

ABRIDGED MINUTES
from the April 21, 2022
APS Council Meeting – Portland, OR

Call to Order (Amy C.)

Meeting called to order at 8:34 a.m. PDT.

Council attending: Amy Charkowski, Ron Walcott (virtual), Nik Grünwald, Jim Bradeen, David Gent, Courtney Gallup, Ashok Chanda (virtual), Krishna Subbarao, Sydney Everhart (virtual)

Council apologies: Mark Gleason, Lawrence Datnoff

Staff: Carol Ericson, Linda Schmitt, Greg Grahek, Erik Uner

Finances (Amy/Carol)

SHARED March statement.

March YTD Revenues:

- Revenue continues to exceed budget
- Journals are better than budget by \$265K due to page and color charges within Phytopathology and Plant Disease
- Grow-PHE has improved its position since January due to outreach funded webcasts and production webcasts
- APS Press unfavorable by (\$43K)

March YTD Expenses:

- YTD expenses under budget by \$456K
- All business centers have expenses that are favorable or close to budget
- Staff has tightly managed expenses in personnel, publications and administration

March YTD Profit & Loss:

- YTD operating profit of \$404K which is better than budget by \$688K
- PPP (Payroll Protection Program) Round 2 loan forgiveness of \$403,118

SHARED [project dashboard](#).

Virtual member engagement:

- Ed Center: stalled at the moment, had identified ways to tag content but staff is waiting on Brantlee with volunteers
- Annual Meeting:
 - 717 abstracts submitted; 302 orals, 386 posters, and 29 ePosters.
 - Podcast Talk Speakers include Helene Dillard, George Sundin, Courtney Gallup, and Mark Nakhla
 - Registration is open!
- Online Community continues to do well. Staff working with Morgan Carter to reenergize so it's not just a job posting site.

- Plantopia – Jim Bradeen is new host. Have had meeting with new producer and calendar of activity. Goal is to have 3 interviews done by May and will work on release schedule. Hope is to have some podcasts done during Plant Health 2022.

Journals:

- All are publishing without temporary issues and in the right month!
- Moving Phytobiomes to new composition group Aptara. MPMI anticipated to move this summer as well.
- Submissions are down about 6% and acceptances down about 13%. Have some special issues planned but should make up by calendar year.
- Noted we have a meeting with another potential vendor to move the rest of our journals from current KGL vendor.

FY23 Budget Proposal (Carol)

FAC met virtually earlier this month and after extensive review and vetting approved the FY23 budget and FAC recommendations to Council.

RECEIVED [FY23 budget](#).

FAC met on April 4th & 8th and approved the proposed budget after extensive review and vetting.

Revenue: FY23 budget revenue of \$5,399,630 is up \$579,741 from FY22 budget due primarily to the following:

- In-person Annual meeting at \$981K, up from virtual FY22 meeting revenue of \$552K
- Journal income at \$3185K up from FY22 revenue of \$3026K

Expenses: The FY23 budget expenses of \$5,491,201 is an increase of \$568,742 over FY22 expenses. The following are the highlights from the budget:

- Payroll, taxes, benefits, and client reimbursements in total are \$207,158 higher than the prior budget.
- In-person annual meeting expenses (1064K) drive remaining increase, and has net loss (-84K)

Overall: The Net Operating Profit for FY23 is budgeted at a loss of \$91,571.

- Prior year FY22 budget was loss of \$102,571

NOTED to include additional open access strategies in financial planning. Task force to look at other revenue areas.

RECEIVED FAC Recommendations for FY23.

1. FAC recommends that Council give highest priority to monitoring, revising and adapting the strategies and platform for APS journals to address threats and opportunities in publishing, including Open Access initiatives and how they may affect society revenue.
2. FAC recommends that Council direct APS PRESS to develop its digital strategies and prioritize its portfolio with the goal to generate 15% net profit margin to include all expenses. APS PRESS should also pursue strategies to increase institutional purchase of electronic products.

3. FAC supports ongoing implementation by staff of models to enhance membership value and increase the membership base.
4. FAC supports the ongoing implementation of the Annual Meeting Roadmap to optimize the scientific, experiential and financial impact. While profit after overhead is the goal of the annual meetings, we recognize the uncertainty of the next two years, and we recommend creative approaches to maintain financial integrity.
5. FAC supports providing resources for the continued development and timely adoption of innovative technology-based tools/systems to enhance value and functionality of the website and year-round app.
6. FAC recommends continued monitoring of the use and financial viability of the new GROW/PHE (PMN) website.
7. FAC recommends the establishment of a Task Force to systematically re-evaluate PDMR.
8. FAC recommends that with the uncertainty of the environment and stakeholder needs, the Council should undertake the development of a new strategic plan and a coordinating financial strategy.

RECOMMEND hiring a consultant that will help us look outside the box and see what APS can do that universities can't do.

Other ideas:

- Permanent endowment through donations from outside? Going to private sector and food channel or ag companies as sources. Solicit for sponsorships and not tie up funds in an endowment.
- Product development and can help us in how to fund these projects (e.g. data structure, methods). PDMR would be a good starting point.
- Task force should have industry and extension people on it.
- Fundraising we need to work on our story to help get funds.
- Need a grant for the data structure

MOTION: to approve the FY23 budget as presented by FAC and to accept the FAC FY23 recommendations. *Seconded; motion passed. One abstention.*

ACTION: Council to form a task force along with a consultant to dive deeper into product development and revenue streams.

APS Structure (Amy C.)

ACTION: Amy, Carol, and Jim will meet May 4 to discuss structure further based upon these meetings and bring recommendations to Amy C. and CALs for feedback prior to sharing with full Council's during the May 19 call. Goal is to have structure plan completed so that it can be shared to leadership during the June 28th APS Committee orientation webinar.

Councilors' FY23 Challenge (Sydney)

Background and Goal: Engagement of members and committees is central to the impact and mission of APS. The shift into online platforms has created a new opportunity for committees to establish engagement with their members throughout the year. The goal of the challenge is to equip our

committees with strategies for engaging their members and stakeholders using online tools. These strategies will become part of an APS Leadership Institute toolkit available to committee chairs and members.

FY23 Challenge: Ongoing Committee Engagement

We are looking to equip our committees with strategies for engaging their committee members throughout the year. Submissions should briefly describe:

- Resources (such as time, people, tools, funding, APS staff time, etc.) needed for the activity
- Anticipated result or output of the activity
- How the activity engages committee members
- How the activity engages the broader APS members, the public, or any stakeholder group
- How the activity furthers or supports diversity, equity, and inclusion of members.

Evaluations of submissions will give equal consideration to the completeness to address the above criteria, quality of the committee engagement, and novelty of the proposed strategy. Committees with the highest ranked submissions will be receive funding and recognition in *Phyto News* and on the APS website. Winning committee(s) will be provided with staff support.

NOTED at the committee orientation webinar the following year the winning committee(s) from previous year will provide a report.

CONSENSUS from Council to move forward with the FY23 Councilors' Challenge: Ongoing Committee Engagement.

ACTION: CALs to work with Linda on the announcement for July issue of *Phyto News*.

Approval of Minutes (All)

MOTION: to approve the March 17, 2022, minutes. *Seconded; motion passed.*

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m. PDT.