

**BSA Board meeting
Minutes
7/28/2022**

Meeting starts at 8am.

Those attending: Vivian Negron-Ortiz (via Zoom), Michael Donoghue, Brenda Molano-Flores, Chelsea Specht, Rachel Jabaily, Emily Sessa, Jenny Cruse-Sanders, Eli Hartung, Ioana Anghel, and Heather Cacanindin.

Absent: Allison Miller and Norm Wickett

All members introduced themselves.

The Emerging Leader Award was discussed. Vivian shared a memo prepared by Ann Sakai, a member of the Emerging Leader/Distinguished Fellow Award Committee.

There is a limited time window for a person to receive this award before they are no longer qualified as “emerging.” The Board discussed whether it would be possible to provide more than one award in a given year. The concern would be dilution of the prestige of the award and finding the time for two emerging leader talks at the conference. However, we have so many exceptional early career members.

The Board agreed that we will add language to the Emerging Leader Award description that “in extraordinary circumstances, we may provide 2 awards of \$3,000 each in a given year.”

Michael led a discussion about some ethical issues that came to light with a few of our award winners and members this year. It was suggested that BSA needs to examine all awards in case tweaking of language is needed. May need to check references over the phone or do a bit of an extra investigation into potential award winners and honorees.

The Board agrees that BSA will prepare an attestation form for all nominated awards. Nominators must describe their relationship to the nominee and attest that they believe that the nominee is upholding our BSA Guidelines for Professional Ethics. Rachel, Ioana, and Cindi Jones are appointed by Vivian to be the Ad Hoc Committee to work on this adjustment to our nominated awards.

Brief discussion about the benefits of virtual/hybrid conference where recordings are viewable to attendees after the meeting. The content can be used in many ways. For example, the Education Committee plans to hold a Botany 360 to share some of the education talks from the conference. This discussion brought up the issue of consent. Did conference presenters

consent to sharing their talks outside of the meeting? Heather will find out for sure. We cannot assume and need to get consent from presenters before using their content in any other ways.

Collaborations with Mexican colleagues. Michael shares that he will be presenting at the Mexican Botanical Congress in Puebla this September. Amy McPherson and some Mexican AJB associate editors will provide a workshop on publishing at their conference.

The Board discussed the possibility of a special symposia in Boise that brings Mexican colleagues to participate. The US Botanic Garden is interested in supporting this type of collaboration. **There is general consensus on the board on pursuing a symposium with Mexican colleagues and working with the Mexican Botanical Society for 2023.**

Melanie Link-Perez gives a brief overview of what we know now about Botany 2023 in Boise and the Boise conference center. It is too soon to say if this meeting will be hybrid. We need to get the conference survey results and the financial status of the 2022 hybrid conference which we won't know until sometime in September. It is noted that our strategic plan provides goals of accessible meetings and hybrid conference as one of those solutions.

There has been concern about folks traveling to Idaho due to discrimination there and a recent uptick in hate crimes. Affinity groups should be involved in crafting a plan for welcoming and providing safe spaces in Boise. We don't want to take a tone of combativeness against the state or city, but want to show support for our members from underrepresented groups.

Suggestion that we should have a survey question asking members of the participating societies that during the IBC year of 2024, would they attend an in person Botany conference. The Board would also like to know how many virtual presenters took part in Botany 2022. Several suggestions for working on the moderator experience for future conference so they have clear direction sooner, and can do a better job of moderating sessions.

Meeting adjourns at 10:10 am.