

BSA Board Meeting MINUTES
March 6, 2024, via Zoom
9:00am-11:00am Central

Who attended:

BSA Staff: Heather Cacanindin, Amy McPherson, Johanne Stogran, Tricia Jackson, Catrina Adams, Amelia Neely

Board Members: Brenda Molano-Flores, Vivian Negron-Ortiz, Rachel Jabaily, Eli Hartung, Karolina Heyduk, Emily Sessa, Josh Felton, Jenny Xiang, Allison Miller, Jenny Cruse-Sanders, Melanie Link-Perez, Norm Wickett

Other Attendees: Gillian Greenough (Wiley)

Link to reports:

<https://botany.org/bsa-board-agendas/bsa-governance-information-spring-2024-part-1.html>

1. Minutes approval – Norm

The minutes for the following meetings were discussed and approved:

11/27/23 Board Call
12/12/23 Email Vote
12/19/23 Email Vote
01/23/24 Email Vote
02/15/24 Executive Committee Email Vote

Motion: Jenny; Second: Allison. No objections.

2. Publications Report – Gillian Greenough (Wiley)

Gillian Greenough from Wiley provided an overview of BSA publications. Metrics on circulation show increases, particularly through All Journals licenses and transformational agreements. Ways to increase the reach of our journals in parts of the world with previously low access (e.g., Argentina was mentioned) were also discussed. Several new transformational agreements are currently being negotiated by Wiley. Increasing readership (article views) and marketing activity (greater impact on submissions than readership) were also discussed. Finances of both BSA journal were discussed as well, noting the reduction in royalties from 2022 to 2023 (\$406,227 vs. \$300,128). The board discussed what the society can do to increase readership, impact factor, and revenue, with a particular emphasis on revenue from open-access fees. It sounds likely that Wiley will be present at IBC and this may be a good chance to promote our journals.

3. Publications Report – Emily and Amy

A brief overview of AJB and APPS was provided and discussed by the board, including the importance of open-access agreements. The search for new editors in chief of AJB and PSB was discussed, with an emphasis on how the board can help find candidates for these positions.

The board also discussed how APPS was able to increase its profile and the link to changing the scope of the journal (increasing special issues and eliminating Primer Notes).

4. Botany 2024 Update and Financial Projections – Melanie and Johanne

The main points from the report were highlighted for the board, including a thorough review of expenses with the goal of making all possible cuts and the registration rate increase. Ways to increase meeting revenue were also discussed, emphasizing the promotion of attendance and engaging vendors/exhibitors. Two potential sites were discussed for 2026: Omaha and Syracuse, with a preference for Omaha given the favorable rates and venue. The current volume of registrations and pending increase in rates (April) were also discussed. The board also discussed the impact of the federal budget negotiations on the registrations of federal employees, with a proposal that the rate increase may not apply to members caught in this situation.

Break

5. Financial Report – Allison

The FY2023 reports were briefly discussed in light of the recent audit (see below). A few items were highlighted: (1) reduction in administrative costs, (2) resolution of the NSF Botany and Beyond grant issues, (3) the growth of our investment accounts, (4) membership dues were greater than expected. Some ongoing challenges were also discussed, including the continued decrease in publication income and a potential meeting deficit – it was discussed that these deficits may be isolated to the past few years and are not expected to continue.

6. FY2023 Financial Statements and Audit Report – Janet Ramey, Chelsey Winsor, and Ashley Barron from Armanino

The auditors from Armanino joined the board to discuss the recent audit, which was required because BSA spend an excess of \$750,000 of federal grant money in a single year. A presentation outlining the audit process and results was provided to the board. The auditor's report was presented to the board, with an emphasis on the strength and compliance of the BSA, with no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies reported with BSA financial statements. Similarly, no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies for the single audit (audit of the use of federal funds) were found and no findings were reported. While BSA is considered a high-risk auditee, this is only because there was not a previous audit in the past two years.

Motion to accept the report and FY2023 financial statements: Vivian; Second: Jenny. No objections.

7. Election Slate – Vivian

Rachel and Norm recused themselves from the meeting for this report as they are both candidates for elected positions.

Vivian reviewed the process for nominations and Election Committee discussion of candidates. The election slate was considered by the Board.

Motion to approve the election slate as presented: Melanie; Second: Emily. No objections.

8. Membership and Communications Report – Amelia

A new campaign #PlantJoy was introduced to the board, including a new website where users can submit their own material (<https://botany.org/plantjoy.html>). The goals and activities of the *ad hoc* membership committee were also discussed, with mention of how members can reach out to lapsed members.

9. Other items – Brenda

Requests for the BSA to be involved in the closing of the Duke herbarium were discussed with the board.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 am.