

**ABRIDGED MINUTES**  
**from the August 6, 2021**  
**APS Council Meeting**

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

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. CDT.

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

**Late arrival:** Ron Walcott

**Incoming Council present:** Nik Grünwald

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

**Invited:** Paul Esker, David Gadoury

**B. What We Heard at Plant Health 2021 (All)**

**RECEIVED** Attendance Count for all events and Session evaluation results.

- 1247 registered attendees (1124 domestic and 123 international)
  - 197 Early Career
  - 66 non members
  - 82 registration + membership
  - 201 Student registration + membership
  - 16 Technical Support registration
- Overall solid numbers for this year's meeting. We had budgeted for 1400. Noted that the 1247 registrants is typically what we have for in person meetings.
- \$72,000 in sponsorships – highest level we've ever had! Sponsors see the value in education versus sitting in a booth.

Annual Meeting Board Input (Esker)

**SHARED** committee week summary. Consensus to keep these virtual going forward. Could look at extending committee week to two weeks to avoid scheduling conflicts and look at 10am – 3pm Central time slots.

- Attendance anywhere from 4-150. Highest attended was Graduate Student and Bacteriology Committees.
- Positive feedback on keeping Committee Week virtual for future years.
- Monday Keynote had 615 unique attendees and Tuesday had 553 unique attendees. (2020 = 780 on Monday, 687 on Tuesday. With free registration being an option last year).
- Time of day was challenging for West Coast and Hawaii, etc.
- Special Sessions and Sponsored sessions also had great attendance.
- Technical sessions were a major success this year! New structure worked well this year.
- Idea Cafes continue to be a success. These may be best in a virtual environment as they are so popular. Suggested we hold these year-round.
- Research on-demand well attended and good conversations. Future of posters is likely video-driven.
- I heard positive comments regarding virtual subject matter committee meetings. This might allow us to lop a day off the annual meeting.
- Wonder was a free tool that was used for networking.
- AMB will address Research on Demand Kubify poster platform for 2022.

- 144 attended virtual ceremony this year. Noted that Award Ceremony if virtual again should be prime time during week of meeting, not during committee week.
- Divisional Forum symposium was well attended. Noted with the new African Division will need more time so will discuss with AMB.
- Noted the Leadership Institute cohort sessions were helpful for committee wee.
- Social media was greater than last year and noticeably more member driven.
- Foundation experience:
  - 6 fully funded named travel awards at the beginning of the year and to date we're at 16 fully funded. Foundation is matching contributions one to one. Working on 4 more. By end of year, we'll have 20 fully funded. Foundation could have 30 named travel awards fully funded, which is the amount we give out each year.
  - Lafayette is not where we want to be, still need work on promoting it. Goal is to have \$100K before it's fully funded.

### C. APS Journals (Subbarao/Grahek)



## APS Journal Editorial Boards

### July 2021

- ***Phytopathology, Plant Disease, Plant Health Progress, and PhytoFrontiers* editorial boards met to review their performance and discuss strategies.**
  - Times to decision are good.
  - Download stats are strong.
  - Impact Factors are up slightly for our journals in Web of Science.
  - All EiCs, except for *MPMI's* hosted Wonder Suites in the Plant Health Hub
- ***Phytobiomes Journal* and *MPMI* editorial boards will meet this fall.**

### Looking Ahead

- **Mary Burrows is working on *Plant Disease* editorial board appointments**
  - A virtual board orientation will be held in December for *Plant Disease*
  - Mary is meeting with Alex and others to look at refinements for Plant Disease Notes.
- **Steve Klosterman is succeeding Nik as *Phytofrontiers* EiC and will soon nominate an Associate EiC for review by Pub Board and Council.**

## Composition Delays Update.

- **New KGL rep** assigned to our account in mid July has improved their speed, but they still are having trouble getting issues built for us.
- As KGL catches up, we will have a bottleneck with our QA and we **are looking at resources to handle the upswell of content to review.**
- **Staff created temporary issues** and will continue to do so.
- **We continue to send extra emails to authors** in addition to the global email we sent to our author community last month explaining the situation.
- **We continue to hear from authors** with their concerns and are planning a promotion to impacted authors offering **discounts on future papers.** We are responding to all author concerns with detailed explanations.
- **We are documenting the issue delays** and on Monday will send **a request to KGL for further fee reductions.**
- We have selected a second vendor and will begin the integration of *PhytoFrontiers* to Aptara later this month.

### D. President Transition (Gleason/Charkowski)

Mark Gleason mailed the official APS presidential gavel to Amy Charkowski, commencing his term as immediate past president and initiating Amy Charkowski as the APS President for 2021-2022.

