

BSA Board Meeting MINUTES

March 31, 2023, via Zoom

10:00am-12:00pm Central

Who attended:

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

Board Members: Norman Wickett, Vivian Negron-Ortiz, Brenda Molano-Flores, Ioana Anghel, Melanie Link-Perez, Michael Donoghue (left at 12:10), Allison Miller (left at 11:31, back at 12:32), Chelsea Specht, Eli Hartung, Emily Sessa, Jennifer Cruse-Sanders

Meeting called to order – Vivian

Minutes from January and February

Motion to approve by Brenda. Second by Emily. Approved.

Financial Projection for Investment Draw – Heather and Tricia. The board discussed when the society may drop below the liquid reserve threshold (estimated funds on hand to operate for 6 months per BSA policy), projected to possibly occur in the last three months of 2023. The timing of when BSA might see income from Wiley was also discussed (likely early 2024), but the need to draw from the investment account, possibly annually, was emphasized. The management of the withdrawal was discussed (i.e., how much to withdraw relative to projected reserves) as was the dependency on income from Wiley. The long-term impact of an annual draw was discussed.

Botany2023 Update and Financial Projections – Melanie and Johanne. The board discussed the upcoming Botany2023 meeting in Boise and the implementation of the new abstract submission site. The financial risks and impacts of holding a hybrid meeting were discussed, as well as the need to have strong participation in the in-person meeting to offset the costs of having a hybrid meeting. Areas where meeting costs could be cut were discussed. The email explaining why we are holding the meeting in Idaho, considering recent discriminatory legislation in that state, was also discussed.

Development Report – Jenny. The board discussed the upcoming meeting of the Development Committee, and updates to websites.

AJ Harris Award Fundraising – Heather and Jenny. The board discussed the possibility of establishing an endowed award to honor the legacy of AJ Harris. The options of funding this award through a gofundme page as well as directly through BSA were discussed. The board also discussed the need to have a standardized process for proposing endowed awards.

Motion to approve the proposal to establish a new endowed award name in honor of AJ Harris: Jenny. Second: Brenda. Passes with 7 votes.

Committee Appointment Updates: Brenda. The March 17th meeting of the Committee on Committees meeting was discussed with an emphasis on committees that still require members. The need to establish clear code-of-conduct related guidelines was also discussed.

Addressing Climate Change – Vivian. The board discussed ways in which the BSA can promote and tackle issues surrounding climate change. The importance of how addressing climate change interacts with the social justice mission of BSA, the carbon footprint of Botany meetings, and the importance of collections were also discussed. Partnering with other societies or public facing institutions to increase the impact of the BSA knowledge and message was proposed. The importance of tackling this issue for the younger generation of BSA members was emphasized. There is a strong consensus that BSA should be dedicated to addressing climate change.