

## Minutes from the March 19, 2020 APS Council Call

### A. Call to order [du Toit]

Meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. Central. A quorum was present.

**Council present:** Lindsey du Toit, Mark Gleason, Amy Charkowski, Lawrence Datnoff, Peter Ojiambo, David Gent, Katy Stevenson, Krishna Subbarao, Ashok Chanda, Kira Bowen

**Council apologies:** Jim Bradeen

**Invited:** Brad Gabor, Gary Bergstrom

**Staff:** Amy Hope, Carol Ericson, Kim Davis, Linda Schmitt, Micaylia Kraywinkel, Greg Grahek, Megan Boatman, Brianna Plank, Ginnie O'Neill

### B. Approval of Minutes [All]

**MOTION:** to approve the February 20, 2020, minutes as submitted. *Seconded; motion passed.*

### C. Update from Office of Private Sector Relations (OPSR) [Gabor]

**SHARED** listing of [OPSR members](#) which has a diverse industry representation.

With support from the APS Foundation OPSR has the [Plant Pathology Experiential Awards](#) that offer two, experiential awards: individual for students and post-docs (\$1,000 awarded annually), and departmental for academic research departments (\$4,000 awarded every other year).

[OPSR Midwest Tour](#) is scheduled for July 13-15, 2020. The tour is open to graduate students and post-docs interested in learning how organizations in the private sector and not-for-profit operate, as well as the various career opportunities available to those seeking employment with a plant pathology background. The tour includes three full days visiting sites in the Midwest. Efforts are being led by Corteva Agriscience.

Maximum capacity for the tour is 19 people. Noted that two students registered but one dropped due to COVID-19 concerns. Registration for the event closes April 17.

Questions from OPSR regarding COVID-19 impact on OPSR tour and Annual Meeting:

- APS cancellation policy for tour (notice lead time, refunds, etc.)
- APS cancellation policy for awards? (e.g., granted but can't use, keep, use, return?)
- APS on track for August? OPSR would hold their board meeting at annual meeting.

**ACTION:** Hope/Plank to draft cancellation policies for both the OPSR awards and tour and update OPSR.

**ACTION:** Brianna to include cancellation policy verbiage on the OPSR award and tour webpages.

### D. Nominations Committee [Bergstrom]

**SHARED** listing of [Nominations Committee](#) and noted that Alejandra Huerta (NCSU) joined the committee this year and Peter Ojiambo is the Council liaison.

**ACTION:** Along with staff, the committee is reviewing processes for nominations/election to better streamline process as well as developing a document that outlines the skills and qualifications that are needed for strategic leaders.

**SHARED:** Slate of Officers for 2020.

### **E. Financial Update [Davis/Datnoff]**

**SHARED** February statement and commentary.

The net profit from operations for the eight months ended February 29, 2020 was \$296,907, which is \$458,556 better than budget and \$634,125 worse than prior year. Keep in mind that ICPP was a large contributor to the profits last year. The YTD net realized and unrealized loss on investments was \$17,164 for a total net profit after investments of \$279,743.

Total YTD revenue was \$4,054,054 which was better than budget by \$207,581, and considerably less than prior year due to the ICPP meeting incom. PMN and PHP/PDMR were separated into two business centers beginning July 2019 (FY 20). PMN showing revenue overbudget by \$10,302 and PHP/PDMR overbudget by \$2,012. APS Press below target and over prior year performance. Journals overall outperforming budget and prior year. Annual Meeting revenue below target by \$100,875.

Total YTD operating expenses were \$3,757,147 which is \$250,975 better (lower) than budget and \$557,980 better (lower) than the prior year. Again, this is due to the ICPP meeting.

The Cleveland Annual Meeting was closed into the December statement. There was a net loss before overhead of \$167,047.

Most business centers showing net profit on target or favorable to budget.

### **F. Project Dashboard [Ericson]**

#### **APS Annual Meeting:**

- Abstract submission is down, but trend is for people to submit last minute. Have extended the submission date to March 23.
- Plenary and keynotes confirmed.
- Staff is looking into virtual presentation opportunities in order to be ready to present to AMB and Council should the need arise. Also looking at other e-poster options.

