

BSA Board Minutes
Zoom Call
20 September 2021, 1-2:30 pm Central

In attendance at the meeting:

Michael Donoghue, Vivian Negron-Ortiz, Melanie Link-Perez, Chelsea Specht, Rachel Jabaily, Emily Sessa, Ioana Anghel, Jennifer Cruse-Sanders, Imeña Valdes, and J. Chris Pires, Heather Cacanindin, Trisha Jackson, Amy McPherson, and Johanne Stogran.

Missing: Lucinda McDade, Cindi Jones

Since we have several new Board members and a new staff person, the group went through a round of introductions.

Agenda Item 1. Botany Conference

Johanne and Melanie gave their report.

Botany 2021 was a financial success and had enhanced online activities (e.g., yoga, social gathering rooms, etc). The conference received a highly favorable rating in the post-conference survey. Also, attendees really valued being able to view talks that they missed via the recordings.

The Board discussed the merits and financial ramifications of an “all virtual” vs “in person” vs “hybrid” meeting.

The call for symposia is out for Botany 2022 and applications are due October 15. It was suggested in the Call for Symposia that we “strongly recommend” that each symposia have at least one student speaker (as requested by student reps).

Agenda Item 2. BSA Publications

APPS is sister journal to AJB. We need to make a call for nominations for a new editor since Theresa Culley is stepping down after 10 years of service. The Board was encouraged to spread the word about this opening. The Board was asked to consider increasing the stipend paid to the EIC of APPS to \$5000.

In addition, after a search, the Publications team selected Kasey Barton as the new Reviews Editor for AJB and Tatiana Arias as a Recruiting Editor for APPS. In the past, these have been unpaid positions, but the Publications team would like to provide a stipend of \$1500 for each of these positions.

A motion was made and seconded (Emily Sessa and Rachel Jabaily) to provide \$1500 each for the AJB Reviews Editor and the APPS Recruiting Editor and to provide a \$5000 stipend to the Editor-in-Chief of APPS. The motion was voted on and unanimously approved.

Other issues on publishing were discussed.

The renegotiations with Wiley for a new publications contract are ongoing. In parallel, a consultant could be used to help evaluate the Wiley proposal and contract offer and provide insights into the current state of publishing contracts and the industry.

BSA staff talked to two consultants and most recently they contacted Clarke and Esposito. This consulting firm has helped other clients similar to BSA (e.g., Genetics Society of America) so this is likely to get us a good return on investment (ROI) for their expertise. Amy McPherson checked with some of their previous clients and received a favorable response on the value of their insight and work. It was stated the Treasurer was fine with this expenditure for the consultant and related fees. The timeline for when we would either agree to go back to Wiley or have an open RFP was discussed. A new agreement would likely be a five-year contract (e.g., Jan 2023 – Dec 2027)

A motion was made and seconded (Emily Sessa and Rachel Jabaily) to hire Clarke and Esposito for up to \$12,000. The funding request was voted on and unanimously approved.

Agenda Item 3. Strategic Plan and Implementation in Year 1

Strategic Plan. Michael and others led a discussion on the process and outcomes relative to the four priority areas. Chelsea Specht indicated how we used the strategic planning process as an educational opportunity for our members and they appreciated the IDEA of professional development.

The Board discussed the next steps for the implementation plan and list of items on the docket for the next year or two. Most of the activities in year 1 are straightforward as they are ongoing activities. We have certain grants that are funded which we are moving forward with during this first year. A draft of the implementation plan will be presented to the Board at the next meeting.

NSF LEAPS proposals were discussed. Michael Donoghue credited Chelsea Specht and others for all their work in this area.

AIBS received a LEAPS grant to fund an upcoming workshop around the topic of creating inclusive scientific societies. There will be participants from multiple societies and Janelle Burke and Catrina Adams will represent BSA.

Heather Cacanindin reported on the ambitions and actions of “Botany 360,” an Ad Hoc Committee composed of several Committee and Section chairs, the student reps and some BSA staff. In this effort, the group is focusing on professional development, educational events, discussion sessions and networking that take place throughout the year when our Society is not holding the BOTANY meeting. The Ad Hoc Committee had their first meeting recently. Michael Donoghue requested there be a clear calendar of events and a new calendar for Botany 360 is in the works.

BSA Teaching Section and Bylaws.

We discussed a request made by the Teaching Section to amend their sectional bylaws.

A motion was made and second (Michael Donoghue and Chelsea Specht) to accept the revised bylaws change proposed by the Teaching Section. Motion was approved.

The meeting was adjourned.