

**ABRIDGED Minutes**  
**from the November 19, 2020**  
**APS Council Call**

**A. Call to Order (Gleason)**

Meeting called to order at 11:02 a.m. Central.

**Council present:** Mark Gleason, Amy Charkowski, Ron Walcott, Lindsey du Toit, Courtney Gallup, Lawrence Datnoff, Jim Bradeen, Katy Stevenson, Ashok Chanda, Krishna Subbarao, David Gent

**Staff:** Amy Hope, Carol Ericson, Tressa Patrias, Linda Schmitt, Kim Davis, Kurt Rood, Megan Boatman, Greg Grahek, Erik Uner

**Invited:** Gary Bergstrom

**B. APS Annual Meetings (Patrias)**

**1. Plant Health 2022 Meeting**

Proposed 2022 meeting dates are August 13-17 in Pittsburgh, PA. Council expressed concern that these dates will be difficult due to schools starting and that holding the meeting at the end of July or early August would work better for APS meeting attendees.

**CONSENSUS** that Pittsburgh package is ideal if Tressa can find earlier dates for APS to meet there. Preferred start dates would be either start date of Saturday, July 30 or start date of Saturday, August 6 for 2021. Tressa will get back to Pittsburgh and keep Council informed.

**NOTED** that the 2022 meeting will have virtual components to it.

**2. Plant Health 2021 Meeting**

**NOTED** that Plant Health 2021 meeting will be all virtual (Memphis dates were July 31-August 4, 2021).

Annual Meeting Board (AMB) proposed using Monday-Friday dates of August 2-6 for Plant Health 2021 and that committee meetings would be held one week prior.

**CONSENSUS** from Council to move forward with 2021 virtual dates of August 2-6 with committee meetings being held the week prior.

**NOTED** communications will go out that Plant Health 2021 will be all virtual.

**D. Communication to Committees on Annual Reports (All)**

**RECEIVED** summary feedback on Council responses to action items from the Subject Matter and General Policy committee submitted annual reports. (Appendix A).

**NOTED** Council's responses to each committee's action was insightful and provided a way forward for their requested needs.

**NOTED** that for 2021 Session funds there will be no funds for sessions and AMB has communicated to all organizers to 2020 rollovers and 2021 submissions. A *Phytopathology News* article about Plant Health 2021 meeting being all virtual is in the works.

**NOTED** that staff will review options and provide pricing for alternatives communication platforms for committees in the FY22 budget.

**RECOMMEND** committees who want special sessions that they need to look outside the annual meeting portal and encourage across the board that the annual meeting is not the only place to get information out. Did provide feedback last year to those rejected and offered that it be used as a different platform (webinars, podcasts, videos, etc.).

**NOTED** that Megan will bring the speaker selection process and metrics, FAQs on session submission, examples of well-prepared proposals to Paul Esker's attention, and will put them on a future Annual Meeting Board (AMB) agenda.

**NOTED** that on the 2021 agenda time will be set aside to revisit items that need follow-up from 2020 committee reports.

**ACTION:** CALs will share responses with committee chair, vice-chair, immediate past chair, and ask that they share with their committee members. Also copy Council and staff liaisons on responses.

**E. Manual of Operation (MoO) changes for Nominations Committee (Bergstrom)**

**MOTION:** to approve the recommended changes to the Nominations MoO as received. *Seconded; motion passed.*

**F. Approval of Minutes (All)**

**MOTION:** to approve the October 13-15 and the October 21, 2020, minutes as submitted. *Seconded; motion passed.*

**TABLE** Committee/Office restructure discussion and finances to December call.

*Meeting adjourned 12:51 p.m. Central.*

## APPENDIX A

### APS Councilors-at-Large Summary of 2020 Subject Matter and General Policy Committee Reports, Action Requests to Council, and Council Responses to Committees

Katherine Stevenson, David Gent, Courtney Gallup  
Date: 01 October 2020 [updated 13 November 2020]

#### *Bacteriology (DG)*

- Sponsored three workshops: 1) Root phenotyping (virtual, dates TBD); 2) Effector Detector Plants postponed for Plant Health 2021); 3) Data analysis workshop (postponed to 2021).
- Sponsored two special sessions and technical sessions at Plant Health 2020 on pathogen diversity, taxonomy, virulence mechanisms, and plant-bacterial interactions.
- Committee members participated in and are continuing to work towards developing podcasts for the 2020 Councilors Challenge.
- Planning ongoing for several workshops and session proposals relating to bacteriology topics for Plant Health 2021 in Memphis, TN.

