

FY2021 Budgeted Items to be Repurposed – March 1, 2021

Background:

The approved FY2021 budget was very tight, with only a \$6K projected gain. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, several anticipated expense categories in the FY2021 are no longer relevant and could be repurposed. With these funds we can provide registration awards, increase the amount of Graduate Student Research Awards provided and carve out a budget for DEI initiatives.

\$10K – 10 Developing Nations Travel Awards for Botany Conference

\$5K - 10 Professional Member Travel Awards for Botany Conference

\$5K - 10 Student/PostDoc Travel Awards for Botany Conference

\$37K - Board Travel (Boise, St. Louis, and some officer travel to other meetings)

\$19K – Staff Travel (Boise, St. Louis, professional development meetings, AIBS, etc)

Awards:

I propose we keep a portion of that funding for the three “travel awards” but make them “registration awards” to cover Botany 2021 registration for those three groups. In addition, repurpose some of our funds to support more Graduate Student Research Awards.

\$4500 – 30 Developing Nations Awards

\$3000 – 20 Professional Member Awards

\$5000 – @75 Student/PostDoc Travel Awards (PostDoc reg costs more; this is a lottery)

Utilize the \$7500 saved on the travel awards to provide 5 more Graduate Student Research Awards for a total of 30 awards this year.

Pull \$15K from the Staff travel budget (leaving us with a small buffer for potential end of fiscal year travel), and fund another 10 GSRA for a total of 40 awards this year.

DEI Initiatives and Education/Outreach:

Repurpose \$18K out of Board travel funds to support DEI initiatives such as racial intelligence training for the remainder of the Board, staff, DEI Committee, and committee/section chairs. Provide honorariums for speakers and volunteers such as the Diversity Speaker at Botany conference, leaders of the BIPOC Social and LGBTQ+ social, hosts of webinars, etc.

Repurpose \$2K out of Board travel funds to offer complimentary conference registration for the Black Botanist Week committee members who will be planning and organizing an event at the 2021 Botany Conference and organizing BBW the week after the meeting. Also provide BSA memberships to all the members of the BBW committee in recognition for all they are doing for broadening participation and raising awareness of inclusive excellence in our field.

Repurpose \$8K out of Board travel funds to support Education expenses that are not reimbursable per NSF education grants. (PlantingScience supplies like seeds, Kool-aid packets, magnifying lenses, tshirts for teachers and mentors, international shipping, Master Plant Science team mentors’ BSA membership and reduced meeting registration, etc). We should have budgeted for this in FY2021 but this was an oversight.