

ABRIDGED MINUTES
from the September 15, 2022
APS Council Call

A. Call to Order (Walcott)

Meeting called to order at 11:03 a.m. Central. A quorum was present.

Council attending: Ron Walcott, Nik Grünwald, Karen Garrett, Amy Charkowski, Jim Bradeen, Lawrence Datnoff, Courtney Gallup, Sydney Everhart, Nicole Donofrio, Nicole Gauthier

Council apologies: Geroge Sundin

Staff: Carol Ericson, Greg Grahek, Laura McGrady, Linda Schmitt, Megan Boatman, Eric Fletty, Erik Uner

B. Financial Health (McGrady/Datnoff)

RECEIVED July statement.

The American Phytopathological Society's fiscal year begins on July 1st. The July 31, 2022, financial summary represents a one month of activity for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. The Society's financial information is reported to leadership monthly.

The net operating loss for the one-month period ended July 31, 2022, was (\$78,274) (Line 32). The net operating loss compares favorably to the budget by (\$86,677). The investment portfolio increased by \$505,737, the majority of which is an unrealized gain. This brings the total net gain for the period ended July 31, 2022, to \$427,463.

Total revenues exceeded the budget by approximately \$12,300. Most of the positive variance relates to subscription revenue for *Phytopathology* and *Plant Disease*. Total operating expenses compared favorably to the budget and prior year. Much of the positive variance relates to staff payroll charges and the payroll reimbursements from the SciSoc organizations under management.

All business centers compared favorably to the budget except for APS Press. Book income was under budget by approximately \$14,800.

NOTED the fieldwork for the Fiscal Year 2022, audit would begin on September 19, 2022. We anticipate the audit financials to be completed by November 30, 2022.

C. Project Dashboard (Ericson)

1. Ongoing Journal Strategy

- This month we will finalize the SoW with Aptara for invoicing. The integration will be completed in early 2023.
- The journal consultant is expected to complete his citation analysis work in October.
- Work on the PDMR task force will wait for the journal consultant report, which has a PDMR element, based on discussions by Pub Board and the PDMR board at Plant Health 2022.
- Significant quality issues with Aptara images were solved early this month. We are still working on minor issues as we complete the integration of 5 of our 6 journals.
- Articles for our first Plant Disease issue at TNQ are in production.
- Gary Vallad was unanimously approved as Associate EIC of *Plant Disease* by the Publications board. A vote by Council is now needed (September 15).

- Revisions to the Manual of Operations (MoO) for *Plant Disease*, Pub Board, and *PhytoFrontiers* are needed as a result of discussions at Plant Health 2022.

2. Virtual Member Engagement

- **Ed Center:** No updates from Brantlee or committee since the annual meeting. It does not appear that any tagging has taken place.
- **Early Career Committee** put on a first timer event at Plant Health 2022 and will reach out to them about membership and committee opportunities.
- **Online Communities** not being utilized as we had hoped for. Trying another strategy with social media posts to the Communities to get lurkers to comment on these scientific conversations. Will keep Council updated on progress.
- **Online Courses:** Running Research Ethics online course again in January. Another one on Seed Pathology with Lindsey du Toit is in discussion. Suggested mentor training as another topic.
 - Suggested focusing a research ethics to an international audience and reach out to OIP for their thoughts.
- **Plantopia** doing well. Recorded a few at Plant Health 2022. An episode with Leanor dropped yesterday.

ACTION: Eric Fletty will forward Plantopia stats to Jim Bradeen.

D. Publications (Grahek)

1. Vote on new Associate Editor-in-Chief (EIC) for *Plant Disease*

- Gary Vallad was unanimously approved as Associate EIC of *Plant Disease* by the Publications Board. A vote by Council is now needed.

RECEIVED Vallad's CV.

