

## **BSA Board Meeting MINUTES**

**March 7, 2025, via Zoom**

**9:00am-11:00am Central**

### **Who attended:**

**BSA Staff:** Heather Cacanindin, Amy McPherson, Rich Hund, Tricia Jackson, Catrina Adams, Jennifer Hartley, Beth Parada

**Board Members:** Jenny Xiang, Melanie Link-Perez, Rachel Jabaily, Josh Felton, Ken Cameron, Brenda Molano-Flores, Emily Sessa, Allison Miller, Norm Wickett, Jenny Cruze-Sanders

**Other Attendees:** Gillian Greenough (Wiley), Ashley Barron (Armanino), Katie Zahner (Armanino)

### **Link to reports:**

<https://botany.org/bsa-board-agendas/bsa-governance-information-spring-2025-part-1.html>

### **1. Minutes approval – Norm**

The minutes for the following meetings and votes were discussed and approved:

November 18, 2024 Meeting

November 21, 2024 Email Vote on Social Media Accounts

January 6, 2025 Email Vote on Student Travel Awards

January 22, 2025 Email Vote on Symposia Funding

February 21, 2025 Email Vote on Sign-on Letter

**Motion to approve: Ken; Second: Jenny. No opposition.**

### **2. Publications Report – Emily and Amy**

Amy provided a brief overview of the BSA Publications report. Additional points regarding the rate of retractions and corrections, and the rate of rejection were discussed by the board. The development of promoting publications on BlueSky was also discussed. Thanks to Rich for working to use BlueSky as a tool to promote the BSA journals.

### **3. Wiley Publications Report and 2024 BSA Publications Financial Performances – Gillian Greenough, Wiley**

In 2024 institutions with access to BSA journals and institutions with transformational agreements increased, which is a trend more broadly as institutions take on these kinds of agreements. Usage continues to be global for both AJB and APPS. Interest in what constitutes the 37% of country access outside of the top ten countries was brought up. Gillian also pointed out that usage trends are returning to pre-COVID patterns. A modest but significant increase in revenue was reported for APPS; a smaller increase over 2023 was reported for AJB; the increase in open access revenue through transformational agreements offset the loss from

traditional subscription licenses. Gillian also expressed that the decline in traditional subscriptions is likely going to taper off from this point forward. The Board also discussed whether the potential decrease in indirects from federal grants might impact the ability of institutions to purchase transformational agreements. As institutions evaluate access to free content there is some concern that traditional subscriptions may continue to be canceled, which could lead to a small but not insignificant reduction in publication revenue.

#### **4. BSA Election Slate – Brenda**

The Board briefly discussed the report on the current BSA election slate, including a discussion of nominations and the candidacy process. The nomination-to-candidate process has been streamlined and appears to be a benefit for the committee and for process transparency. Having current student reps contact nominated student rep candidates was successful in identifying candidates who will remain students over the course of their service.

**Motion to approve candidate slate: Jenny; second: Ken. No one opposed.**

#### **5. Financial Report – Allison, Heather, Tricia**

The FY2024 and FY2025 statements were discussed, but the discussion of the budget to actual report will occur at the next meeting. While there is significant uncertainty in the market at present, Allison reaffirmed that management of our investment account continues to be strong. However, expectations for the near-term may need to be tempered given current volatility.

#### **BREAK**

#### **6. FY2024 Financial Statements and Audit Report – Ashley Barron and Katie Zahner from Armanino**

A brief overview of the audit results was presented to the board, stressing that everything went smoothly and BSA met the highest possible standard. For the single audit, the results will be passed on to NSF. Congratulations to BSA staff for a successful audit. Special thanks to Catrina and Jennifer for managing BSA's largest grants. Tricia explained to the board why a FY2025 audit may be a good idea even if it is not needed for passing the \$1,000,000.00 spending (of federal funding) threshold for a single audit. However, the cost of the audit will need to be considered when making this decision.

**Motion to approve the audit findings: Allison; Second: Jenny. No one opposed.**

#### **7. Executive Orders / NSF Funding / BSA Listening Session – Heather and Brenda**

The board discussed some of the consequences of executive orders on our membership and potential ways to help. A summary of the listening session was also provided with an emphasis on building community and connection within the membership. Fifty people attended the event with a wide spectrum of professional affiliations. With funding uncertainty, ways of funding both travel to meetings and small research projects were discussed. Discussion the proposal for AIBS scientific training will be moved to email.

**Motion to move forward with hardship awards: Brenda; Second: Melanie. No opposition.**

#### **8. Botany 2025 Update – Melanie**

The board discussed the upcoming Botany conference in Palm Springs, with an emphasis on how current financial and political uncertainty may impact attendance – there is concern that attendance will be low due to potential federal funding cuts. The committee has been discussing ways to decrease expenditures. Both A/V and catering comprise major expenditures and it is likely that catering will need to be reduced. The commitment to making Botany and inclusive, accessible, and safe conference was reaffirmed.

#### **9. Executive Session – Staff Performance Review**

**Motion to enter: Ken; Second: Allison.**

**Motion to exit: Ken; Second; Jenny.**