#### *Bioengineering Applications (CG)*

- Had planned a special session entitled "GMOs in the Public Discourse: better communication for a better world." Five panelists. APS agreed to pay \$2400 for travel and lodging, and Bayer provided an additional \$2100. Special Session delayed due to COVID, Bayer rolled over funds, unsure about APS portion
- Expanded undergraduate membership in the committee
- Plan to have additional committee meetings to build proposal additional special session

#### **Action for Council**

1. **After the request to postpone our scheduled panel discussion, there was no information provided about whether APS is planning to roll-over funding for our session to 2021, if this is an automatic process, and if we will need to re-apply for this session in 2021. More information on this process would help in planning for 2021 session proposals.**

#### **Response from Council [DRAFT]**

1. **The Annual Meeting Board should have a process in place for sessions that are postponed from 2020 to 2021. If additional information has not yet been provided to the committee, Council liaison, Courtney Gallup will follow up with Committee Chair and the Annual Meeting Board, if necessary.**

#### *Biological Control (DG)*

- The committee is planning and proposing a webinar or virtual workshop titled "The Use of Microbiome Studies in the Development of Biocontrol Agents". A related topic was proposed as a special session in 2019 for Plant Health 2020 but not supported.
- Two other session ideas were discussed related to professional development for careers in industry and regulation of biostimulants.
- The intent is that one of these ideas will be proposed for a special session for Plant Health 2021.
- The committee is planning on updating and developing new materials related to biological control for the APS Education Center (to be completed by summer 2021).

#### *Chemical Control (DG)*

- Since last August, the committee observed an increased interest in APS members wanting to be added to the committee's roster. Due to the rejection of their workshop proposal, the committee did not follow up on the topic.
- Committee plans to join efforts with the Industry committee to develop an educational webinar series that will include the participation of the scientific community, including professionals in industry, academia and government, in addition to stakeholders such as farmers, and translate the series into multiple languages.

#### **Action for Council**

- 1. We would appreciate the Council's feedback on the proposed webinar series and recommendations of potential speakers.**

#### **Response from Council [DRAFT]**

- 1. Council supports the Committee's efforts to develop an educational webinar series. Council liaison, David Gent, will work with Committee leadership and APS webinar coordinator, Lisa Vaillancourt, for feedback and guidance on how to proceed with development of this webinar series. Katy Stevenson to loop in the Extension committee for influencing content for webinar. Suggested this content could be useful for GROW (noted that any resources placed on GROW will be Open Access). Group to work with staff on pricing for this webinar series. Currently webinars are free to APS members and \$49 for nonmembers.**

#### *Collections and Germplasm (CG)*

- Plan to organize online resources to train students virtually on how to prepare, transfer, and store microbes.
- Continuing to advocate for long-term and stable funding for microbial collections and resources.
- Continuing to emphasize the importance of access to large, diverse collections of microbial pathogens for future plant pathology research.

#### *Crop Loss Assessment and Risk Evaluation (CLARE) (DG)*

- **No report submitted.**
- Chair Katy Gold emailed D. Gent directly with this information:
- Potential special sessions/workshops were discussed for Plant Health 2021
  - Remote sensing and robotics for plant path
  - Intro to Python Workshop
  - Prediction of mycotoxin contamination
  - Social media to assess plant disease- Neil McRoberts

#### *Diagnostics (KS)*

- 2020 special session "Technology Transfer: From the Lab to the Diagnostician's Bench" was approved but delayed until 2021 in Memphis TN to allow for in-person interaction following webinars (see below).
- Planned 2020 webinar series as part of the proposed special session. Topics include:
  - Valitest Update (88 participants)

- A Balancing Act: Development, Validation, and Dissemination of Methods for Regulatory Plant Pathogens (49 participants)
- Solutions from Scale: Diagnosing the Need for New Methods Using Real World Data, (80 participants)
- Let us Break it for You: Inclusion of End-Users in the Development Process (49 participants)
- Co-sponsored the following 2020 sessions workshops/field trips:
  - Seed pathology field trip - Eurofins BioDiagnostics lab in Longmont CO (canceled)
  - Symposium (two sessions) - A Global Surveillance System (GSS) for Crop Diseases and Pests: Networking the Networks
  - Hot Topics/Phytoviews - A Global Surveillance System (GSS) for Crop Diseases and Pests: Playing Together in the Global Sand Box!

