

**ABRIDGED Minutes**  
**from the February 18, 2021**  
**APS Council Call**

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

Meeting called to order at 11:00 a.m. Central.

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

**Council apologies:** Ron Walcott

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

**Invited:** Matt Kasson, Gary Bergstrom

**B. PhytoAlliance Fund (Kasson)**

Proposing the PhytoAlliance Fund Program that would involve APS members being able to donate a registration to Plant Health 2021 or division meeting to a Black, Indigenous or Phytopathologist of Color (BIPOC) early career professional (ECR).

Suggested the fund could be used for APS annual meeting or division meetings. See if each Division could fund one? Matt will bring up idea with Divisional Forum.

Clarify differences between this initiative and the Lafayette Frederick Diversity in Mentoring Award.

**OVERALL** Council expressed strong support for this idea but agreed that additional clarity would be helpful.

**SUGGESTED** Matt work with Emilio Oyarzabal from APS Foundation to discuss initiative further.

**C. Nominations Committee (Bergstrom)**

Explained nomination process and how candidates are selected.

**SHARED** 2021 Slate of Officers.

The Nominations Committee has a long list of potential names that can be drawn upon for other committee, boards, and office appointments. They are currently working on finding candidates for those positions expiring in August 2021. A call for volunteers will also be sent out to the general membership. Suggested the Nominations Committee also assist with recommending board members to the Annual Meeting Board as this is a good board to 'test out' members for higher leadership roles. Those positions requiring Council approval will be included on the Council's May agenda.

**D. Awards (Gleason/Schmitt)**

**RECEIVED** the 2021 Awards and Honors Committee (AHC) report with recommendations for the 2021 APS Honorary Awards and recommendations for the 2022 AHC Chair (George Sundin) and Vice Chair (Laurence Madden).

**MOTION:** to approve the 2021 APS honorary awards as recommended by the Awards & Honors Committee and to approve the committee's recommendations of George Sundin as 2022 Chair and Laurence Madden as Vice Chair in 2022, taking over as chair in 2023. *Seconded; motion passed.*

**ACTION:** Mark Gleason to contact the awardees to congratulate them and to notify Linda once completed.

Reminded Council that awardees are kept confidential until the official award announcement.

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

**RECEIVED** January statement.

The month of January generated a profit for APS and the Year-to-Date net operating profit is \$348,490 after seven months.

Total YTD revenue was \$2,917,802 which was worse than budget by (\$692,114), and worse than prior year by (\$727,695)

Total YTD operating expenses were \$2,569,312 which is \$979,425 better (lower) than budget and \$855,079 better than the prior year.

### **F. Committee Communication Technology (Uner/Ericson)**

Higher Logic is a community software that would integrate with the APS member database. It is envisioned that this software would create communities where members can communicate and stay engaged year-round. These communities could be committees, divisions, and/or based on topics of interest. APS staff arranged for a demo of the software with key leadership members and they were invited to participate in the demo last week. Recording of demo was sent to those that were unable to make the live demo. Generally positive feedback and liked the online community benefits. Reminded this is year-round benefit, not just annual meeting. Erik is looking at options for simultaneously document sharing.

**SHARED** Higher Logic Estimate for software licenses, maintenance, support, upgrades, hosting & iMIS integration.

How to measure success?

- Would do future surveys to membership asking them about the value of the Higher Logic platform, include question on annual committee report form and annual meeting survey.
- What are the usage stats and number of people and posts, and are they growing?
- Member retention – engagement opportunities are key to engaging members.

In the initial phase will create core groups/committees/divisions interested in using platform. Will also create a community for the larger membership and will create a task force to help work on this and build content before we do a major launch of the community platform. Noted a direct marketing campaign and write-up in *PhytoNews* will be done announcing the APS Community site. Estimating this will be ready March-June timeframe. Will use success of the initial communities to then reach out to other committees to give them the tools on how to use the platform.

**NOTED** will include announcement of APS Communities in the June committee chair orientation webinar.

**MOTION:** to approve the purchase of Higher Logic Community software and to pay annual and start-up fees in this current fiscal year and to include subscription funds as a line item in the next two fiscal year budgets with the caveat of Council reassessing the successfulness of this platform over the next 3 years. *Seconded; motion passed.*

### **G. Minutes (All)**

**MOTION:** to approve the January 21, 2021, minutes. *Seconded; motion passed.*

**H. April Virtual Retreat Dates (All)**

**NOTED** the 2021 April meeting dates will be:

- **Wed. April 21** (1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Central/2:00 – 5:00 pm Eastern)
- **Thur. April 22** (1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Central/2:00 – 5:00 pm Eastern)
- **Friday April 23** (12:00 – 2:00 p.m. Central/1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Eastern)

**ACTION:** Linda will send invites for the new April dates and cancel the April 15 call that was previously scheduled.

Call adjourned at 12:23 p.m. Central. *Next call is March 18, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. Central.*