

BSA Board Minutes

Zoom Call

22 November 2021, 1:00 - 4:00 pm Eastern

In attendance at the meeting: Michael Donoghue (presiding), Catrina Adams, Ioana Anghel, Heather Cacanindin, Jennifer Cruse-Sanders, Jennifer Hartley (new Education Programs Supervisor), Rachel Jabaily, Trisha Jackson, Cindi Jones, Melanie Link-Perez, Lucinda McDade, Amy McPherson, Amelia Neely, Vivian Negron-Ortiz, J. Chris Pires (Secretary), Emily Sessa, Chelsea Specht, Johanne Stogran, and Imeña Valdes.

Missing: (Melanie and Chelsea joined after the first hour)

1. Minutes Approval ([July 12](#), [Sept 20](#), [Nov 1 EC](#)) - Chris Pires

Michael Donoghue called the meeting to order and thanked the note takers for the minutes written for July 12, Sept 20, and Nov 1 (Exec Committee).

A motion was made and seconded (Emily Sessa and Cindi Jones) to approve the minutes.

The motion was voted on and unanimously approved.

2. Reports and Updates (read in advance / questions only) – Heather Cacanindin

- [Business Office Report](#)
- [Publications Update](#)
- [Membership Update](#)
- [Education Update](#)

The four documents (above) were briefly discussed.

A motion was made and seconded (Emily Sessa and Lucinda McDade) after the Publications Update to spend \$2,000 for a new AJB Synthesis Prize (a new award previously proposed by Sean Graham and approved by the Board in 2018). **The motion was voted on and unanimously approved.**

The new BSA Education Programs Supervisor, Jennifer Hartley, was introduced.

3. FY2021 Financial Wrap Up - Lucinda McDade & Heather Cacanindin

- [FY2021 Profit and Loss](#)
- [BSA Investment Fund Allocation Spreadsheet](#)

The two documents (above) were briefly discussed. Lucinda McDade presented the report and credited Tricia Jackson, new BSA Accounting Manager, for improving the process. The major issue regarding publication revenue is discussed later in the meeting. The documents provided do not yet close out the fiscal year.

Michael Donoghue gave a verbal optimistic summary of the situation and noted the importance of the endowment and investment account for stabilizing the budget. Lucinda McDade noted that grants show up on both sides of the ledger (profit and loss). Lucinda noted that the long-term concern will be how best to budget and operate in a future with diminished publications revenue.

4. Sectional Funding Requests – Lucinda McDade

Recommendation for Sectional Funding Requests

The two documents (above) were briefly discussed. Lucinda McDade summarized the seven BSA Section requests and gave some historical context. There was a discussion whether a uniform policy should be set to cap the amount spent per section.

A motion was made and seconded (Donoghue/McDade and Emily Sessa) to approve the recommended plan to approve \$9,700 in sectional funding requests from six sections and to allocate \$4806 of the \$15K previously budgeted for DEI activities in support of the Inclusive Labs workshop. **The motion was voted on and unanimously approved.**

5. Botany 2021 and 2022 Update – Melanie Link-Perez

Planning a Hybrid Meeting – Johanne Stogran

The two documents (above) were presented by Melanie Link-Perez and Joanne Stogran. The plenary speaker (Cassandra Quave) has been chosen and the selections for the symposia and colloquia are being finalized. A long discussion was had about the merits of various meeting scenarios (all in person, all remote, or a hybrid meeting). Some consensus (and data from past BSA surveys) that people go to a meeting in person for connecting/networking in general, participating in specific science, and enjoying the location of the venue. Uncertainty about the pandemic remains. Whatever is decided as the path forward, all agreed that we will need to make an effort to carefully explain why we are proceeding with whatever type of meeting is decided upon. Pre-messaging will be very important.

A motion was made and seconded (Michael Donoghue and Lucinda McDade) to approve the plan to spend \$5,000 in support of conference needs (\$3,000 for student field trips and \$2,000 for childcare) . **The motion was voted on and unanimously approved.**

2:15 PM Eastern - Break

6. Clarke & Esposito / Wiley Contract Negotiation - Heather Cacanindin & Amy McPherson

-BSA Letter to Wiley re: Contract offer

- Wiley revised offer - Nov 19

The two documents (above) were presented by Heather Cacanindin and Amy McPherson. There was a long discussion. The emphasis is on improving the offer from Wiley with a better guarantee. The alternative would be to issue an RFP for our publications contractor but we are just now recovering from the transition from four years ago and on relatively strong footing. No vote was taken today while negotiations continue.

7. Ethics Discussion - Michael Donoghue

- Corresponding Member Award Revision

- Guidelines for Professional Ethics Update Needed

- Policy Needed for Revoking Awards/Membership

The documents (above) were presented by Michael Donoghue. The situation is complicated for several reasons, as “corresponding members” are for life and there is no policy to revoke this status. Conflicting views about whether a letter from the country of the nominee would help.

We do have a Guidelines for Professional Ethics but it is outdated and we have no mechanism to adjudicate issues when they arise. No vote was taken and the issue will be forwarded to the Executive Committee who will take a first pass at reviewing our current Guidelines for Professional Ethics. We will delay advertising the Corresponding Member Award until Jan 15 or Feb 1 in order to allow for this review.

8. FY 2022 Implementation Plan – Cindi Jones, Michael Donoghue, Heather Cacanindin
The document (above) was briefly discussed as the meeting was going to go long. Agreement that we should change this into something digestible for members to see so they can see our progress toward our strategic goals. Emily Sessa and others pointed out how SSE did a great job communicating “this is how your society has evolved and what we are doing for you.” Also see RBG-Kew’s annual report as a model.

4:05 PM Eastern – Adjourn

Motion by Emily Sessa seconded by Rachel Jabaily to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned.

9. DEI Programs Coordinator position update - Heather Cacanindin

The meeting was adjourned before getting to this agenda item; however, Heather provided this email after: “Co-PIs on the PLANTS III grant and with MOBOT HR department to fill the 80% grant-funded position we are creating to assist with the NSF-funded PLANTS III: Botany and Beyond (\$1.2 Million) grant. This will be a DEI Programs Coordinator/Supervisor position. Working with Missouri Botanical Garden takes time, especially when they do not have a similar-type of position in their hierarchy. We have a draft job description and the Garden is reviewing it to be sure our job title, responsibilities and qualifications are in line with the salary proposed. 20% of the time, the person in this position will assist with other BSA DEI initiatives and they will be overseen directly by Catrina Adams on our staff who is a Co-PI on the grant. Just keeping you updated on the developments. We hope to hire someone in January, but it is already starting to look like that is an aggressive timeline.”

10. Botany 360 Update - Heather Cacanindin

[Botany 360 calendar](#) beta version

The meeting was adjourned before getting to this agenda item; however, Heather provided this email after: “Botany 360 – This is the concept that BSA will develop professional development events, workshops, webinars, discussion sessions and networking opportunities throughout the year, when not meeting for Botany conference. We have an Ad Hoc Botany 360 group that met, which includes the Chairs of several committees and sections. All recognize the need to better collaborate on events that committees and sections are planning and the need for a calendar. This calendar and a form to submit events was addressed in Amelia’s Membership Report. Here is the site for the calendar so you can see a beta version of it: <https://botany.org/calendar/display> The Botany 360 group will no doubt meet again, probably in January.”