#### Action for Council

1. The committee requests guidance on how to communicate to editorial boards in APS journals to discuss how to move forward on the following action items:
  - Developing a minimum standard of publication for plant pathogen detection methods-section on instructions for authors,
  - Implementing an icon at the top of papers with properly validated pathogen detection tests,
  - Proposal to have a special editor focused on reviewing papers publishing detection methods, similar to feature article editor.
2. Committee requests on-demand webinar metrics and suggests webinar recordings be made available (and views quantifiable) on the APS YouTube channel.
3. Include one or more distinguished diagnosticians for the “One-on-one conversations with an Expert” and POD Talks.

#### Response from Council [DRAFT]

1. Council liaison, Katy Stevenson, will arrange to meet with Committee Chair and APS Publications Board Chair, Krishna Subbarao, to discuss these needs and recommendations. These are good ideas, but need to be thought through carefully to avoid overburdening the editorial boards and author instructions.
2. Council agrees that this is a good idea and will work with APS staff to implement. Contact Erik Uner for stats.
3. Council supports this idea and suggests that each year, the committee recommend a few names to the Annual Meeting Board, via the Council liaison or by direct communication with the AMB Chair.
4. Krishna will work with Katy on these requests. Committee to write a letter to the editor, a citable and peer-reviewed minimum standards paper would be welcome.

#### Diseases of Ornamental Plants Committee (KS)

- Committee shared 2<sup>nd</sup> place award with the Turfgrass Pathogens Committee and developed a podcast as part of the 2019 Councilors’ Challenge.
- Proposed 2nd edition of Diseases of Woody Ornamentals and Trees in Nurseries accepted by APS Press
- Committee supports submission of two special sessions for the 2021 APS Meeting:

- Plant Health/Human Health
- Factors affecting changes in virus prevalence over time in different crop types
- Committee members are working with Sue Freese to update the online lists of Common Names of Plant Diseases for ornamental plants. Anticipated completion by early December 2020.

#### *Diversity and Equality Committee (KS)*

- Committee held monthly meetings during the past year and plans to meet quarterly during the coming year. The 2020 annual committee meeting was attended by 45 participants from 15 countries and 22 U.S. states.
- CDE 2020 Hot Topic session “Gender Bias: The contributions, advancements, and challenges of women in agricultural sciences” was attended by a virtual audience of 183 participants. CDE networking event at Plant Health 2020 was held on Aug. 10.
- CDE, co-sponsoring with the Graduate Student Committee, will host a series of webinars on “Unconscious Bias” and how to identify and prevent those biases.
- Committee is working to make the Diversity Directory more useful by 1) encouraging APS members to sign up and use this resource to identify speakers, and 2) suggesting modifications to improve the searchability features of this resource.
- Committee plans to create a BLM Task Force and ultimately create webpage with resources for APS members.
- Committee will maintain an accessibility subcommittee that focuses on making in-person meetings more accessible for people who identify as BiPOC, LGBTQ+, disabled, or any other type of underrepresented minority.
- Committee is working on 1) a Phytopathology News article on the needs of their diverse members and 2) Best Practices for hosting globally inclusive society meetings and conferences.
- Committee is considering possible name change to “Committee for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion” pending further discussion.
- Majority of Committee members voted against assuming sole responsibility for “Family-Friendly APS” program, citing too many other subcommittees and activities. Committee suggested that Family-Friendly APS should be incorporated in the annual meeting program under AMB.

#### *Early Career Professionals (DG)*

- Activities sponsored at Plant Health 2020 were Schroth Faces of the Future Symposium, the ECP committee meeting, and the ECP Virtual Networking Event
- The ECP Virtual Networking Event hosted 60 individuals including government, industry, and academia early career professionals.
- ECP members proposed and discussed the formation of a mentorship program and topics for quarterly ECP meetings that are relevant and specific to early career professionals.
- The Leadership Institute committee had discussed creating a “speed networking” event to match mentors and mentees at the annual meeting and then a semi-formal mentorship program that would last 3-6 months. The ECP members thought this would be an extremely high value program and would help ECP members get more clout within APS.
- Participating members request that more activities be developed by the ECP for ECP Members to keep in contact more regularly. The membership suggested quarterly ECP virtual events to keep members engaged.

#### Action for Council

1. We ask that the ECP social and the industry sponsored networking events not overlap during annual meetings. Time conflicts impact ECP member participation in these activities.
2. We ask that the ECP committee meeting be one hour in length.
3. Confirm Schroth Faces of the Future Symposium for Plant Health 2021.
4. If the meeting is held virtually again in 2021, we request 90 min for the ECP virtual networking social event.

