

ABRIDGED MINUTES
from the July 15, 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, Katy Stevenson, David Gent, Courtney Gallup, Krishna Subbarao

Council apologies: Ashok Chanda

Staff: Amy Hope, Carol Ericson, Kurt Rood, Linda Schmitt, Greg Grahek, Erik Uner, Tressa Patrias, Katie Hamel, Jessica Egyhazi

Invited: African Division Officers (Olufemi Alabi, Sally Mallowa, Lourena Maxwell, Mustafa Jibrin, Molemi Rauwane, John Oladokun

B. African Division Update (Division Officers)

- Introduced division officers.
- 114 current names on the roster based on the 3 different lists provided. 38 (33%) are current APS members and 20 were from the Global Membership initiative.
- Division will be included on online join/renew forms and membership applications.
- SHARED August 18, 2021, business meeting agenda and noted that Mark Gleason will attend and do a brief welcome/opening remarks.
- Expressed their grateful appreciation to APS Staff, leadership and Council for partnering with the Africa Division in this historic development.
- Article in *PhytoNews* is in the works and share with AULF.

RECEIVED African Division Constitution and Bylaws and proposed budget.

MOTION: to approve the African Division constitution and bylaws as received and to approve \$1,000 in meeting registration for a graduate student best paper awardee to Plant Health 2022 and for staff time of 5 hours/month. *Seconded; motion passed.*

C. Journal Update (Grahek/Subbarao)

SHARED how APS Journals got behind schedule.

Knowledge Works Global (KGL) helped APS modernize our online journals since 2013. Q420 KGL purchased a major composition provider company in order to expand their capabilities. We began to feel negative effects of the transition in March and early April when KGL's new typesetters began correcting proofs using the old typesetter's files. At that time, they began to meet with us to explain and advise us about their improvement plans. KGL promised improvements by the end of May and then the end of June.

Beginning in May, we reached out to our author community to explain the situation.

Looking Ahead:

- We are meeting twice weekly with KGL in addition to dozens of email exchanges daily. We are working with the new composition team to learn our style guide and doing several extra rounds of quality assurance.

- We are planning additional author communications.
- We are interviewing additional vendors for similar services and plan to move *PhytoFrontiers* to a new vendor.
- KGL has agreed to our request for discounts on their services for delayed papers and issues. We plan to use these savings to offer discounts to affected authors on future papers.

NOTED that APS staff is doing everything in their power to right this.

- 65-165 days to get article through production process.
- KGL has all the papers and until they process them staff can't work on them.
- 600 APS manuscripts are affected and a lot of other society journals.

ACTION: Jim as ICO, to communicate on behalf of Council that it's a production issue and we are working on ways to have this never happen again.

NOTED we need consistent message coming from Council. When asked by members inform them that yes, we are aware and are working on solutions and encourage them to contact Krishna, Greg, or EIC directly.

ACTION: Greg to send to Council the home address for Sue Stuessy and Patti Ek for Council to send thank you notes.

ACTION: Staff and Prez Team to draft overall talking points for Council to use during Plant Health 2021 when answering questions from members.

D. Community Update (Ericson)

- TABLED

E. Ed Center Update (Uner)

- TABLED

F. Plant Health 2021 Updates (Boatman)

- TABLED

G. Finances (Rood)

RECEIVED June statement.

The month of June generated a profit for APS and the Year-to-Date net operating profit is \$726,811 after twelve months. Note that these results are preliminary, and that APS will be going through its annual audit in the coming months.

H. Project Dashboard (Ericson)

- TABLED

I. Approval of Minutes (All)

MOTION: to approve the June 17, 2021, minutes. *Seconded; motion passed.*

J. Leadership Appointments (All)

1. *PhytoFrontiers*[™] Editor-in-Chief (EIC)

RECEIVED background materials for Steve Klosterman.

Current EIC, Nik Grünwald is moving up to Vice President and is stepping down as Editor-in-Chief. Dr. Steve Klosterman has been approved by all members of the APS Publications Board as Editor-in-Chief of *PhytoFrontiers™*.

MOTION: to approve Steve Klosterman as *PhytoFrontiers™* Editor-in-Chief with his term being August 1, 2021 – December 31, 2024. *Seconded; motion passed.*

2. Foundation Board Member

Previously, Council had approved Michelle Moyer as one of their Board member appointments to the Foundation Board, but she has since declined. Two additional names were recommended by the Foundation and endorsed by the Nominations Committee for Council to consider for their Foundation Board member appointment.

RECEIVED background information on William Weldon and Nian Wang.

MOTION: Approve appointing Nian Wang as Council's Foundation Board member appointment for a three-year term beginning August 7, 2021. *Seconded; motion passed.*

K. 2021 Outstanding Volunteer Award Approval (Stevenson)

The Outstanding Volunteer Award recognizes APS members for excellent service in furthering the mission of APS through their volunteer efforts.

A total of six nominations were received and were reviewed by the Councilors-at-Large (CALs) and after consideration, the CALs recommend awarding Nicole Gauthier the award for 2021.

RECEIVED Nicole Gauthier nomination.

MOTION: to approve awarding Nicole Gauthier the 2021 APS Outstanding Volunteer Award. *Seconded; motion passed.*

NOTED the remaining nominees will be carried over to 2022 for consideration. Question arose about awarding multiple awards in a year?

ACTION: CALs will notify Nicole and non-selected nominees and encourage them to reapply. CALs to discuss offline about the possibility of awarding multiple volunteer awards.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m. CDT.

July 16, 2021: Outcome of e-vote

Councilors-at-Large recommended awarding a 2nd Outstanding Volunteer Award to Dr. Olufemi (Femi) Alabi for 2021. An electronic e-vote was sent on July 15, 2021, to Council to approve and passed unanimously on July 16, 2021.