

2021 BSA Advisory Council Meeting MINUTES

July 20, 2021

Botany 2021 - Virtual!

Meeting called to order at 6:04pm ET

1. Highlights (Cindi Jones)

- Strategic plan is drafted
- Finances are in great shape
- Second successful virtual meeting
- New PLANTS grant
- New system for committee nominations & selection

2. Approval of Minutes of the 2020 Council Meeting

MOTION to approve the minutes -> APPROVED

3. Reports of Executive Committee, Editors, and Staff

- A. President (Cindi Jones)
- B. Past President (Linda Watson)
- C. President Elect (Michael Donoghue)
- D. Secretary (Rachel Spicer) See 2020 Council Meeting Minutes
- E. Treasurer's Report (Lucinda McDade)
- F. Program Director Report (Melanie Link-Perez)
- G. Editor, American Journal of Botany (Pamela Diggle) (see Publications Report)
- H. Editor, Applications in Plant Sciences (Theresa Culley)(See Publications Report)
- I. Editor, Plant Science Bulletin (MacKenzie Taylor)
- J. Business Office Report -Executive Director (Heather Cacanindin)

MOTION to approve the reports of the Executive Committee, Staff & Editors -> APPROVED

4. Reports of Committees, Sections, and Representatives

A. Standing Committees (Administrative)

- Executive Committee (Cindi Jones) See President's Report
- Annual Meetings Program Committee (Melanie Link-Perez) See Program Director's Report
- Committee on Committees (Michael Donoghue) See President-Elect's report
- Development Committee (Jennifer Cruse-Sanders) See DAL Development Report
- Education Committee (Chris Martine)
- Publications Committee (Emily Sessa)
- Election Committee (Linda Watson)
- DEI Committee (Chelsea Specht)
- Information Technology Committee (Alex Harkess)
- Investment Committee (Toby Kellogg)

International Affairs (Hugo Cota Sanchez)
Public Policy Committee (Tanisha Williams and Krissa Skogen)
Student Representatives (Imeña Valdes and Shelly Gaynor)

MOTION to approve the reports of the above standing committees -> APPROVED

B. Standing Committees (Awards and Prizes)

Corresponding Members Committee (Linda Watson)

- Dr. Peter Linder
- Prof. Jianquan Liu
- Dr. Marie-Stéphanie Samain

BSA Distinguished Fellows and Emerging Leader Awards Committee (Michael Donoghue)
see President-Elect report

Bessey Award Committee (Kyra Krakos)- see Teaching section report

Cheadle Award Committee (Jessica Budke)- See D&S Section report

Esau Award Committee (Kurt Neubig)

Donald R. Kaplan Memorial Lecture Committee (Toby Kellogg)

Moseley Award Committee (see Paleo report)

Kaplan Award in Comparative Morphology (Steve Weller)

Graduate Student Research Awards Committee (Andy Crowl)

Grady L. and Barbara D. Webster Structural Botany Publication Award Committee (Pam Diggle)

MOTION to approve the reports of the above standing committees -> APPROVED

C. Sections

Bryological and Lichenological Section (Doug Ladd / Scott Schuette)

Developmental and Structural Section (Jessica Budke)

Ecology Section (Brenda Molano-Flores)

Economic Botany Section (Laura Klein / Emily Warshefsky)

Genetics Section (Ingrid Jordon-Thaden)

Historical Section (Nuala Caomhanach)

Paleobotanical Section (Andrew Leslie)

Physiological Section (Arthur Schwarz)

Phytochemistry Section (Stacey Smith)

Pteridological Section (Alejandra Vasco / Tom A. Ranker)

PUI Section (Jennifer Ison / Jason Cantley)

Systematics Section (Anna Monfils)

Teaching Section (Kyra Krakos)

Tropical Biology Section (Margaret S. Devall)

Northeastern Section (Amy Faivre / Bonnie Isaac)

Southeastern Section (Jeremy Rentsch)

MOTION to approve the reports of the sections -> APPROVED

D. Representatives to other Organizations

AAAS - Cindi Jones (nothing to report)
AIBS - Krissa Skogen (nothing to report)
PSRN / New Decadal Vision- Michael Donoghue

5. New Business

A. Strategic Plan - Cindi Jones

- Meant to be a 5 year plan
- Cindi Jones provided background on the process, which was extensive
- We contracted a consultant and created a committee
- Clarified the difference between goals (in blue) vs goals

Feedback requested / discussion:

- Support expressed for DEI strategies and objectives
- Question about whether we are able to move toward a fully OA publication model.
Answer: No, not at the moment, but we are working diligently toward this goal with Wiley. The finances require us to publish more and spend less.
- Question about increasing the number of awards, considering the work involved and impact on inclusion. Is giving more awards effective?
 - Response that being more comprehensive about what we value and consider for awards is important (e.g., mentoring, service)
 - Historically BSA had spent very little of our budget on awards. We are increasing both the amounts and numbers of research awards
 - Re: inclusivity, we should think about travel awards for students and that they be given equitably (as opposed to the presentation awards)
 - Comment that sections are very differently resourced
 - Suggestion that we make a distinction between grants and awards and that this could solve some of the wording concerns/ambiguity there
- Suggestion that #6 is too narrow with respect to sustainability and global nature of the interactions; regenerative paradigm
- Suggestion that we first discuss major concerns about the document rather than wording at this stage. We need to get a sense from the Council about whether they are largely on board with this document
- Comment that “global” is introduced early but that the bulk of the document as a whole does not emphasize global thinking, nor does it mention indigenous knowledge
- Proposal that we incorporate the comments discussed today but conditionally approve the document now

MOTION to approve the draft strategic plan to forward to the membership at the Business meeting -> APPROVED

B. FY2022 Budget - Lucinda McDade

- Reviewed budget summary spreadsheet
- We are showing a deficit of about \$19k overall to cover but this is before we have taken any kind of draw on the investment portfolio
- We are asking the Council to approve an up to 2% draw on the 12 quarter rolling average of the investment portfolio (currently ~\$5.9M)
- The Board has approved the budget

MOTION to approve the budget as presented and to approve a 2% draw on the investment portfolio -> APPROVED

- Suggestion that we engage the Finance Committee in developing the budget – or disband it since it lacks a real charge. Response that there is a plan to do this in the upcoming year.
- The Investment Committee has been asking what our plans are to use the growing investment portfolio, and suggest that using funds for good work inspires people to give to the organization

C. Board Recommendations - Cindi Jones

- 2022 Student Gift Membership \$10
- Recommendation for a 3-year gift membership for students and developing nations \$30

Discussion:

- Question about technicians and their position level, given that they make small salaries but would require a professional membership under the current definitions. Answer: We would need to vote on creating a new membership type. We do have an “affiliate” membership type for outside of academia but it would be worth discussing this position. We agreed to look at our demographic data from this conference and discuss how to proceed.
- A gift membership for folks outside of academia might also be a good idea.
- Reminders that we have membership categories for family members and amateurs.

MOTION to approve a \$10 student gift membership for 2022 -> APPROVED

MOTION to approve a new 3-year \$30 student or developing nation gift membership -> APPROVED

Meeting adjourned at 7:24pm