#### Response from Council [DRAFT]

1. Council liaison, David Gent, will follow up with Annual Meeting Board Chair, Paul Esker, regarding scheduling of these events during Plant Health 2021. Staff works with committees on this so it will be handled.
2. All committee meetings held the week prior to Plant Health 2021 will likely be scheduled for 1 hour. Council encourages the committee to consider engagement outside of the annual meeting.
3. Council liaison, Dave Gent, will follow up with AMB Chair Paul Esker to confirm.
4. Council agrees that this is a reasonable request given the success of this event and the number of attendees. Council liaison, Dave Gent, will follow up with AMB Chair Paul Esker to discuss scheduling of the ECP virtual networking event at Plant Health 2021.

#### Emerging Diseases and Pathogens (DG)

- Committee has 78 members; meeting had 42 participants
- Chair Dr. Cruz and Dr. du Toit communicated at least twice (in person and over the phone) after the 2019 APS meeting, and discussed ideas for future meetings.
- A workshop was sponsored and led by Dr. Tim Widmer (Improving and increasing awareness to the National Plant Disease Recovery System) to stimulate interest in the National Plant Disease Recovery System. The workshop is scheduled for January 12, 2021.
- One workshop and one special session were proposed for 2021
  - Factors affecting changes in virus prevalence over time in different crop types
  - Emerging and re-emerging diseases: past, present, and future

#### Action for Council

1. Detailed information provided by APS for Zoom meetings was limited. There are Zoom features that were available, but no information was discussed in preparation for the 2020 meetings.
2. The APS collaborative site for the Committee is not effective for communications. For most members, preferred method of communication is e-mail, not discussion boards. Dr. Gent suggested to use Twitter as a way of communication.

#### Response from Council [DRAFT]

1. The Annual Meeting Board and APS staff are working on developing the program for a virtual Plant Health 2021, which will include additional features available in Zoom (e.g., interactive drawing board, polls, etc.). Instructions on how to use these features will be included in the Committee Chairs Orientation webinar and on the APS website.

2. Council acknowledges that this has been an ongoing problem and is working with staff to identify alternate communications tools for committees to enhance effective communication and engagement throughout the year.

#### *Epidemiology (DG)*

- Over 50 attendees at meeting, many first timers and international
- Sponsored and organized the 19th Melhus symposium “Data Driven Plant Health” with five participants.
- Co-sponsored a special session entitled “Management Thresholds: Risks, Challenges, And Solutions”, as well as an idea cafe “Have you Tried Talking with Them?”
- Workshop on “Visualizations in R” in planned for February 2021
- The Epidemiology committee submitted the most suggestions for the 2019 Councilor’s Challenge for podcast ideas, winning the 2019 Councilor’s Challenge.
- Chair Robin Choudhury (UTRGV) began a Twitter account (@ApsEpidemiology) to promote subject matter committee to members and non-members.
- Several workshops and special sessions are being organized after the meeting. Stephen Parnell (UK) is organizing a special session on Citizen Science that is fairly well advanced and will likely be proposed.
- Several members expressed interest in pursuing organization of computational workshops for 2021, which included topics on Introduction to R, Machine Learning, Python, and spatial analysis

#### **Action for Council**

1. The Melhus search committee and our subject matter committee were both extremely concerned and disconcerted by the fact that the participants of the Melhus Symposium did not receive their \$500 prize. Speaking as recipients (both RAC and SEE), this money can be critical for helping graduate students offset costs associated with meetings and the vagaries of living on a graduate student stipend, especially during these uncertain times. We fully understand that the markets have been shaky since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and that this likely affected APS Foundation, but this money helps graduate students a lot and we fear that the lack of a meaningful prize suggests that we undervalue the work of the participants.

#### **Response from Council [DRAFT]**

1. Council apologizes for this error and Council liaison, Dave Gent, will follow up to make sure that the Melhus Symposium speakers receive their awards as soon as possible.

#### *Evolutionary Genetics and Genomics (CG)*

- Organized a virtual bioinformatics workshop (Basic bioinformatics and command-line tools for phytopathologists)
- Organized a special session regarding pathogen evolution in a rapidly changing world, which was postponed until the 2021 meeting.
- Interested in co-sponsoring a special session with the Biological Control Committee regarding metagenomic approaches to leverage a knowledge of the microbiome for disease control.
- Aim to develop new ideas for future workshops to be organized by the committee

**Commented [LS1]:** This was a Foundation decision, so there will be no cash given to 2020 awardees due to the pandemic. The Melhus awardees did receive unlimited registration to Plant Health 2020 plus covering the cost of page charges in *Plant Health Progress* to them. This was a conversation the Foundation had with the AMB back in June 2020 and was communicated to the awardees. Going forward communication of the award outcome will be shared with the sponsored Melhus committee group.



