

Minutes - Abridged from the June 18, 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, Megan Boatman, Greg Grahek, Erik Uner

Invited: Steve Jeffers (AULF)

B. Approval of Minutes and Review of Outstanding Action Items (All)

MOTION: to approve May 21, 2020, minutes as submitted. *Seconded; motion passed.*

REVIEWED outstanding action items.

C. APS Election Results (du Toit)

Approximately 28% of APS members cast a ballot in this election, tying the high participation rate of 2019, over the past decade (average 22%). Weekly reminders were sent to those who did not vote.

SHARED 2020 election results:

Ron Walcott (University of Georgia) was elected as vice president and Courtney Gallup was elected as member-at-large. Both will begin their term on August 15, 2020. They will be invited as non-voting members to the July and August calls.

RECOMMEND AULF in the future to take election messaging back to their departments to encourage department chairs to share message with their faculty, staff, and students about the importance of voting.

E. Academic Unit Leaders Forum (AULF) Officers (Jeffers)

Rosemary Loria is the current chair and will rotate off in August and Steve Jeffers who is the current Associate Chair will become chair for 2020–2021. Noted that both Chair and Associate Chair are 2-year terms.

AULF was created to replace the APS Heads & Chairs Committee back in 2014. In recent years, many Plant Pathology depts lost autonomies and were combined and merged with other departments therefore, dept. heads/chairs often are not plant pathologists. AULF is composed of heads, chairs, and representatives of plant pathology faculty in composite departments.

SHARED highlights from last year's AULF meeting in Cleveland:

- Had voiced concern about recent NSF funding document. Limited practical, mission-oriented/applied research in plant pathology would not be supported.

- Ann Lichens-Park and Rubella Goswami responded. Not a real concern, probably to separate NIH and NIFA projects from those that should be going to NSF. Typically get an update NIFA/AFFRI and Federal funding update from Ann Lichens-Park makes this report at the AULF meetings.
- Also talked about relocation of NIFA to Kansas City. Created much chaos. About 70% of employees decided not to relocate. Included all staff involved with funding did not relocate. Exciting grants/post award funds may be delayed. Department administrators need to be aware of situation.
- APS President provides an update at their meeting.
- 2019 message: APS needs better participation by students and mid-career and mid-career faculty members. Discussed APS current APS Salary Survey that is not useful/meaningful questions. Phil Mulder provided a handout with an example. General agreement that questions on survey would be more useful and valuable to department chairs/heads. Will continue discussion at this year's meeting.
- Highlighted OSU-Cornell-Penn State Grad Student seminar exchange program. NC State and Cornell do one as well. Will bring up again about doing similar things
- Loren Giesler – asked about mentoring opportunities for new dept chairs/heads. Nothing official is available, but others offered informal assistance.

RECOMMEND AULF to help share message and provide feedback to Council. How to use AULF more effectively. Encourage APS membership, publications in our journals, leadership development, award nominations.

F. Foundation Appointment (All)

Foundation Board is composed of seven board members—four are selected by APS Council. There are two members off in August 2020, one of those being a Council appointment. Council needs to appoint a member for 2020–2023.

Foundation board members should be highly engaged and a supporter of the Foundation, as well as being effective in fund raising.

MOTION: To approve appointing Wade Elmer to the Foundation Board for a 3-year term beginning August 2020. *Seconded; motion passed.*

G. Financial Health (Datnoff/Davis)

SHARED May statement

- \$68K profit in May
- YTD \$473K profit.
- Operating profit after investments: \$489,706
- This is snapshot in a moment in time. Will have big ticket items that have not yet hit. We are preparing for what is coming.

RECOMMEND Lawrence/Jim draft letter from Treasurer and get out via email blast and do as a Community Connection webinar. Need to include images to help get message across to a broader audience. Story should focus on where we are going not where we are at.

ACTION: Staff to develop communication plan regarding financial message this week with concepts to provide to Council for input.

H. Project Dashboard Review (Hope)

Mid-Career – members generally happy. Would like to engage more on scientific refresher training, leadership, technical training. Ties in with what we are doing with Leadership Institute, webinars, and podcasts. They will join the July Council call to provide update.

Industry Engagement – some rolling over exhibit/sponsorship to Memphis. Will invite Jeff Stein to a July President Team call.

Journal Task Force–

- *MPMI* is rolling to OA for Jan 2020, have prorated invoices for remainder of 2020. Communication plan is beginning, doing webinars around topics from journals to build recognition with journal.
- *PhytoFrontiers* ready for lateral transfer. Atypion site still being built, will launch in July. Video that Pub Board is working on and will be included as a Community Connection webinar topic.
- GROW – working on changing format to mp4. 400 completed to date. Site build for new site is nearly completed, has been reviewed by task force. Will do soft launch and get feedback.

Annual Meeting – pivot to all virtual going well. As of today, we have 251 registered with 137 at Basic, 78 at Premium and 36 at Unlimited (registration opened on June 15). Expect to see attendees who selected Basic to upgrade to Unlimited once the program schedule is made available. Noted that some Council members are covering Unlimited registration for their students.

Program schedule is being posted online this week.

Award ceremony is virtual on Tuesday, August 4 at 9:00 a.m. CDT. Event is included in all registrations and a shareable link will be sent to awardees.

Emerging/Re-Emerging: Tim Widmer's National Plant Disease Recovery workshop will be held virtually.

IYPH – pivoting with their activities. Doing a call for people to submit videos to be one of our three plant pathologists' speakers for that week. Still working on what to do during the Plant Health virtual meeting.

International Relations/Memo of Understanding (MoU) – have some that need renewed. Amy H. and Amy C. will decide on individual status on each. Brazil joint symposium– we sent two people last year. Noted that the symposium and MoU not aligned. Was asked to do again.

H. *PhytoFrontiers* Manual of Operations (MoO) Approval (Subbarao)

MOTION: to approve the *PhytoFrontiers* MoO as submitted. *Seconded; motion passed.*

I. *Phytopathology News* pdf format (Ericson)

In the interim the pdf version of *PhytoNews* is back online. Going back to Kenny Seebold to analyze the data we have. Creating the pdf version is being done internally with our graphics department and funds to this are back in the budget.

RECOMMEND staff sends *PhytoNews* pdf as an email attachment, not as links to the document.

K. Treasurer-elect appointment discussion for 2021 (All)

Lawrence's treasurer term ends August 2021. Per the Manual of Operations, a treasurer-elect is appointed during the final year of the current treasurer's term.

MOTION: to approve appointing Lawrence Datnoff for a 2nd term as Treasurer (2021–2024). *Seconded; motion passed.*

Call adjourned 11:45a.m. CDT.