoot has been selected:

- RCN: <https://rootandshoot.org/>
- Consultant: <https://www.movebold.ly/>

New BSA [Impact Award](#) - Committee had a good discussion about the award and developed the nomination guidelines. The award amount and idea was established over a year. This is the committee fleshing out the processes and wording.

Consensus that the DEI Committee should move ahead with handling the nominations and selecting the award winner going forward.

#### 11. Ethics Guidelines and Policy revision discussion - Michael

- Ethics Policy (<https://botany.org/home/governance/guidelines-for-professional-ethics.html>)
- Language Changes may be needed?
  - Executive committee will begin this process with two stages
    - Update the language
    - Dig into adjudication stuff to make sure the procedures are effective and appropriate.

12. [AAAS Fellows](#) - Nomination Process - Michael

Letter indicating that BSA should be more proactive about nominations to this program.

Nominated with letters of support (Nominators plus two more) - Due April 20 this year. Not enough Botanical people represented in the nominees/awardees. Discussion ensued about how to drum up more potential nominees.

13. [Botany360 Program](#) - Amelia Neely mentions that this program has officially launched. The web pages are up and events are on the calendar.

Meeting adjourned at 1pm Central.