#### *Extension Committee (KS)*

- Committee sponsored Learning Lab for Plant Health 2020: Using spore trapping in research and disease forecasting, and an Idea Café: Re-thinking Extension and Outreach in the 21st Century.
- Committee has been promoting extension work on Twitter, Instagram, and Wix blog (goal is 2 posts/month). “A day in the life of Extension” highlights the work of extension personnel and provides advice to young scientists interested in a career in Extension.
- Plans for Plant Health 2021 sessions include an edited version of “Re-thinking Extension and Outreach in the 21st Century” and “Help identifying grower/stakeholder connections”.

#### *Forest Pathology Committee (KS)*

- The Committee (FPC) exchanged communication via email throughout the year and met virtually on August 6th, 2020.
- FPC was updated on the ongoing APS-led forest health initiative and discussed ways to continue to expand their audience and advocate for Forest Pathology. Initiative deliverables include:
  - Workshop in Annapolis, MD
  - Phytopathology News article
  - Submitted grants In February 2019
- Committee is seeking volunteers to update common names for forest diseases.
- Members discussed ideas for the upcoming 2021 meeting in Memphis, including one sponsored special session and a field trip.
- The Committee discussed and voted in favor of endorsing the nomination of Jenny Juzwick for APS Fellow award.

#### **Action for Council**

- 1. In October 2019, a statement was sent to the Plant Disease Editorial Board addressing concerns about the difficulties conducting Koch’s Postulates on Armillaria Root Disease and the lack of reporting that results from this requirement. The FPC has not received a response.**

#### **Response from Council [DRAFT]**

- 1. Council liaison, Katy Stevenson, will follow up with Plant Disease EIC, Alex Karasev, to ensure that the committee receives a response to their concerns.**

#### *Graduate Student Committee (CG)*

- Implemented two Idea Cafés (“working in other countries” and “exploring careers at USDA”
- Brainstormed special session topics, webinars, workshops, and digital resources for teaching and communicating plant pathology
- Implemented the Industry & Grad Student networking event
- Raised \$350 through the art in phytopathology contest
- Continue to submit Grad Student Spotlights for Phyto News
- Be more intentional about utilizing SharePoint to build institutional memory and continuity within committee
- Aim to increase involvement outside of annual conference and grow better connections with other committees, and increase virtual networking opportunities.
- Anticipate providing an Unconscious Bias Workshop and mental health webinar this year.

#### Action for Council

1. We would appreciate more financial support for our initiatives like the industry student social at next APS meeting.
2. We also plan on hosting more webinars this year, some of which may require financial support. Specifically, the graduate student committee is currently requesting \$825 from Council to support a webinar speaker from PhD Balance to discuss mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. For our outreach projects, it would be helpful if we could be provided with contacts in industry, academia, non-profit, and government that would be willing to speak with our group on varying subjects.
4. We are potentially interested in creating a new plant pathology graduate student association welcome pack of some sort. It has come to my attention that not all Universities have a Plant Pathology Graduate Student Association. I would like the graduate student committee to encourage the creation of these associations within Universities. The idea is to maybe send these Universities a welcome 'gift' which could be a box of APS promotional materials and perhaps a year-long membership discount for the Plant Pathology students of that organization. We could maybe take it a step further and partner the new organization with someone within APS to help them develop programming for their newly formed organization. The benefit to APS would be increased involvement of new student membership.

#### Response from Council [DRAFT]

1. See the Industry Committee comment below that they have >\$10K, and anticipate another \$1K, that will be used, among other things, to sponsor the 2021 grad student-industry social.
2. Council is supportive of a webinar speaker to address the topic of mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic and suggests that the committee communicate directly with APS webinar coordinator, Lisa Vaillancourt and the APS Office of Education to discuss funding for the project.
3. Council encourages committee members to develop a list of specific topics to be addressed in outreach projects and reach out to other APS committees and offices for recommendations for potential speakers from industry, academia, non-profit, and government who would be most appropriate to address each topic.
4. Council encourages active engagement with graduate students across all universities. Graduate students already receive a significant subsidy in membership fees, however we can provide promotional materials. We support the desire of the graduate student committee to provide support to the graduate student associations as they embark as new organizations.

#### Host Resistance (DG)

- Co-sponsored two special session for Plant Health 2020: 1) "Hormonal Signaling in Plant Defense Responses and Disease Resistance" and 2) "Molecular Mechanism of Temperature Modulation of Plant Immunity"
- The committee discussed online teaching resources, with ideas to: 1) Establish a list of people who are interested in providing online guest lectures for plant pathology classes; 2) Establish a list of volunteers to develop educational content; 3) Establish a host resistance Google drive for host resistance teaching resources/historically important manuscripts; and 4) Establish a social media presence highlighting host-resistance research (#hostresistance).

