

# ABRIGED MINUTES

## from the November 18, 2021

### APS Council Virtual Meeting

#### **A. Call to Order (Charkowski)**

Meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m. Central.

**Council present:** Amy Charkowski, Nik Grunwald (late arrival), Mark Gleason, Jim Bradeen, Lawrence Datnoff, David Gent, Courtney Gallup, Sydney Everhart, Ashok Chanda, Krishna Subbarao

**Council absent:** Ron Walcott

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

#### **B. Publications Update (Krishna/Greg)**

##### **1. KGL/Aptara**

A copy of today's slides are posted on the Council collab site.

Current status:

- KGL, our current vendor, is making incremental improvement.
- APS staff has refined our process for KGL quality checks this month to improve our speed. Technical editors are assisting.
- Our new vendor, Aptara will be publishing the Q4 issue of *PhytoFrontiers*. We have not yet reviewed their full-text presentation, but all the other steps in the process have been completed satisfactorily. We expect to review full-text files next week.
- Decision to move other journals over to Aptara has not been made. Want to finish evaluation of Aptara first.
- Last week Greg requested an additional \$5,000 credit from KGL as a discount for additional time spent on quality checks but have not heard back from them.
- Shared metrics – submissions are stable, and acceptances are growing.
- Focus Issue Strategy
  - Doing a fantastic job on coming up with exciting content for focus issues.
  - Loop in PPB. Krishna will communicate with EiCs and share info with Amy to connect with PPB and Signal group.
- Looking ahead
  - Plant Disease editorial board approved by Pubs Board and will meet virtually in early December.
  - EiC of Phytopathology has finalized survey that will go out in the new few weeks to identify major breakthroughs in plant pathology. Results to determine topics for future review articles.
  - Have applied for “ahead of issue” integration into Web of Science (WOS) and staff is meeting with the WOS next week to determine where they are at in the process.

##### **2. Approval of Publications Board Chair (Krishna)**

**RECEIVED** CV for George Sundin.

The Publications Board unanimously approved the nomination of George Sundin as APS Publications Board Chair (term August 2022 – August 2025) and will serve as the liaison between Council and the Publications Board. This appointment requires Council approval.

**MOTION:** to approve the recommendation from the Publications Board to appoint George Sundin as the 2022 Publications Board Chair (term August 2022-August 2025). *Motion passed unanimously.*

### **C. Member Misconduct (Amy/Carol)**

Current status:

- membership revoked, removed from website, and APS makes no public content.

Seeking legal counsel involvement for future process:

- Recommended revisions to our policies
- Recommended checklist/flowchart when situations arise
- Anticipated components
  - Recommendations regarding the investigation/decision process
  - Staff training
  - Council involvement

### **D. Plant Health 2022 Update (Megan/Tressa)**

- Opening Keynote: Sunday, August 7, 2022
  - Charles C. Man
  - author of “The Wizard and the Prophet”
  - Other asks, e.g. book signing, meet and greet? Amy C. to discuss offline with Megan.
- Amy C. is working on inviting Danica Lombardozi, a global change climatologist, has interest in agriculture.
- 39 Special Session Submissions Received
  - Several surrounding climate change
  - Record number – 7 – on Professionalism/Outreach
- 14 Sessions will be approached for revisions/final acceptance
  - AMB to develop MPMI session
  - Exciting formats:
    - Diagnostic Bowl
    - Ignite Session
    - 8 Panel Discussions
- 8 Workshop Submissions Received all accepted except for one.
- Health and Safety
  - Safe expo vendor that keeps track of vaccination verification or negative PCR test. Will define “fully vaccinated” according to CDC guidelines.
  - Need to have safety protocols up and posted on website early so member’s know what to expect.
  - Onsite Safety Protocols
    - Touchless check-in
    - Mobile app contains all information. No printed program book - would provide a pdf of the book should they choose to print it out themselves.

- Responsible room sets
- Signage at meeting reminding people of social distancing
- Need to discuss if we hold these events:
  - Field Trips (recommend they only be for registered for attendees, no family members for 2022)
  - Sprout's Corner (children's room) Staff is recommending to not hold it for 2022 due to young children not being vaccinated.
    - Tressa is in communication with Family of Caregiver Support group.
- Closing party – could allow registered guests but need to show proof of vaccination or negative PCR test.
- Masks TBD – have some time yet to decide.
- Have a health and safety communication plan that will share with membership.
  - In addition to posting information on the website, recommend drafting an article in *Phyto News* to set stage of health and safety at annual meeting.

#### **E. Update on Strategic Planning Process (Amy C.)**

- Focus groups have been defined (academic model, undergraduate offerings, technology/data, and industry)
- Invite lists being worked on for in-person January focus group meeting with consultant.
- Convenient hub city
- Next steps will be to review all information with Council

#### **F. Financial Health (Kurt/Lawrence)**

##### **1. Finances**

**RECEIVED** October statement.

The net profit from operations for the four months ended October 31, 2021, was \$249,038, which is \$547,118 better than budget and (\$15,537) worse than prior year. The YTD gain on investments were \$179,850, PPP round 2 loan forgiveness was \$403,118 which generated a total net profit after investments of \$832,306.

Total YTD revenue was \$1,413,936 which was better than budget by \$156,688, and better than prior year by \$11,686. Monthly submissions and paper acceptances continue to be closely monitored and tracked. Journals are favorable to budget by \$195K driven by page and color charges within *Phytopathology* and *Plant Disease*. Grow-PHE is unfavorable to budget by (\$15K) due to outreach funded webcasts which are expected in the 2nd half of the fiscal year. PHP/PDMR is favorable by \$24K driven by author publication charges. APS Press is unfavorable to budget by (\$55K) driven by lower book income.

Total YTD operating expenses were \$1,164,898 which is \$390,430 better (lower) than budget and (\$27,223) worse (higher) than the prior year. Total personnel expenses are favorable by \$230K. Remaining favorability to plan was driven by lower expenditures for publications \$76K and administration at \$43K.

All business centers are showing net profit favorable to budget.

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

**MOTION:** to approve the October 6-8, 2021, minutes as received. *Seconded; motion passed.*

### **H. Public Policy Board (PPB) Consultant Firm (Carol)**

- Have signed an agreement with Washington representative consultant firm, Signal.
- Had an onboarding meeting with them. Great conversation with them and sharing our goals and strategies.

### **I. Councilors' FY22 Challenge (David)**

- Received 25 submissions for the Developing a Mentorship Toolkit
- Scoring rubric created and will identify winners this week.
- \$1,000 award honorarium in FY22 budget
- Winners to be announced in upcoming issue of *Phyto News*.

### **J. New Business**

APS Commons launched this month. 89 posts as of this morning. Encouraged Council members to be active and participate to help other members engage as well.

*Meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m. Central.*

Next call is December 16, 2021.