

BSA Board Meeting Minutes

March 30, 2021

1:00-4:00pm Central

Meeting called to order at 2:04pm Eastern

In attendance: Cindi Jones, Linda Watson, Heather Cacanindin, Michael Donoghue, Melanie Link-Perez, Imeña Valdes, Chelsea Specht, Chris Martine, Lucinda McDade, Emily Sessa, Rachel Spicer, Jennifer Cruse-Sanders, Catrina Adams, Rich Hund, Amy McPherson, Beth Parada, Amelia Neely; Gillian Greenhouse (Wiley) joined for Publications report.

1. Draft Strategic Plan for Review

- Strategic Plan Working Group vs Strategic Planning Committee and process explained
- Discussion:
 - Pleased with goals re: OpenAccess
 - Specific suggestions for removing redundancies
 - Section 3 is more about public audience (not just scientists)
 - Suggestion that goals can be aspirational and do not need to be measurable; the strategies should be more measurable
 - Do we want to define botanical sciences in a footnote or additional sentence in the mission statement?
 - Suggestion that we have a BSA mission statement and vision statements at the start of each pillar/priority
 - Suggestion that we think, before finalizing, the order that they are presented. But recognized that this often gets equated with importance or prioritization
 - Consecutive numbering of the goals across all of the 4 different areas
- Board will comment on a Google doc by Sunday night; Presidents will work to reach a consensus on edits from comments and return a new draft to the area working groups for feedback
- Board will ultimately vote on approving the document

2. Student/PostDoc Travel Awards

- Proposal: In 2021, BSA provides up to \$2500 worth of registration awards to students and post docs with the aim of providing 25 student registrations @ \$25 and 25 post doc registrations @ \$75.

MOTION to APPROVE the above proposal -> APPROVED (unanimous)

10 min BREAK – reconvene at 3:10pm

3. Investment Guidelines - Revised Guidelines Document

- Added ESG language
- General consensus that it is a good document and an improvement

MOTION to adopt guidelines proposed by the Investment Committee -> APPROVED (unanimous)

4. Membership and Communications Report

- Students join like crazy (high new rate) but renew at very low rates
- Professional members have a low new rate but a very high renew rate
- Social media liaisons are great (started Spotlight series)
- Lots of followers on Instagram, Twitter and FB
- General consensus that membership in professional societies is declining everywhere, so we are doing very well!

5. Student Representative Report

- Proposal #1: Increase undergrad research awards from \$200 to \$500 and remove requirement for BSA faculty mentor

Discussion: Suggestion that we separate these into two motions

MOTION to increase from \$200 to \$500 (at 6 awards annually) for undergrad awards, starting in FY22 -> APPROVED (unanimous)

Discussion re: requirement that faculty mentors must be BSA members.

- Mixed opinions here but compelling argument for equity and students at underfunded institutions; we should be striving to eliminate any barriers for these students to engage with botanical research
- Suggestion that we could pair them with a BSA member (but you'd be faced with finding volunteers)
- Also suggestions that we keep it simple for logistics
- There is nothing to stop us from reaching out to the faculty mentors and giving them a gift membership, etc.

MOTION to drop the requirement that faculty mentor be a BSA member -> MOTION APPROVED with one abstention

- Proposal #2: Starting during Botany 2022, we require all symposiums and colloquiums to include at least 1 student in their proposal to be approved and continue to encourage organizers to take into account the diversity, including the career stage diversity, of their speakers. *Note: This would have to be approved by the rest of the Botany conference societies*
- The above proposal was tabled until the next meeting

6. Education and Outreach Report

- Working on using remaining funds from DEI conference grant (ending) to support conference participation
- F2 Planting Science grant is just getting started

- Working on PLANTS3 grant rewrite
- Noted LEAPS opportunities
- Onboarding new committee members
- Goal of drumming up more nominees for Bessey Award; comm is talking about how to get more nominations

7. Publications Report

- We're in our 4th year in a 5 year contract with Wiley
- Increase of Open Access pubs has accelerated
- We've seen a drop-off in income from APPS with the cessation of Primer Notes but this is expected to change as the IF increases
- AJB: 20% of last year's articles were OA
- Pandemic has affected library budgets and further shifted toward OA
- Very difficult to get reviewers
- Question about strategy and regularity for special issues (considered key element of strategy to increase impact factors)
- Props to Beth and Rich for social media promotion of papers

8. Wiley Publisher's Report and Financial Update (Gillian Greenough)

- 24% increase in # of institutions that have access to AJB
- Request that the Board serve as ambassadors for the journals
- Request for ideas for special issues
- Question about what Wiley does to specifically market and promote articles
- Observation made that that Wiley Plant Sci on Twitter is not very active

BREAK – 5 minutes

The Board moved to start an Executive Session at 3:30pm to discuss Contractor and staff issues. Amy McPherson and Heather Cacanindin were invited to stay to discuss the Wiley Publications agreement and performance. Amy McPherson departed the meeting at 3:50pm and Heather Cacanindin discussed upcoming potential changes in BSA staff with the Board.

Executive Session and Board call ended at 4:10pm.