#### Action for Council

1. The Host-Resistance Committee would like the Council to consider coordinating the list of volunteers willing to provide online guest lectures. This idea could enrich many online classes other than those specifically tailored toward host-resistance

#### Response from Council [DRAFT]

1. Council agrees that this could potentially be a valuable resource for APS members and suggests that it might be even more effective to develop a collection of recorded lectures. Council liaison, Dave Gent, will work with members of the HR committee, the Office of Education, and the Teaching Committee to discuss development of these resources.

#### Industry Committee (DG)

- In preparation for the 2020 annual meeting the committee solicited funds to help support their annual graduate student/industry lunch and the industry/extension social. As those funds were not used due to the virtual nature of the 2020 meeting, they will carry them forward for 2021. In place of the lunch, the industry committee hosted a virtual networking session which was attended by over 115 members.
- Organized the annual new products and services session which included seven speakers.
- The committee reports having \$10,200 in an account with an additional \$1,000 expected.
- Intending to sponsor and organize a graduate student/industry lunch, the industry/extension social, and the new products and services session in 2021.
- There was also interest in presenting a workshop, potentially with the chemical control committee on labels.
- Several members have volunteered to help with the "Social Takeover" initiative.

#### Integrated Plant Disease Management (KS)

- The committee plans to submit a proposal for a special session at Plant Health 2021 addressing the adoption and incorporation of technology to improve growers' IPM strategies.

#### Molecular and Cellular Plant Pathology (CG)

- Co-sponsored three special sessions for Plant Health 2020 and one workshop (delayed until Plant Health 2021). "Molecular mechanism of temperature modulation of plant immunity", "Balancing the tradeoff between plant yield and immunity", "Hormonal signaling in plant defense responses and disease resistance; and "Workshop: Visualizing effects during plant-pathogen interactions: Intuitive teaching and research tools". The in-person workshop was delayed until 2021 because of the Covid-19 situation.
- Will propose special sessions for Plant Health 2021 regarding the topic of pathogen detection and disease control in diverse environmental conditions.
- Will consolidate a list of volunteers to share educational videos for teaching lab courses and develop experimental skills related to plant pathology, focusing on the molecular and cellular aspects as part of the Councilor's challenge.

#### Action for Council

1. The Molecular and Cellular Phytopathology Committee would like the Council to consider coordinating the related researchers/educators and making resources available for creating and depositing educational videos related to the basic and advanced plant pathology experimental techniques.

#### Response from Council [DRAFT]

1. The APS Education Center provides a repository for a wide variety of educational materials related to plant pathology, including videos. Council liaison, Courtney Gallup, will follow up with members of the committee, the Office of Education, the APS Teaching Committee, and APS staff, as necessary, to coordinate efforts to develop new instructional videos on specific topics of interest.

#### *Mycology (DG)*

- No report submitted.
- Note that the Chair was unresponsive to emails from their CAL and the immediate past-chair. The immediate past-chair reached out to me with concerns that the committee meeting would not occur (it did).

#### *Mycotoxicology (DG)*

- Report indicates "The Mycotoxicology committee has been engaged throughout the year working on special sessions and podcasts that could be used by APS or outside APS organizations to spread knowledge of the dire problems associated with mycotoxins and the technological, political, and research solutions to this problem." No specifics provided.

#### *Action for Council*

1. Poster sessions allow for valuable discussion and professional development for communicating science. The mycotoxicology committee would like the council to retain poster viewing and appointed times to interact with poster authors at the meeting. The members of the mycotoxicology committee felt this year's online exclusive meeting lacked opportunity for smaller less well known research programs to be visible and could benefit from safe space that allow for networking and that allows for communication between people of diverse cultural backgrounds, genders and sexual orientations.
2. The members of the committee had an active discussion about the need for more transparency in speaker selection. There was concern expressed that selection is based solely on ethnicity, gender and age. Fears expressed because they were selected every year as a graduate student, that other voices are not being heard. Perhaps when considering diversity, need to ensure that other students have the opportunity to speak and look at past meeting line ups. Previously it was expressed to the council the need to give federal scientists speaking slots too. Perhaps it would be helpful to expand the number of talks to account for diversity within the field.