MOTION: to approve Gary Vallad as Associate EIC of *Plant Disease* for 2022-2024. *Seconded; motion passed.*

2. Publications Change Requests to Manual of Operations (MoO)

- **MOTION:** Vote to allow multiple Associate Editor-in-Chiefs, as needed, for APS journals, upon approval of the Publications Board and APS Council. *Seconded; motion passed.*
- **MOTION:** Vote to add Associate Editors (AEs) as expert reviewers to the *PhytoFrontiers* editorial board with similar responsibilities to other APS journals' AEs and to harmonize the editorial board naming convention by categorizing the current *PhytoFrontiers* "Editors" as "Senior Editors." *Seconded; motion passed.*
- **MOTION:** Vote to limit Publications Board voting privileges to the Chair plus each Editor-in-Chief that serves on the Publications Board, excluding Associate Editors-in-Chief. *Seconded; motion passed.*
- **TABLED** vote to remove the Editor-in-Chief of *Phytopathology News* from the Publications Board.
- **ACTION:** include on future agenda discussion on changing *Phytopathology News* EIC role to more of a managing editor position and decide if this role would report to Council on activities.

3. Consultant: Statistical Citation Analysis Update

- A 53-page report will go to the Publications Board today for review and discussion at their September 20 meeting.
- A Q & A with the consultant and the Publications Board will take place the week of September 26.
- Using citation analysis at the article level and comparing our journals with competing journals the consultant has made a dozen recommendations and has also included advice on PDMR and the OSTP public access mandate.
- The consultant has made some strategic recommendations that will impact budgets, particularly the recruitment of Review Articles.
- There are some actions we will take immediately and some that will require Publications Board discussion.

4. PDMR Update

Nik and Karen exploring a database platform for PDMR <https://www.agmatix.com>.

SHARED suggested timeline:

- September: Review journal consultant recommendations
- October: Invite Task Force
- November / December: First meeting
- March: Recommendations to Council

E. Plant Health 2022 Recap (Boatman)

- Total registration was 1122, not including guests. COVID did play a factor in lower registration numbers.
 - 94% domestic and 6% international
 - 464 first timers in person attendees. 157 joined as members during registration.
- Survey results shared with Annual Meeting Board and will forward complete results to Council.
 - 87% very satisfied or satisfied with overall experience compared to 88% in 2019.
 - Networking and presenting continue to be the primary reason for attending the meeting.
 - Most frequent mentions for *most valuable takeaways*:
 - Networking and collaborations
 - Learning about new technologies
 - Importance of the APS community for plant health
 - Most frequent mentions for *improvement*:
 - App
 - Family-friendly offerings and allowing guests
 - Both virtual and in-person committee gathering opportunities
- New Accessibility Features
 - Provided a robust accessibility information page on the website
 - Health and safety processes were implemented
 - Relaxation room provided for attendees
 - Gender neutral restrooms
 - Handicap accessible check-in counter at the registration desk.
- Sponsorships & Exhibits

- Actual sponsorships were \$82,500 (budget was \$40K) and exhibits actual was \$29,400 (budget was \$40K)
- Corteva kept their high level of support at \$42K this year
- Bayer increased their support to \$28K (and had very positive feedback on the meeting!)
- We had a university sponsor this year: Colorado State University
- FMC hopped back on board and sponsored again this year
- Exhibit numbers were lower than expected due to COVID concerns and travel restrictions, however, sponsorship dollars far exceeded budget

F. Committee Leadership Meeting Recap (Ericson)

Virtual meetings held August 25 and 26 with consultant Jim Meffert. Had very good attendance at both meetings. First meeting was with APS Offices and Board leadership reviewing Strategic Plan tactics. Second meeting was held with Subject Matter and General Policy Committee Chairs to do an environmental scan.

Both groups were asked to complete worksheet and the results will be shared with Council during the October meeting in Denver.

G. Approval of Minutes (All)

MOTION: to approve the August 10, 2022, minutes. *Seconded; motion passed.*

H. Council Liaisons for 2022-23 (Schmitt)

RECEIVED liaisons for 2022-23 and reviewed the roles and responsibilities of a liaison.

Meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m. Central.