

ABRIDGED MINUTES
from the May 20, 2021
APS Council Meetings

A. Call to Order (Gleason)

Meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. CDT.

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

Council apologies: Katy Stevenson

Staff: Amy Hope, Carol Ericson, Kurt Rood, Linda Schmitt, Greg Grahek, Tressa Patrias, Megan Boatman

B. Financial Health (Rood)

RECEIVED April statement.

The net profit from operations for the ten months ended April 30, 2021 was \$510,857, which is \$546,294 better than budget and \$105,392 better than prior year. The YTD gains on investments were \$1,484,687, PPP Loan Forgiveness was \$310,000 and the Gain on the sale of the building was \$612,851 which generated a total net profit after investments of \$2,918,395.

Total YTD revenue was \$4,055,525 which was worse than budget by (\$529,640), and worse than prior year by (\$791,575). Journals are better than budget by \$145K and are under prior year. APS PRESS is exceeding budget by \$54K.

Total YTD operating expenses were \$3,544,668 which is \$1,075,934 better (lower) than budget and \$896,967 better than the prior year.

C. Project Dashboard (Ericson)

- Plantopia: David Gadoury doing fine. Noted he was invited as a guest podcast speaker elsewhere.
- Dominika Kuzlak-Swanson joined APS staff. She will be the staff liaison to Mid-Career Task Force Graduate Student Committee, OPRO, OIP, as well as working on APS membership recruitment and retention.
- Industry engagement – sponsorship is up to \$67K, both Bayer and Corteva made significant contributions. Noted sponsors have been focused on student interactions.
- OPSR will have industry student social event at Plant Health 2021 Online. They postponed the industry extension event to 2022.
- *MPMI* associate editors working on relaunch of *MPMI* podcast.
- Continue to work with Sheridan Journal Services (SJS) to get rid of backlog in articles.

D. Virtual Retreat Follow-Up

1. African Division (Hope)

- Good call with members and staff liaisons. Provided them with a bylaw template. We received their WhatsApp contacts so we can now cross check with our membership database. Their first

business meeting is in August. Budget planning is in process and they are looking into what they'd like to get done in the first fiscal year.

ACTION: Staff to include African Division to President Team rotation with Mark attending their virtual meeting in August.

2. Caregiver support permanent entity (du Toit)

- Group met with the President Team to discuss committee structure/naming. Working on a one-page guideline for volunteers that includes information on liabilities, activities, etc. They are reviewing activities from the past and how to move forward with them and working on developing a more realistic budget that would include a possible Caregiver Travel Award as well as staff time involved for this office. Group will be engaged using the community platform to make effective use with members as well as hybrid meetings and future in-person meetings. Carol Ericson has reached out to Sally Mallowa, Elisha Allan-Perkins and has a meeting with them later this month.

3. Higher Logic Community Update (Ericson)

- Shared training materials and concepts with a group of committees/divisions. A combination of committee and divisions (15 total) have identified that they are ready to launch in either June or July.

4. Ed Center Update (Grahek)

- Brantlee and colleagues have been meeting regularly to work on reorganizing the Ed Center and have provided staff with an outline. Proof of concept state is close. Brantlee had meeting with Plant Health Instructor (PHI) Editorial Board this week and they are creating a subsite for PHI that will be visible on the Ed Center so that it will appear more journal like in its context. Goal is to draw more authors to submit materials to the Ed Center. Did include manuscript central site in the FY22 budget. Brantlee is also reviewing the Ed Center Manual of Operations and will reach out to Mark Gleason for input.

5. Diagnostic Assay Laboratory Network (DALN) Update (Grahek)

- Connected with Kitty since April meeting. Working with her team to get request back to Council. Reached out to Lindsey du Toit and Nik Grunwald about a potential issue focused on DALN for *PhytoFrontiers*. She is also looking to do a white paper on what this does for APS. Will have something for Council in time for the June call.

ACTION: Add DALN update to June Council agenda.

6. LEAPS/PSRN update (Charkowski)

- Signed letters were sent May 10 to the leaders. No further steps are needed from Council at this point in time.

E. Plant Health 2021 Update (Patrias/Boatman)

- Special sessions are tentatively slotted.
- Meeting platform will be linked by first week in June.
- Final 15 Technical Session were received last night. Submitters will be notified tomorrow.
- Annual Meeting Board (AMB) will slot research on demand submissions into categories.

- Late breaking abstracts will open in June.

F. APS Value Statement (Patrias)

RECEIVED revised statement which is a living document. This internal document will be used on our Request for Proposal (RFP) for meeting sites. **NOTED** any changes made to document would need to come back to Council for approval.

APS is a global community of individuals with a shared interest in plant health. Our diversity is represented in our international membership, professional interests, cultural and educational backgrounds, as well as diversity in age, racial, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, and other social dimensions. This diversity ensures a wealth of perspectives and enhances the quality of our work and interactions. The locations and venues selected for our annual meeting must support this overall experience through state and local laws, policies, and practices.

ACTION: Staff to post value statement on APS website under about webpage and to include in Mark's President opening address at Plant Health 2021.

ACTION: Amy C. to draft a future *Phyto News* article explaining the APS Value Statement and why we're doing this.

MOTION: to approve the APS value statement as received. *Seconded; motion passed. One abstention.*

G. Leadership Appointments (All)

MOTION to approve Lina Quesada as Leadership Institute Vice Chair for 2021-2022, becoming Chair in 2022 for a 3-year term. *Seconded; motion passed.*

MOTION to approve Bob Kemerait as EIC of *PhytoNews*, with his 3-year term beginning January 2022. *Seconded; motion passed.*

ACTION: June agenda to include Council's Foundation Board member appointments (2 total) and OPRO Vice Director appointment.

H. Approval of Minutes (All)

MOTION: to approve the April 21-23, 2021, minutes. *Seconded; motion passed.*

Call adjourned 12:00 p.m. CDT.