#### Response from Council [DRAFT]

1. In planning for a virtual Plant Health 2021 meeting, the Annual Meeting Board and APS staff are working to create sufficient opportunity for attendees to view posters and interact with poster authors at scheduled times during the meeting. Through the meeting app, participants

can also communicate directly with poster authors and set up meeting times for further discussion.

2. When proposing speakers for special sessions, area of expertise is generally the primary consideration, but it is also important to consider gender, age, and professional sector (academia, federal government, private industry, etc.) precisely to ensure that the same speakers are not selected year after year and that other voices are heard. Committees or individuals who propose special sessions have primary responsibility for speaker selection, but the Annual Meeting Board is also charged with oversight responsibility to ensure, to the extent possible, that the final meeting program reflects the diversity of the membership. In carrying out this task, the AMB may suggest changes of proposed speakers and/or topics. The limited number of special sessions (and speakers) that can be accommodated in the annual meeting program is the constraint that creates this dilemma. The virtual meeting format alleviates this to some degree and it may be possible in the future to offer more special sessions in an extended meeting format or at other times during the year, outside of the annual meeting to allow more speakers to participate and more voices to be heard. Council acknowledges this issue and suggests that the AMB provide additional information directly to the committees regarding the selection process and perhaps provide more specific guidelines for proposal preparation, including examples of high-quality proposals to use as a model.

#### *Nematology (CG)*

- Special Session proposal for 2020 was not approved then workshop on nematode identification was cancelled due to inability to find a local contact and required equipment. Will resubmit workshop proposal for 2021
- Creating a Twitter group to stay more connected on scientific progress, working collaborations, conferences, etc.

#### *Pathogen Resistance (CG)*

- Both session and workshop postponed to 2021. Special session “The Future of Agricultural Antibiotics in the Face of Bacterial Resistance in Agricultural and Medical Settings”. Workshop “Biocontrol products for the management of fungicide resistance and reduction of fungicides residues”
- May propose an additional session, TBD
- In response to the Councilors’ Challenge, will submit a podcast topic to be feature in the APS Plantopia series that focuses on the relationship between agricultural fungicide usage and antifungal resistance in medical settings

#### **Action for Council**

1. **If a special session is approved, funding will be requested for non-member speakers FRAC has agreed to provide \$3000 toward a portion of the postponed workshop (“Biocontrol products for the management of fungicide resistance and reduction of fungicide residues”), but the Committee will need assistance for the remainder.**

#### **Response from Council [DRAFT]**

1. **Requests for funding for non-member speakers should be included in special session proposals submitted to the Annual Meeting Board.**

*Phyllosphere Microbiology (DG)*

- 23 participants at committee meeting
- Co-sponsored special session: "Let's work together and get things done: pathogen synergism during the infection of plants"
- Two proposals planned for special sessions for 2021.

**Action for Council**

1. **Nothing specific at this point. But we will need support once the session proposal takes a final shape.**

**Response from Council [DRAFT]**

1. **None.**

*Plant Pathogen and Disease Detection Committee (KS)*

- With the change to a virtual format, the workshop on "UAV for making plants healthy – Do we have a winner?" will be presented as a 4-hr virtual workshop/webinar in October 2020.
- Members proposed an APS virtual mentor network that would greatly benefit and attract early and middle career professionals.
- Committee will work on developing ideas for online teaching resources in response to the Councilors' Challenge.

*Postharvest Pathology (CG)*

- Special session on role of postharvest pathologist in reducing food waste was postponed to 2021
- Submitted an application for the 2020 Councilors Challenges focused around 'Fungal Jungle: from farm to fork'.
- Discussed ideas for field trips, special sessions, idea cafes, and CALs challenge. Decisions TBD.
- Aim to increase visibility and membership by 10% through PhytoNews, field trips, and podcasts.

**Action for Council**

1. **A recent challenge for Postharvest committee is recruiting diverse members within the field of postharvest pathology. We understand that postharvest pathology is a concern not only to the fruits and nuts crops but also to the other commercially important crops such as tuber, citrus, cereals, fibers etc. We believe one of the strategies to get audience and potential member's attention is by providing diverse programming in APS annual meeting and increasing the committee's participation and visibility. However, in recent years the committee has struggled in getting the sessions approved. We understand that all proposed sessions may not be as competitive and have shortcomings but it would be helpful if there were critical reviews available to the committee so that those issues could be addressed for future submission.**

**Response from Council [DRAFT]**

1. **Council thanks the members of the committee for bringing this issue to our attention. It is important that the annual meeting program reflects the diversity of topics of interest to our members. Council agrees that more detailed feedback on session proposals would be extremely useful, but may not be possible given the scale of work that this would require of the Annual Meeting Board.**

*Regulatory Plant Pathology Committee (KS)*

- Plans for special sessions at Plant Health 2021 include:
  - Case studies of regulatory work/responses to emerging plant diseases
  - Organize a networking event with the Graduate Student Committee
  - Nominate professional(s) for the Excellence in Regulatory Affairs and Crop Security Award.

