

**BSA Board Meeting MINUTES**  
**June 23, 2023, via Zoom**  
**1:00pm-3:00pm Central**

**Who attended:**

**BSA Staff:** Heather Cacanindin

**Board Members:** Norman Wickett, Vivian Negrón-Ortiz, Brenda Molano-Flores, Ioana Anghel, Chelsea Specht, Eli Hartung, Emily Sessa, Rachel Jabaily, Allison Miller, Amelia Neely (arrived at 1:50; left at 2:06)

**Meeting called to order** – Vivian

**Discussion of DDIG** – NSF is asking for feedback about what is missing from graduate training that the DDIG used to provide and they are also asking for solutions. The board discussed how BSA can provide some monetary awards, training opportunities for grant writing, and other opportunities that may address some of the graduate training that was provided by the DDIG. It was also discussed that approaching foundations to help fund graduate awards may be a way of increasing graduate student support. The pros and cons of using of NSF small grants (max \$200,000) to fund grad research was discussed and the need for recognition of the student contribution to awards was emphasized. The idea of adding specific components for independent grad research into larger PI awards was also discussed.

**Committee Appointments** – The state of committee memberships was presented. Then method by which committees are assembled was discussed, as was the needs of the remaining incomplete committees. It was suggested that BSA student reps reach out to students to fill the remaining two student vacancies. The development committee still requires several people. The committee discussed sending an email thanking everyone who applied and asking those who were not selected this year to remain in the applicant pool for next year.

**Motion to approve committee appointments: Chelsea. Second: Rachel.**

**BSA Policy and Procedures adjustments** (in response to NSF desk review) – The findings of the NSF desk review were discussed as well as the current state of the policy and procedures adjustments (which are not yet ready for approval, but close). The final document should be ready for the board meeting during the Botany meeting in July. The board discussed that many of the requested adjustments address existing BSA practices that need to be more explicitly stated in our policies. Including more details about the process by which the board approves PIs in the policy was proposed and discussed.

**Root & Shoot RCN Update** – The upcoming bystander trainings were discussed; BSA already has 21 people signed up and seven more could join as well. The board also discussed the Inclusive Conference document, with emphasis on the community agreement and funding for an ombuds person who will attend the meeting, which will be provided by Root & Shoot. The availability of the ombuds person for feedback on how the code of conduct is enforced was discussed.

**IBC NSF Grant Proposal Update** – The board discussed submitting a proposal to fund student and postdoc travel to the International Botanical Congress in Madrid in 2024. Further development of the proposal will depend on conversations that Heather will have with NSF staff. The need to include training opportunities beyond just funding travel was discussed.

**BSA Membership Survey results** – A summary of the survey results was presented to the board. A subsequent discussion emphasized the overall satisfaction with the society by members as well as the responses to how leadership is election and elections in general, with an emphasis on the need for continued and increased transparency.

**Climate Change Working Group** – The initial plans to assemble an ad hoc working group to develop a climate change initiative within BSA was discussed. The opportunity to include an agricultural (particularly from the standpoint of alternative crops) component and an emphasis on collections (e.g., herbaria) was discussed as well.

**Motion to approve the creation of a climate change committee: Emily; second: Allison.**

**Election reform/revisions** – The BSA capstone projects from the Root & Shoot RCN were discussed: (1) accessibility of publications and (2) transparency and equity of elections. The need for there to be standardized and explicit policies, as well as the need to communicate these to membership, was emphasized. It was suggested that a discussion of pathways to leadership could be incorporated into the meet-the-officers session. Other possibilities to communicate with membership about how to get involved in the society were also proposed. There will be further discussion of this topic at Botany in July.

**Motion to move to executive session: Vivian; second: Emily. Approved. No objections.**

**Motion to come out of executive session: Vivian; second: Rachel.**