

BSA Board Meeting MINUTES November 8, 2022, via Zoom 11:00am-12:30pm Central

Who attended:

BSA Staff: Heather Cacanindin, Amy McPherson, Amelia Neely, Catrina Adams, Johanne Stogran (left at 12:46 EST)

Board Members: Norman Wickett, Vivian Negron-Ortiz, Rachel Jabaily, Brenda Molano-Flores, Ioana Anghel, Melanie Link-Perez (left 1:03 EST), Emily Sessa, Michael Donoghue, Chelsea Specht, Jennifer Cruse-Sanders (left 1:36 EST)

BSA Board reviewed and considered the minutes from their meetings on [July 23](#), [July 28](#), and Executive Committee meetings on [August 11](#), [September 1](#), [September 30](#), and [October 17](#). **Motion to approve by Emily Sessa. Second by Michael Donoghue. Approved.**

Reports and Updates – Heather

A new approach to reviewing reports at board meetings was introduced. Rather than an oral discussion of reports, they will be prepared and posted ahead of time; board members will review reports and bring any points for discussion to the board meetings. Heather shared the reports and opened the floor for questions.

The possibility of organizing a joint venture between the Mexican Botanical Society and BSA was discussed; options include a topical symposium or a full-fledged joint meeting. Issues of cost, logistics, tax issues, and safety were discussed; there appears to be considerable interest in pursuing something and the discussion should be kept open. [Education](#) – Participation in Botany360 events was discussed; there is a huge range in the number of participants, but some have up to 80-90 people attending. Survey responses suggest that people want more – both in number and in length/content. Discussions are ongoing regarding the use of content, including the use of content from Botany meetings and issues surrounding intellectual property and consent for use. A more permanent location for storing talks etc. was discussed (e.g., YouTube vs. Pathable) but consent and IP issues would need to be addressed. [Membership](#) – No discussion. [Publications](#) – No discussion but see below for discussion regarding the Wiley Contract Negotiation. [FY2022 Implementation Plan](#) – No discussion.

[Botany 2022 Wrap Up and 2023 Update](#) – Melanie and Johanne

Issues regarding the hybrid nature of Botany 2022 were discussed. The conference and BSA took a loss and the possibility of having a hybrid meeting in 2023 was discussed, mostly favorably (if financially feasible). The cause of the loss was likely due to both location and platform/AV issues associated with having the meeting in Alaska. The possibility of having an entirely virtual meeting in 2024 was discussed, given that IBC will be held in Spain that year, and then we can assess the best path forward for 2025. However, the importance of in-person meetings for early-career scientists who may not attend IBC was emphasized. For hybrid meetings, the support of participating societies will be essential, as there are shared profits and losses. The importance of having a hybrid option was discussed relative to offering an inclusive conference, particularly in locations where all members may not feel safe or welcome. The post-

meeting survey from Botany 2022 had ~185 respondents. Negative comments from remote participants highlighted a lack of inclusion and a feeling of isolation. The Board discussed the need to consider how to promote more engagement between on-site and remote participants. The possibility of having separate in-person and virtual meetings in the same year was discussed, but largely unfavorably given the increased planning load for staff and negative feedback from other societies that have tried this.

For the site of the 2024, Johanne is looking into some sites that were considered pre-pandemic (e.g. Grand Rapids, Madison, Columbus), but nothing has been finalized.

For Botany 2023, there are five symposium proposals, which is many fewer than usual. A ranking is usually used to select six – the ranking process will still take place, but all will be selected. There are also far fewer colloquium submissions – and currently there is no evidence why this might be.

Publications and Wiley Contract Negotiation – Emily, Amy, Heather.

The Board discussed the re-negotiated contract, with particular emphasis on the clause stating that the contract can be re-opened for negotiation if a certain threshold of publications revenue is not met. While meeting that threshold shouldn't be an issue, the uncertain landscape of publications in the future is concerning. BSA is working with a lawyer to get clauses taken out or mitigate them in some way. The impact of the Nelson memo on our publications was also discussed. At least one of the BSA journals (APPS) is fully open access, and Briana is doing a great job increasing the number of submissions. The potential need for the BSA investment portfolio to subsidize journals and Society operations as the move to open access was also discussed.

Botany and Beyond

Motion to move into executive session to discuss personnel issues related to the Botany & Beyond grant: Norm. Second: Emily. Approved.

Motion to come out of executive session: Michael. Second: Vivian.

During the Executive Session the Board decided that BSA must retain control and direction of the PLANTS program and that the Society must develop a policy for the handling of future grant proposals.

Meeting concluded at 12:54 pm Central.