**Action for Council**

1. **Committee members unanimously approved of the virtual format and hope something similar can be made available for committee meetings even when meetings are back to in-person.**

**Response from Council [DRAFT]**

1. **Council and the Annual Meeting Board have received many positive responses regarding the virtual format and scheduling of the committee meetings. A similar format for committee meetings is planned for Plant Health 2021 and may continue even after face-to-face meetings return in 2022.**

*Seed Pathology (CG)*

- Our committee will focus on the objective of developing educational content for the APS Education Center, engaging plant pathology students and early career professionals and spreading awareness about the importance of healthy seed.
- Focus on bringing awareness to seed pathology both to the general public and to plant pathology students and early career professionals. Many seed pathologists in industry and academia feel that there is a lack of seed pathologists to meet the needs of the seed industry and academia. To address this, a working group was formed during Plant Health 2019 and that effort continues.

**Action for Council**

1. **Our committee would like Council to address the lack of a user-friendly platform to complete collaborative work to develop the materials as described above. The Sharepoint system is outdated and not user friendly. We have discussed using Microsoft Teams but access would have to be provided by a committee member as this is not something we can do through APS.**
2. **Another item was how to facilitate meetings with our committee not during the annual meeting? Will APS set up Zoom meetings for our working groups as needed? What resources are available to our committee to help us achieve our expected outcomes?**

**Response from Council [DRAFT]**

1. **Council acknowledges that this has been an ongoing problem and is working with staff to identify alternate communications tools for committees to enhance effective communication and engagement throughout the year.**
2. **APS staff can schedule Zoom meetings for your committee any time during the year. As noted above, APS staff are currently working to identify alternate communications tools for committees to enhance effective communication and engagement throughout the year. If your committee needs specific resources to help achieve expected outcomes, please bring those to the attention of your Council liaison.**

*Soil Microbiology and Root Diseases Committee (KS)*

- The committee agreed to submit special sessions on “Below ground aspects of systemic diseases” and a special session with the biocontrol committee.
- Committee members discussed relevant publications, online protocols, and upcoming relevant conferences, and topics that could be useful for K-12 instructors, in response to the Councilors’ Challenge.
- Report notes that communication within the committee lacking. Current Chair will send out monthly emails in hopes to encourage dialog, collaboration, and experience sharing.

#### *Teaching Committee (KS)*

- Committee activities focused mostly on communication, planning and exchange of the available online tools to be available to the teaching community through APS Teaching portal.
- Committee is preparing a webinar focused on teaching plant pathology courses online, highlighting the positive and negative experiences; challenges and future needs
- Committee is working to compile digital instructional material (lesson plans, images, video material, etc., that can supplement or replace in-person lessons, including laboratory exercises) for teaching online plant pathology courses.
- A group of committee members is working on ideas for instructional videos and other resources in response to the Councilors’ Challenge.
- A sub-committee is working on a proposed session for Plant Health 2021 focused on:
  - How do we do things online that we would do in wet lab settings into an online setting?”
  - How do we adjust our learning objectives to meet what we can do online?”
  - Assembling a list of gadgets that are both affordable and appropriate for distance teaching
  - Flipping how we teach -- new ideas for teaching old concepts.
- A second subcommittee is working on developing and producing webinars. Possible topics include:
  - Pedagogical techniques on how to interact with students and how to teach online.
  - How do we improve our teaching under the new circumstances that limit, or prevent face-to-face teaching?
  - Short training videos instead of in-person interactions.

#### *Tropical Plant Pathology (CG)*

- **No report submitted.**

#### *Turfgrass Pathology Committee (KS)*

- Over past year, Committee has nominated deserving individuals for APS recognized awards.
- Members of the committee are finalizing the 4th edition of the Compendium of Turfgrass Diseases and initiated new workshops on dollar spot.
- A major objective is to increase funds available to support yearly student travel awards.

#### *Vector-Pathogen Complexes (CG)*

- **No report submitted.**

#### *Virology Committee (KS)*

- Committee has proposed two special sessions and a workshop for next Plant Health meeting.



- Committee plans to communicate with its members through quarterly emails and establish a Twitter account to engage younger clientele.
- Committee is actively working to diversify membership by adding individuals of underrepresented groups.