

BSA Business (All Members) Meeting Minutes
July 30, 2020

Meeting called to order 6:05pm Central (about 40 in attendance)

1. 2019 Business meeting minutes

MOTION to approve BSA Business Meeting minutes from 2019 - > APPROVED

2. Reports / highlights

A. President (Linda Watson)

- Saved \$300k in postponing AK for 2 years (50% would be absorbed by BSA)
- Boise, ID in 2021 then AK in 2022
- First Kaplan Award awarded (\$10k)
- 25 grad student research awards selected among >100 proposals, totaling about \$40k
- Investment portfolio is doing well at about \$6M balance

B. Treasurer (Lucinda McDade)

- BSA is in great financial shape
- PPP grant for 2 months of staff salary for the BSA through MOBOT
- 1300 registered for meeting; great thing for membership
- We are currently not drawing from the endowment for operating funds, so it is really growing
- Budget will be presented for approval later, endorsed by both the Board and Council
 - It shows the annual meeting differently than in the past (used to show large income and large expense; now shows small net gain(or loss) as is appropriate
 - Question about the 2020 virtual meeting balance sheet: we guessed that 400-500 people would register but it is >2x that, so we incurred a larger expense for technology platform. We will know the account earlier for this year than in-person meeting. We expect a profit but we do not currently know, and in general we aim for breaking even on conference

C. Publications, AJB and APPS (Amy McPherson)

- Impact Factors went up for both journals
- Submissions seem unaffected by pandemic, and we have not seen a gender disparity yet
- APPS: Theresa Culley: Machine Learning special issue forthcoming and are in the planning stage

D. Editor, Plant Science Bulletin (Mackenzie Taylor)

- Focus on outreach and education (non-research); can be in print or online
- Spring issue was delayed so the other issues are also pushed back
- Request for submissions

E. Conference Program Report

- 45 countries and all 50 states; 1340 registered attendees

F. Business Office Report, Executive Director (Heather Cacanindin)

- Finances covered above; expenses down due to PPP and no travel
- Staff have been working from home

- Conference pivot was a huge undertaking but it has been a great success
- Wrapping up contract with MOBOT and renewal is agreeable and will continue in that space
- Diversity, equity and inclusion have been a big area of discussion; first ever BIPOC mixer
- Questions: What are we thinking about next year re: conference? Johanne is touching base with Boise next week

H. Education (Catrina Adams)

- \$3.9M grant with Catrina as PI – Planting Science; replication study; another 5 years on top of original 15 years

I. Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (Ann Sakai)

- DEI training arranged for Board and Staff, and others
- Committee name change -> DEI Committee and Director at Large for DEI
- Change to descriptions of the Emerging Leader and Distinguished Fellows
- Need better data on demographics of society and participation in various events and programs for assessment purposes
- Re-evaluating process for committee appointments and officer nominations
- Need for “ally training” to improve mentorship and inclusivity at meeting
- Huge thanks to grad student reps: MinYa and Shelly

3. New Business

A. FY2021 Budget

MOTION to approve FY21 budget -> APPROVED

B. Membership Rates (2021)

Recommendation for new 3 Year Postdoc Membership option (\$105)

Recommendation to continue \$10 gift student memberships

MOTION to approve both of these recommendations -> APPROVED

C. Request for feedback and questions from members:

1. Suggestion that we have a regular frequency of virtual meeting
 - reduces carbon footprint
 - great especially for IBC years
 - consider rotating every other year or every third year
 - one comment re: the lack of distractions and networking at in-person meetings
 - virtual meeting is great for international participation
 - not being able to introduce students to colleagues is a big drawback
2. Request that we consider doing as much (or more) re: diversity and inclusion in Boise as we have done at this meeting
3. Call for ideas about improving the process of populating committees

- Goal of increasing inclusivity and more transparency re: how the process works and how to engage more with the society
- Typically 30-45 committee members appointed each year and it cannot fall on one small group

Meeting adjourned at 7:01pm Central