#### **Industry Engagement:**

- Coming along fine, to date have 18 booths sold and sponsorships are at \$49,700 (includes \$26,700 from Bayer activities)

#### **GROW Plant Health Exchange:**

- Contract with Cadmore media approved and inventory of webcasts nearly complete.
- Working on web page template and mp4 conversions
- Soft launch this summer

#### **Journal Task Force**

- ISSN assigned by Library of Congress for PhytoFrontiers

- Lateral transfer protocol has been determined
- Board structure determined and invitation is at a draft stage

#### **Membership:**

- Received request from British Society of Plant Pathology and noted that a discussion on international relations will be included on the April agenda.

#### **Emerging/Reemerging Diseases Plan/Implementation:**

While in D.C. for PPB, Lindsey du Toit, Amy Hope, and Carol Ericson had a very successful face-to-face meeting with Dr. Simon Liu from USDA ARS, during which we shared with him the infrastructure that Nik Grünwald and his team are developing to support responses to emerging and re-emerging plant pathogens. Also shared Nik's presentation and contact information with Dr. Liu who has reached out to Nik to set-up a meeting with him.

#### **IYPH:**

- Next quarter's focus is on outreach efforts (e.g., botanical gardens, farmers markets, etc.) as well as the April Congressional briefing. All have been put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The IYPH video is also on hold and Amy has notified Mercury Creative about this already.
- IYPH will regroup and figure out what we'll do for outreach.
- Still planning an event at the annual meeting.
- Will keep Council updated on next call.
- Podcasts getting into gear. Discussion followed on other topics and speaker ideas. (NPDN, learning about human viruses by learning from plant viruses. **ACTION:** Council to forward additional podcast ideas/speaker suggestions to Gleason.

#### **G. Divisional Forum Update [Chanda]**

- Published an article last October in *PhytoNews* that explained the value of divisions to members and reminding them to join divisions.

#### **2020 Division Meetings:**

- Southern held Feb 9–12. Divisional Forum met there. Good meeting and lots of interaction. Record attendance with ~100 abstracts submitted.
- Northeastern held March 11–13. Was done both in person and virtual because of speakers who couldn't travel from COVID-19.
- Potomac held March 11–13 virtually because of COVID-19 situation.
- North Central Division that was scheduled for June 23–25 was canceled. Will hold business meeting at Plant Health 2020 in Denver.
- Pacific will be held in conjunction with Plant Health 2020 in Denver this August.
- Caribbean Division was supposed to be in June but tentatively postponed to September 30–October 2 in Corrientes, Argentina.

#### **Divisional Forum (DF) activities for 2019–2020:**

- Plant Pathologist of the Future symposium: Showcasing Graduate Student Presentation Winners from APS Divisions.

- Division officers considering fitting the monthly IYPH themes into division meetings.
- APS Careers 101 committee modules. Goal of each module/workshop is to provide professional development skills, experiences, and networks in areas that are often overlooked in a traditional graduate program. Format includes hands-on learning, as well as direct interactions with experts.

#### **DF Goals/objectives for 2019-2020:**

- Using the 2019–2020 strategic goals from APS to help shape Divisional Forum goals.
- Identify criteria for assessment of Division health. After a division meeting, division officers, Divisional Forum reps, and local arrangement committee should write a news article to promote and archive Division activities.
- Northeastern and Potomac Division meetings – ideas to increase attendance and avoid conflicting scheduling times.
- Administering travel awards through APS Foundation – discussion with Foundation is needed.
- Complete update of Division Engagement Plan.

**ACTION:** Ashok to talk with David Gadoury/Foundation Board about the idea of administering travel awards through APS Foundation.

#### **H. Division Meeting Updates [du Toit/Gleason]**

Overall important to have Council representation at Division meetings to help spread APS messaging and activities to our members.

- Potomac: Gleason attended, good meeting. Presented by videoconference.
- Northeastern: Lindsey attended. Half speakers presented via Zoom, went well.
- Southern: Great engagement and sense of community at meeting, and well run. Good leadership from both faculty and students. Record attendance.

#### **I. Spring Retreat [Hope/du Toit]**

Due to travel restrictions we will hold the April 8–10 meeting virtually. Staff is revising the agenda to break it out into blocks of time each day, and will review with Lindsey before sending out to Council along with the Zoom call information. Staff has already canceled hotel and airfare reservations.

*Call adjourned 11:10 a.m. CDT.*