

2019-20 President's Report, Some Highlights

Botany 2020 Virtual! involved conversations with legal counsel by Johanne and Heather, and extended contract negotiations by Johanne with parties in AK to postpone to 2022. This saved the conference from losses of ~\$300K, and resulted in a stronger (*force majeure*) cancellation clause for future contracts. It involved moving to a virtual platform, an effort largely shouldered by Johanne.

Graduate Student Research Awards – 25 grants awarded this year, totaling nearly \$40,000. Over 100 proposals were received. First Donald R. Kaplan Award in Comparative Morphology was made (\$10,000).

BSA International Committee provided input into potential members to serve on the Advisory and Scientific Program Committees for the International Botanic Congress, Rio 2023.

Investment Portfolio weathered volatility, now valued at \$6M. Toby Kellogg has done an outstanding job chairing this committee to work with Financial Advisor, Bryan Boesen at Morgan Stanley, to explore and implement an ESG (Environment, Social, Governance) investing strategy. Financial Advisory Committee Chair, Larry Hufford, will serve as liaison on committee to work towards aligning investment allocations with anticipated expenses, and Investment Committee, under Toby's leadership, is writing a new investing policy to reflect these changes.

Sectional Funding was formalized to have sections submit annual budget requests to fund some activities at the conference, such as presentation/poster and travel awards.

BSA co-signed two community statements (AIBS) to 1) oppose the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) guidance to force international students to leave the country if they didn't participate in in-person instruction in Fall 2020; and 2) support the RISE act (Research Investment to Spark the Economy HR 7308) to provide emergency funding (\$26B) to federal research agencies to support the research community during the pandemic. BSA leadership issued an anti-racism statement in response to violence against Blacks in the US.