

ABRIDGED MINUTES
from the June 17, 2021
APS Council Meetings

A. Call to Order (Gleason)

Meeting was called to order at 11:21 a.m. CDT.

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

Council apologies: Jim Bradeen

Staff: Amy Hope, Kurt Rood, Linda Schmitt, Greg Grahek, Megan Boatman, Dominika Kuzlak-Swanson, Jessica Egyhazi, Erik Uner

Invited: Kitty Cardwell, Carrie Harmon, Nicole Donofrio, Jeannie Klein

B. Diagnostic Assay Laboratory Network (DALN) Update (Cardwell/Harmon/Grahek)

- Provided update on project and concept. Overall, build and test a sustainable method development and validation process, that if successful could then be implemented.
 - Develop a master registry online
 - Publish tools and rules for assay development and validation (journal articles and online tool kit).
- **SHARED** stakeholder perspective of industry, USDA, and users.
- **SHARED** NPDN involvement, but they are not a research program. **NOTED** this would benefit partnering with them and will improve diagnostics overall.
- **Why APS?** Because APS is the scientific home of plant pathology in the U.S. across academia, industry, and government.
 - One site with many uses – journals, books, meetings, membership, lists
 - Independent – just representing the science and the scientists

MOTION: APS to provide a letter of collaboration stating that APS is willing to take part as a collaborator for DALN registry and for APS to house the dashboard on the APS website. *Seconded; motion passed.*

ACTION: Kitty and Carrie to work with APS staff members Erik, Greg, Amy as they develop the DALN proposal.

C. Office of Public Relations & Outreach [OPRO] (Donofrio/Klein)

1. OPRO Manual of Operations (MoO) Updates

RECEIVED proposed OPRO Manual of Operations (MoO) changes that adds under OPRO organizational structure the following:

- Two graduate student members for two-year terms (voting member), with interest in outreach, and previous outreach experience.
- Graduate student appointments will serve a two-year term, with a one-year overlap between incoming and outgoing graduate students. Former graduate student members may qualify to join OPRO as a regular member.

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

ACTION: Linda will update the OPRO MoO webpage.

2. OPRO Director Appointment

RECEIVED OPRO and Nominations Committee support for Kevin Ong as OPRO Director with his 3-term beginning August 2021.

MOTION: to approve the OPRO Director appointment of Kevin Ong for 2021-2024. *Seconded; motion passed.*

3. **OPRO Meets Update Articles:** Nugget they write up and publish in various ways. Would like to have a gift to hand out. Currently, the APS online bookstore supports giving a percentage off with a promo code, not an out of the box electronic gift card with tracked balance.

ACTION: Erik to investigate electronic gift card with a dollar off amount option for the APS bookstore and report back to OPRO.

D. Plant Health 2021 Meeting Update (Boatman)

- 423 registered to date (advance registration and presenter deadline is June 29)
- Recent submissions for abstracts will open June 21 and close July 19. These will be Research On Demand presentations.
- Annual Meeting Board (AMB) made decision to NOT hold 1:1 Conversations with an Expert this year.
- 10 Idea Cafés will be included in the program.
- Pursuing Author Talk sessions

E. Financial Health (Datnoff/Rood)

RECEIVED May financial statement.

The net profit from operations for the eleven months ended May 31, 2021, was \$643,052, which is \$681,309 better than budget and \$169,778 better than prior year. Total YTD revenue was \$4,429,824 which was worse than budget by (\$483,388), and worse than prior year by (\$765,035). Total YTD operating expenses were \$3,786,772 which is \$1,164,697 better (lower) than budget and \$934,813 better than the prior year.

FY22 Budget Changes

Seeking approval for additional spends to the FY22 budget:

- **Ethics Education Course: \$10K-\$12K**
 - Longer series of online course. Since we're not charging a fee, this will be a reduction in profit on what we thought we could make on this course.
- **BIPOC Undergraduate Meeting Program: \$6K**
 - APS Foundation's comprehensive approach to increase the number of Black, Hispanic, and Native American plant pathologists to plant pathology. Five institutions representing underrepresented groups have been contacted regarding participation: (i) University of Hawaii, (ii) Alcorn State University, (iii) Tuskegee University, (iv) New Mexico State University and (v) University of Puerto Rico.
 - to provide free registration to Plant Health 2021 (APS Foundation is contributing up to \$2K from their named student travel funds and are asking Council to put in \$6K). The maximum number of complimentary undergraduate meeting registrations for Plant Health 2021 is capped at 70.

- **Strategic Planning Facilitation: \$58K**

- Over the past few months, we've discussed the need to update our strategic plan for APS. Our plan has not been updated since 2016 and it has been several years since we've taken a close look at APS committee and office structure. As a result, we've been making many important decisions without a larger framework to help guide us. APS is in a very good position right now, but we need a strong plan to help us come out of the pandemic and adapt to a world that is very different than it was prior to 2016.
 - Amy Hope reached out to Jim Meffert, a senior consultant and strategist with Tecker International to assist with this. Jim knows APS well and I think he is the right person to help us with this process.
- Will do full-scale strategic plan for 2021-2022 (SWOT, environmental scans, surveys) use this information to fuel new plan. (Last one done in 2011). Asking Jim Meffert from Tecker Intl to assist with strategic planning and do a full-scale review of goals, structure that supports the goals.

MOTION to approve the FY22 budget spending changes as presented. *Seconded; motion passed. One abstention.*

F. Election Results (Gleason)

Nik Grünwald was elected as Vice President for 2021-2022 (moving up to President-elect for 2022-2023, and president for 2023-2024) and Sydney Everhart as Councilor-at-Large (2021-2024). Their official terms will begin August 7, 2021.

NOTED David Gent will move up to the Sr. CAL for 2021-2022.

G. Approval of EIC/Chair/Director Appointments for 2021 (All)

RECEIVED input from the Nominations Committee and the Boards/Offices for the following nominees and background materials on all nominees:

- **MPMI Associate Editor-in-Chief:** Tessa Burch-Smith. APS Pub Board and IS-MPMI Board have already approved this appointment. Term would begin in September 2021. She will confirm by February 2022 of her plans to move up to Editor-in-Chief.
- **Foundation Board member appointments:** As noted in the Foundation's Manual of Operations, the Foundation Board provides proposed board member candidates to Council for their two Board member appointments to the Foundation Board. They are recommending Megan Kennelly and Michelle Moyer for these two appointments with their 3-year terms beginning August 7, 2021.

MOTION: to approve the appointments of two Foundation Board members and *MPMI* Assoc. EIC as recommended. *Seconded; motion passed.*

H. Approval of Minutes (All)

MOTION: to approve the May 20, 2021, minutes. *Seconded; motion passed.*

Meeting adjourned at 12:24 p.m. CDT.

Next call is July 15, 2021.