

ABRIDGED MINUTES
from the August 10, 2022
APS Council Meeting
Plant Health 2022, Pittsburgh, PA

A. Call to Order (Charkowski)

Council present: Amy Charkowski, Ron Walcott, Nik Grunwald, David Gent, Courtney Gallup, Sydney Everhart, Lawrence Datnoff, Mark Gleason, Krishna Subbarao

Incoming Council: Karen Garrett, Nicole Gauthier, George Sundin

Invited Guest: Jim Meffert

Staff: Amy Hope, Carol Ericson, Greg Grahek, Erik Uner, Megan Boatman, Laura McGrady, Eric Fletty

B. Approval of Minutes (All)

MOTION: to approve the July 21, 2022 minutes. *Seconded; motion passed.*

C. Committee Appointments (All)

MOTION: to appoint George Sundin, APS Publications Chair to the Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) for a 3-year term (August 2022-August 2025). *Seconded; motion passed.*

C. Financials (Datnoff/McGrady)

- Year-end number
- Audit of year end number in September
- Fiscal responsibility

D. Membership Dues (Datnoff)

The financial challenges that resulted from the Covid 19 pandemic resulted in no change in APS dues for the 2021 and 2022 calendar years. The current US Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U) average for the past 12 months is 9.1% for all items. This is higher than last year at 5.4%; and higher than two years ago at 0.6%. We do not recommend increasing dues to meet the 9.1% rise. We recommend following industry best practices and consider an increase of 3%-5%. We continually build income by making smaller increases each year, and members don't usually notice small dues increase each year.

SHARED Proposed dues for 2023:

RECOMMEND increasing dues by 4 or 5%. After discussion agreed to increase dues by 5% for 2023.

MOTION: to increase the 2023 membership dues by 5%. *Seconded; motion passed.*

E. What we Heard on the Strategic Plan (Charkowski)

- Goal was to socialize the directions, gain acceptance, the fact that folks were immediately moving to How, not asking Why, means we achieved that goal. This is positive and implies we got it right.

- Now we get feedback from the workforce (committees, task force, etc.) and sort through that in October
- Should we use the words climate change, based upon keynote speaker? Strategic plan is an internal document (talking to our own scientists), so we can.
- Some younger members commented on their desire to be asked as a committee member to do something specific instead of just leaving it up to them. Need to help committees understand that they can suggest activities if they see them. Subject Matter Committees (SMC) need and want guidance. We are considering asking them to do an environmental scan to understand their unique role. We can use the Leadership Institute to help communicate and guide the committee chairs.
- Would it be appropriate to use Councilor's Challenge to align Subject Matter Committee (SMC) activities with the strategic plan in the next cycle. (Current year is about engagement year-round.) Signal group wants to do a map about where funding is occurring within the SMC's. Jim thinks we need to push this part sooner to early harness SMC's knowledge and power.
- Where does international fit? We need to do a deeper dive about what is APS's international role? Where are we unique in the international landscape? What can we uniquely do?
- Someone asked us about membership, it's a metric of progress – not an actual goal.
- In October, we will dig into the actions that are suggested. Put a metric at the Goal level, and at the more operational level, at the tactic level. We will determine those in October, and we may need to collect some baseline data. If membership increases, we say "Why?" what is it that we are doing. Output versus outcome. Diversity is an example of this – we need to compare the diversity of the community today
- End of September we compile worksheets and bring to Council to sort, prioritize, set pacing, resources, budgets.
- There are sub-disciplines (mycotoxins, nematology, forest pathologists, etc) that don't always get attention in the APS meeting – can we think about changing structure of annual meeting to allow that. Better solution is to think about year-round programming option.
- Collaborating with other committees on overlapping topics.

F. Where Are We Going – Next steps in Implementation (Walcott/Meffert)

NOTED that both Goal A Objective 2 and Goal B Objective 3 need a deeper dive because they are so big and complex.

- Evaluating the next round of Leadership Institute topics/needs
- Having soft skills training at annual meeting would be useful, Ed Center might own this.
- Speaking skills training is necessary and can be done on-line.
- How can people partner with APS to find employees/interns, etc.?
- Nanopore sequencing platform – could they sponsor?

G. Council Fall in-Person Meeting

- Oct 2-5 meeting dates in Denver, CO.
 - Council member orientation in morning on Day 1
 - Strategic Planning Council meeting in afternoon on Day 1
 - Strategic Planning continues on Day 2

- Operational Items in morning on Day 3. Departures after noon on Day 3.

ACTION: Council members to contact Partners in Travel to book flights.

NOTED Staff will book hotel reservations for Council.

H. Editorial Board (Subbarao/Sundin/Grahek)

- Need help to determine what to do with *MPMI* and all our journals to improve impact factor and stay competitive.
- Krishna and Greg have found an expert who will assess our journals and give recommendations. They requested a budget of \$25,000 to hire the consultant.

MOTION: to establish and appoint members to a PDMR Task Force. *Seconded; motion passed.*

ACTION: Sundin/Grahek to invite Beth Gugino to be on PDMR Task Force.

I. Division Forum Update (Chanda)

- Student showcase was yesterday and went well.
- In general, DF is discussing an attempt for uniformity in dues, awards and other activities. Maybe mid-career, a push to reach out to smaller schools to incorporate in meetings, working on strategy for more and better award nominations, talked to African Division about their needs
- Grad student Committee is interested in expanding their mentoring network created in the North Central. They want to expand further across divisions.

ACTION: Courtney will ask Katherine Latourec to reach out to Nicole Gauthier.

J. Health and Safety of our Members in Annual Meeting Cities (Hope/Ericson)

- We cannot get out of Memphis without large penalties, despite our dismay with their current laws and policies. Our best strategy is to try not to sign contracts very far out – but even in a year or two, laws can change as they did in Tennessee. We can look to make a statement through a donation to causes we support. We need to create a communication strategy about the way we make these decisions so members under the quandary we are in – and why we select, or don't select certain cities.

K. Comments on the Plant Health App:

- a. Linking to Google or Outlook calendar wasn't available
 - b. Organization of content should be looked at as it took three levels into a session to get a speaker. Access to app earlier would be preferable. App was very suitable for Androids.
2. Other Comments: For diversity, suggested using another voice for the ceremony recorded audio, possibly a woman? (Suggested Sydney Everhart, Carrie Harmon, Nicole Gauthier, or international voice?)

ACTION: Staff will bring to Awards & Honors Committee for further discussion.

L. President Transition (Charkowski/Walcott)

Amy Charkowski passed the APS presidential gavel to Ron Walcott, commencing her term as immediate past president and initiating Ron Walcott as the APS President for 2022-2023. Thanked outgoing members, Dave, Krishna, Ashok, and Mark for their years of service on Council.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m. Eastern.