

## **BSA Board Meeting MINUTES November 16, 2022, via Zoom 11:00am-12:30pm Central**

Who attended:

BSA Staff: Heather Cacanindin, Tricia Jackson

Board Members: Norman Wickett (arrived 11:41 EST), Vivian Negron-Ortiz, Rachel Jabaily, Brenda Molano-Flores, Ioana Anghel, Emily Sessa, Michael Donoghue, Chelsea Specht, Jennifer Cruse-Sanders, Eli Hartung, Allison Miller (arrived 11:54 EST).

### **Business Office Report and FY2022 Financial Wrap Up – Heather and Allison**

This last year was a bad one for investments and the Society took a loss in our investment portfolio. The rules around the kinds of investments that can be made (e.g. at the moment we can't be in alternative energy) was discussed, as was whether BSA should revisit our investment strategy with our advisors (stay conservative etc.), including our level of international investment ([BSA investment report](#)). BSA will be working with an outside accounting firm to close out the fiscal year and will have another [profit/loss statement](#) soon.

### **Sectional funding requests – Heather**

The discussion of sectional funding requests arose from Botany 2019 – sections were not getting regular allotments but were still spending. Sections must now request specific funds of BSA if they have a need. Because of the 2023 budget and deficit spending, we only have \$2k to give to sections. Four requests were received – Economic Botany (\$800 for poster awards), Genetics (\$2k – travel awards), Physiology (\$2.5k – research and travel award), Phytochemistry (\$2.5k – student awards, social event). Recommendation is for \$200, \$500, \$500, \$1000 respectively. Phytochemistry is reviving an old section, so more money was allotted there given that they need time for membership and dues to increase. For travel awards, sections were asked to request \$500 because it goes further in covering costs but is below the threshold for submitting expense reimbursements. There are no suggested amounts for, e.g., poster awards or other non-travel awards. As a comparison, last year BSA was able to allocate \$9000 to the sections; we are hopeful that finances will allow us to return to a higher level of support next year. Requests for 2024 funding should be made with enough time to be discussed at the fall board meeting. The Board appreciated the effort put in by the sections, and reduced funding doesn't reflect the quality of the requests.

**Motion to approve [recommendation for sectional funding](#) requests: Michael. Second: Chelsea.**

### **Nominated Awards Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations – Rachel**

The process by which nominees for awards or committees are vetted was discussed, with an emphasis on how the process and nominees relate to BSA's commitment to equal opportunities. For example, there should be clear guidelines on who can/should write letters of support, taking into consideration conflicts of interest. Nominators and nominees must complete a Professional Conduct Disclosure Form (PCDF) and adhere to the BSA guidelines for professional ethics.

With respect to the PCDF, it was discussed what the consequences should be if a reference answers 'no' to any of the four disclosures. It was suggested that if you agree to serve as a reference, you also agree to speak to the committee if any follow up is required. The Board discussed what happens if someone puts forward information but doesn't want to be involved in the follow up; in that case, what are the next steps? The Board discussed whether it could be up to the committee to find additional references who may be able to speak to the nominee in the same capacity. There was some discussion of using an ethical transparency tool developed by AAAS and the Consortium on Sexual Harassment in STEMM, but this discussion is ongoing and the tool would not be ready for us this spring. BSA will not keep record of these forms on file. The Board also discussed using the PCDF for invited speakers and panelists for BSA sponsored events.

**Motion to approve the intent of the proposal (with minor modifications to be made and circulated by Rachel Jabaily): Jennifer. Second: Emily. Motion carried.**

#### **Committee Approvals** – Vivian

Michael Donoghue has agreed to chair the committee for the graduate student research award in comparative plant biology. Michael is familiar with the donors and intent of the award, so he is taking on the role for the first year that it will be awarded, but may step aside once the award is up and running.

**Motion to approve the committee for the comparative plant bio award: Chelsea. Second: Emily. Motion carried.**

The Early Career Professional Development Award committee was recently approved as a permanent committee and should now be expanded. Two new members were recently added. There is no chair.

**Motion to approve the expanded committee with two new members: Ioana. Second: Jennifer. Motion carried.**

The formation of a committee to award the AJB Synthesis Prize was discussed, with some discussion of whether specific areas of expertise should be represented. It was made clear that there are two different committees: The Synthesis Committee (solicit the proposals/papers), and the Synthesis *Prize* Committee (judge the final papers). The committee application process was discussed, and it was agreed that next year the committee should be formed through the regular online form, so that people can self-nominate as well.

**Motion to approve the proposal and rubric for committee members: Rachel. Second: Ioana. Motion carried.**

Meeting concluded at 11:50am Central.