

**BSA Board Conference Call
Oct 26, 2017**

On the call:

Heather Cacanindin
Lucinda Dade (via phone)
Erika Edwards
Ned Friedman (via phone)
Sean Graham
Amy Litt
Allison Miller
Loren Reiseburg
Rachel Spicer
Gordon Uno
Andrea Wolfe

Meeting called to order 3:06pm EST

1) Board Minutes (Rachel)

June 24, 2017 (pre-meeting) **MOVED -> APPROVED**
June 29, 2017 (post-meeting) **MOVED -> APPROVED**

2) BOTANY 2017 Meeting Wrap-Up (Heather)

- Lost money, mostly due to hotel block not filling
- Omni attrition meeting fee is outrageous; We tried everything we could to reduce the fee but they were unrelenting
- Losses were divided proportionately across societies in the past, which helped
- No attrition fee for Rochester – bright spot

3) Financial Reports (FY2017 Profit and Loss, FY2017 Financial Report; Heather)

- Working with accounting firm over next month to prepare financial statement; in black 44k for FY17
- Working on a comparison of FY17 budget and actual end-of-year numbers with Bill. In general, income down by 10% and expenses slightly below budget
- Same old cash flow problem -> check from Wiley will come in January; requested transfer from MorganStanley
- Things look positive for Rochester and next year in general
- 39k loss overall for whole conference, 17k of which was due to the Omni hotel penalty. The BOTANY conference absorbs 50% of that loss (~20k), where the other 50% is absorbed proportionally based on attendance by the participating societies.
- Discussion about how to better predict room reservation numbers, and competition with Evolution, IBC, etc. when meetings coincide
- Subscriptions down 10% (almost balances 100k signing bonus [listed under AJB other income])
- Timing of effects of transition to Wiley: We won't see royalties from 2018 until mid-2019, but we'll also be cutting our expenses with production through smaller service

contracts (e.g, Highwire contract – which doesn't end until Nov 2018). So it will take a year or two to see how it all falls out financially

- Question re: professional dues under Development: these are dues for professional societies for staff

4) Investment Committee Policy (Loren)

- Aggressive investment strategy (nearly 100% equities)
- Only real change is that we have a 4 month operating budget on hand; this was set aside immediately after the meeting at which this was recommended (post-BOTANY2017 Board meeting)
- Recommended that this committee should think about the purpose of the endowment
- Comment that it is “exceptionally aggressive” at 100% when the window is 15%-100% and recommendation that we reconsider this strategy.
- Still need to sort out what is really “endowment”
- Discussion about the real goals of building the endowment and recommendation that we have this conversation at the next meeting
- This will make more sense in person, and after we know a bit more about the transition
- **Move to approve policy change to set aside 4 months of operational funds: MOVED -> APPROVED**

5) Publications Transition Update (Sean)

- Wiley staff have been great; positive interaction at IBC; they'll set up booths at all kinds of meetings, but it is more now about events
- Latin American Botanical Congress – noted to Wiley to get it on their calendar and they are considering sponsorship (Loren will let them know that they should have an event there)
- New APPS cover

6) Proposed Code of Conduct and Social Media Policy

- Discussion about how difficult it is to actually act on/enforce these statements
- How and when do we engage third party arbitrators?
- Need policy for society *and* conference and the latter requires sign on from other societies
- Question about whom a complainant goes to at the meeting, and how they would find that out? Realistic examples include real-time reports at the meeting and after-the-fact reports. Suggestion that we develop a series of scenarios to consider best-practices for handling and enforcement of policies
- How soon can we post this? If it is for the conference it needs to be done in collaboration with the other societies. Do we want to get something up on the website immediately?
- Need to talk in person at future meeting about the scenarios, implementation and enforcement
- Suggestions that we also add a possible sanction as expulsion from society
- Plan to get this draft document to the other societies

- How do we deal with the ‘sanctions and protocols’ when the meeting attendants are members of multiple societies? (e.g.)
- Comment that we need to be broader in our interpretation and definition of harassment beyond sexual harassment (or gender identity, etc.) – but also that we need to be especially careful when it comes to academic disagreements
- Suggestion that we add sections about weapons and broadcasting per the Evolution statement.

7) BOTANY 2018 (Amy)

- Three great local reps; brand new venue
- Confirmed speakers: Walter Judd (plenary); George Weiblen (regional botany); Bryan Dewsberry (education and inclusivity); Annals of Botany Special Lecture = Elena Conti; Emerging Leader = Ben Blackman; Kaplan Lecture not selected yet?
- Field trips; craft fair; looking for vendors; lightening talks
- Rochester = 1hr 30 min by car from Minneapolis; what about parking charges? Possible shuttle options? Discussion about the fact most attending will not rent cars so shuttle information will be important.
- **MOVE to continue the international travel grants -> APPROVED**
- **MOVE to continue professional member travel grants -> APPROVED**
- Symposia (9 submitted; 6 can be approved; Sections working on it now)
- Question if we’re considering a non-traditional career panel? Have not put out the call for workshops yet.

8) Latin American Botanical Congress - Symposia and mixer proposal

- Mixer has morphed into an All Society Mixer
- They want less for the symposium and more for the mixer
- Will early-career speakers be selected from throughout Latin America?
- **MOVE to approve our contributing to the symposium and mixer -> APPROVED**

9) PSRN Update

- Make sure that you see yourself represented in this document
- Comment that it sounds like it is very applied, very agriculture and crop improvement-based; entirely based on utility of plants to humans
- Discussion about what the end-goal is for this document – what is the audience? What is the objective?
- Suggestion that we ought to view this as not competing for distribution of money among groups *within* plant science but rather competing for money for plant science as whole *versus* other broad scientific disciplines

Meeting adjourned at 4:40pm EST