

# Minutes - Abridged from the May 21, 2020 APS Council Call

## A. Call to Order (du Toit)

Meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. CDT

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

**Staff:** Amy Hope, Carol Ericson, Kim Davis, Linda Schmitt, Greg Grahek, Erik Uner

**Invited:** Susan Cohen

## B. Approval of Minutes

**MOTION:** to approve the April 8-10, 2020, minutes as submitted. *Seconded; motion passed.*

## C. Office of International Programs Vision & Strategy (Susan Cohen)

**SHARED** OIP mission and general responsibilities:

- Provide continuity and coordination of APS international activities
- Promote collaboration among plant pathologists and other scientists of all nationalities
- Facilitate teaching, research, and extension with the aim of increasing agricultural production

**NOTED** Katy Stevenson is the council liaison to OIP.

### Current activities:

- Library Assistance - 2020 award given to the Scientific Research Council Library, Jamaica
- Books of the World - 2020 4 awards to applicants from Pakistan, Jamaica, Cameroon, and Morocco
- Discounted APS Memberships for Developing Countries-about 100 memberships (total current discounted membership as of May 2020)
- Science Ambassador Program - first held at the 2018 ICPP with APS in Boston, Mass., and second program at 2019 APS meeting in Cleveland, Ohio
- Awards-Global Experience = none selected for 2020; JANE International Research Award = Mathews Paret, NFREC, University of Florida; International Travel Award = Faheem Uddin Rajer, Sindh Agricultural University, Pakistan
- Silent Auction-2020 alternative plan for online format under COVID-19 constraints = international recipe competition (see future activities listed below)
- APS Special Sessions/Idea Cafes = 2020 planning for international education, extension and research plant pathology networks
- Joint Activities with APS sister society International Working Groups = Idea Cafe
- Revising OIP Manual of Operations

### Future activities:

- Global Experience Program – goal is to build the amount of funding in order to develop a Sustainable GEP Fund with increased funding for awardees
- Design an online alternative to the OIP Silent Auction

- Currently, OIP would like to have an international recipe competition online, culminating in an OIP international cookbook
- Establish international plant pathology networks in education, extension and research with assistance from APS international working groups and International Society of Plant Pathology through APS Idea Cafes and symposia
- Recognize a young investigator in international plant pathology research
- Continue our successful Library Assistance and Books of the World programs and use more targeted marketing
- Transform our APS science ambassador program for online access
- Review results and needs for APS discounted memberships trial program

#### **D. Office of Private Sector Relations (OPSR) Director Appointment (All)**

**RECEIVED** Jeffrey Stein's bio and nomination statement prepared by Brad Gabor (former OPSR chair) and Brianna Planck (staff).

Brad Gabor retired and stepped down as OPSR Director. His term was to finish in August 2022. OPSR is recommending Jeffrey Stein be appointed as chair to finish out Brad's term.

**NOTED** that this is a Council appointed position and David Gent is the CAL liaison to OPSR.

**MOTION:** to approve appointing Jeffrey Stein as OPSR Director and to finish out Brad Gabor's term through August 2022. *Seconded; motion passed.*

**ACTION:** Lindsey to contact Jeff Stein to let him know his OPSR Director appointment was approved.

#### **E. Finances (Datnoff)**

**RECEIVED** April statement.

Positive cash flow currently.

The net profit from operations for the ten months ended April 30, 2020 was \$405,374, which is \$573,808 better than budget and \$603,290 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 \$221,708 for a total net profit after investments of \$183,666.

Total YTD revenue was \$4,847,009 which was better than budget by \$266,162, and considerably less than prior year due to the ICPP meeting income.

- PMN and PHP/PDMR were separated into two business centers beginning July 2019 (FY 20). PMN and PHP/PDMR showing on target revenue.
- APS PRESS below target and over prior year performance. Journals overall outperforming budget and prior year.
- Annual Meeting revenue below target by \$98,375.

Total YTD operating expenses were \$4,441,635 which is \$307,646 better (lower) than budget and \$580,321 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 \$164,547.

