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*