### E. Focus for 2021-2022 (Charkowski)

- Review background info/conduct research (summer 2021)
- Strategy Sessions scheduled Sept 14-15 with key president team and key stakeholders.
  - Additional names to invite to be forwarded to Amy C. and Linda.
  - Full Council will decide on input we get from these strategy sessions.
- Will do environmental scan this fall as well as considering organizational structure and roles within the broader context of strategic planning
- Strategic Planning Workshop to be held spring 2022, followed by action planning and structure

### F. Leadership Institute Cohort Meeting Update (CALs/du Toit)

- Next set of meetings are October 13-15.
- On demand and information on upcoming sessions are posted to [www.apsnet.org/LeadershipTools](http://www.apsnet.org/LeadershipTools).
- This leadership training helps chairs and vice chairs feel valued.

### G. Review Liaisons & Roles for 2021-2022 (Charkowski)

**RECEIVED** liaisons for 2021-2022. These are included in the online leadership listing on the [website](#).

Reviewed and updated roles of a liaison to offices, boards, and committees, to clarify the appointment term length (One year typically for President Team and 3-years for CALs, and added link to Leadership Tools resource webpage).

## H. APS Member Forum in Online Community (Ericson)

- Most committees are taking part in the [APS Community](#).
- Staff is working with a task force to create a member wide forum, where all members could participate.
- Holding a planning meeting on August 16 and expected to launch in October-November 2021.
- Looking for catchy name for member form...some suggestions: Hive Mind, APS Connect, APS Link, APS Engage, APS Together.

## I. Finance (Rood)

**RECEIVED** June finance statement.

### Revenue:

- June YTD revenue is \$4.959 million.
  - Unfavorable to budget (\$333K) and prior year by \$671K
- Journals favorable to budget

### Expenses:

- June YTD expenses is \$4.232 Million

### Profit & Loss (preliminary):

- Net profit is \$727K
- YTD gain on investment is \$1.655 Million
- PPP Loan Forgiveness is \$310K
- Gain on sale of asset (Building) is \$613K
- Operating Profit after investments is \$3,304 Million

## 2022 Dues Recommendation (Datnoff)

**RECEIVED** 2022 dues recommendation.

The financial burden that resulted from the Covid 19 pandemic resulted in no change to the APS dues for the 2021 calendar year. The current U.S. Consumer Price Index (CPI) average for the past 12 months is 5.4%. This is higher than last year at 0.6% and higher than 2 years ago at 1.6%. The recommendation is to increase dues by 0.6% and round to the nearest dollar. If we follow the CPI average of 5.4% then Regular members would see an increase of \$4.86, this large of an increase is not recommended.

### Proposed 2022 Dues

Regular	\$91
Early Career	\$62
Student	\$38
Sustaining Assoc 1-100 ee	\$690
Sustaining Assoc 101+ ee	\$930

The rates go into effect with the calendar year and need to be included in upcoming renewal materials that will start to be sent mid-October for January 1 renewal.

**MOTION:** to approve the 2022 dues recommendation as received. The rates to go into effect with the calendar year and to be included in upcoming renewal materials that will start to be sent mid-October for January 1, 2022, renewal. *Seconded; motion passed. One abstention.*

**ACTION:** Communicate to members noting we wanted to keep the membership dues increase low this year and did not go by the CPI recommendation. And remind members we didn't raise dues in 2020.

**RECEIVED** [Project Dashboard](#) (Ericson)

- Offering first online education course on research ethics. Will kick off in late August.
- Ed Center met during Committee Week. Taxonomy is ready and will begin configuring the website and staff/volunteers will begin tagging individual pages (about 1,000 pages).
- Plantopia – David Gadoury will continue in his role.
- Mid-Career Task Force is putting together a webinar this fall.

#### **J. Approval of Minutes (all)**

**MOTION:** to approve the July 15, 2021, minutes. *Seconded; motion passed.*

#### **K. Leadership Appointments**

**RECEIVED** recommendation from Office of Private Sector Relations (OPSR) for candidate, Russell Ingram to serve as Director-elect beginning August 7, 2021, for one year and then moving up to Director in August 2022 for a three-year term.

**MOTION:** to approve Russell Ingram as OPSR vice chair for 2021-2022 and moving up to chair in August 2022 for a 3-year term. *Seconded; motion passed.*

#### **L. Other Business**

Thanked outgoing Council members, Lindsey du Toit and Katy Stevenson for their years of service on Council.

**ACTION:** Amy C. and CALs to send thank you to outgoing volunteer leadership. Linda will provide list of names and contact information. Noted that we should also copy the volunteer's department/supervisors and that the AULF list can be referenced for contacts. OPSR can help with industry reps.

**NOTED** no full Council meeting in September, this will be a strategy session with the President Team and key stakeholders. Council's next meeting is October 13-15, 2021.

*Meeting adjourned 2:50 p.m. CDT.*

#### **M. E-VOTE OUTCOME**

An electronic vote was sent on August 24, 2021, to approve the APS Publication's Board recommendation of Natália Peres as Associate Editor-in-Chief of *PhytoFrontiers*, to serve as Associate Editor-in-Chief through 2024. ***The vote was passed unanimously by all voting members of Council on August 25, 2021.***