Most business centers showing a net profit on target or favorable to budget. APS Press, member services and annual meeting running behind net profit target. We see IYPH expenses in the Innovation department beginning in October 2019, and *PhytoFrontiers* startup costs will begin in December 2020/January 2021.

**ACTION:** Jim Bradeen to help craft a financial message to members providing information on changes and decisions that have been made.

### **G. Project Dashboard (Ericson)**

**REVEIWED** project dashboard.

- Overall, everything moving along well.
- *PhytoFrontiers*: Editorial board approved by Pub Board. EIC will hold meetings with Sr. Editors on how to handle rejections and lateral transfers to *PhytoFrontiers*. Will happen over the next month. Lateral transfers to *PhytoFrontiers* will start in July with an expected launch in August.
- IYPH: Focusing on K-12 activities – Skype a Scientist. New coloring book for fall and big push on social media on podcasts.
- Emerging/Reemerging Plant Pathogens: Waiting to see if Simon Liu can visit Nik Grunwald in June to discuss the database integration project Nik proposed. Staff will discuss with Tim Widmer whether his Saturday interactive workshop on the National Plant Disease Recovery System can happen virtually.
- Industry Engagement: 2020 tour postponed.
- Increase Mid-Career Membership: Staff is reviewing survey results that will be sent to co-chairs, Courtney Gallup and Chris Wallis Will also have Council review the results.
- MPMI: Working towards January 2021 open access launch, and communications to subscribers with adjusting of billing.
- GROW: Plant Health Exchange: Continuing to move forward. Hopeful for a soft launch in June. Have converted 100 webcasts over to mp4 format.
- APS Annual Meeting Roadmap Implementation: Have a call with Denver Sheraton today to discuss our contractual liabilities for this year. Working with Paul Esker and AMB about a 100% virtual meeting and envisioning how it will work and look. Staff is meeting weekly on virtual aspects, timetables, schedules, how to manage registration fees, how can we transfer exhibit dollars to sponsors, and more. Will do a deeper dive and share with Council on the June call.

### **H. New Business**

#### **1. Higher Logic Community platform (Ericson)**

**SHARED** a sample of this community platform software being used by other associations managed by Scientific Societies.

- Vendor is offering a free virtual meeting site for 90 days. Like a chat room, where you can invite attendees to casual conversations via a community platform. There are discussion posts that allow people to interact via open or moderated conversations.
- User interface can react from email, not just on a website.
- Staff is very comfortable with this tool, having used it for over 5 years.
- Exploring how to integrate this into the annual meeting.

- Cost is \$25K a year if we choose to use this beyond the 90-day free period (could be a FY22 budget item). Would be available year-long, and could replace collaboration sites for committees/offices with use throughout the year. Would need volunteer work to help seed discussion topics to get conversations going.
- Launch about 15 days before the annual meeting starts and run through the 90 days to assess if we want to pay for year-long access.

## **2. Treasurer position for 2021-2024 (All)**

- Council is responsible for appointing the Treasurer for a 3-year term.
- Lawrence Datnoff's term ends in August 2021. Council to start thinking about Treasurer-Elect nominations as the person in that position will shadow the Treasurer during Lawrence's last year of his current term.
- Kim Davis is retiring in 2021.

**ACTION:** Council to include the Treasurer-Elect discussion on the June 18 call. Council to review Treasurer duties in the MoO.

<https://www.apsnet.org/members/leadership/governance/MoO/Council/Pages/Treasurer.aspx>

## **3. Future Annual Meeting Site (Hope)**

Another association at SciSoc was to hold their annual meeting in Calgary in November 2020 but will not meet there so APS could hold a future annual meeting in Calgary, either in 2023 or 2024. This could be a good opportunity to meet with the Canadian Plant Pathology Society.

**NOTED** that it will be difficult for some scientists to travel outside the U.S. (e.g., USDA scientists, and international students and postdoctorates) and Council members are unsure about travel difficulties in the future.

**CONSENSUS** that APS not meet in Calgary in the near future, and suggest Staff see if another group at SciSoc could hold their conference there instead.

*Call adjourned 11:42 a.m. CDT.*