

ABRIDGED MINUTES
from the November 17, 2022
APS Council Call

A. Call to Order (Walcott)

Meeting called to order 11:04 a.m. A quorum was present.

Council attending: Ron Walcott, Nik Grünwald, Karen Garrett, Amy Charkowski, Jim Bradeen, Lawrence Datnoff, Nicole Donofrio

Council regrets: Sydney Everhart, George Sundin, Nicole Gauthier, Courtney Gallup

Invited: Aaron Balch, TIAA

Staff: Amy Hope, Carol Ericson, Greg Grahek, Laura McGrady, Erik Uner, Linda Schmitt, Eric Fletty

B. Investment Update (Aaron)

RECEIVED Investment performance report.

At the time of this review, the APS investment portfolio was in compliance with the asset mix provided in the Investment Policy Statement.

As of October 31, 2022, investments are down 18.42% for the year since inception (2006) the portfolio is up to 4.77%.

C. Financial Statement (Laura)

RECEIVED September statement.

The net operating loss for the three-month period ended September 30, 2022, was (\$512). The net operating loss compares favorably to the budget by 177,616. The investment portfolio decreased by \$550,618, the majority of which is unrealized loss. This results in a total net loss for the period of (\$551,130).

Total revenues exceeded the budget by approximately \$75,000. Much of the positive variance relates to page and color revenue for *Phytopathology* and *MPMI*. Total operating expenses compared favorably to the budget. Much of the positive variance relates to staff payroll expenses.

The Business Center recap tab shows all business centers compared favorably to the budget at this time.

D. Council designated funds (Laura)

MOTION: to undesignate the Capital Improvement Reserve (\$389,712.15) and the Building Maintenance Reserve (\$285,501.12) and create a new Council designated capital reserve in the amount of \$250K. The remaining funds from the Capital Improvement Reserve and Building Maintenance Reserve will be added to the Council designated Operating Reserves. *Seconded; motion passed.*

E. Publication Consultant Feedback and Updates (Greg)

SHARED report and findings regarding APS journals from Phil Davis Consulting. Findings were reviewed with Phil Davis and the APS Publications Board in October. There are 12 actionable recommendations to improve our journals and their impact. Publications Board will make final decisions.

F. Strategic Planning Updates (Ron/Amy)

RECEIVED metrics and resources [document](#).

Next steps: will go back through proposals that were sent by committees and will select best beta projects and communicate back with committees. Will begin with July 1, 2024 fiscal year.

Staff will take first stab at beta projects and will coordinate with CALs to communicate back to the committees.

SHARED new Task Force Charges.

1. International Engagement Task Force

Purpose: to define the role of APS in the global plant pathology community.

- What is the unique role that APS can play on the global stage?
- How do we define our role and collaborate with other plant pathology groups to maximize our impact?

Participants:

- Those with unique experience and understanding of global plant pathology issues or relationships with other plant pathology groups.

Timeline:

- To begin in 2023 with a final recommendation to Council in early 2024

Next steps:

- Identify and invite appropriate participants
- Set the stage with a conference call in Q2 2023
- Hold a focus group meeting with participants at ICPP in August 2023
- Document recommendations in Q3 2023
- Present to Council in Q1 2024

2. Content Strategy Development Task Force Charge

Purpose:

- To develop a coherent content creation and delivery strategy and process for APS which defines the role of the various content delivery groups. The process will focus on identifying and developing curated content which furthers the goals of the APS strategic plan. It will emphasize the specific niche that each content delivery group can most appropriately elevate while minimizing competition among the groups.

Participants:

- Those with unique content creation and delivery experience through their participation in leadership roles on Annual Meeting Board, Publications Board, Education Center, Professional development groups, APS Press and Divisions, and those who understand the content needs of the unique membership segments.

Timeline:

- To begin in 2023 with a final recommendation to Council in late 2023.

Next steps:

- Identify and invite appropriate participants
- Set the stage with a conference call in Q2 2023
- Hold a focus group meeting with participants at Plant Health in August 2023
- Document recommendations in Q3 2023

3. Future of Data Task Force Charge

Purpose:

- Given the role that access to shared data can play in advancing the science of plant pathology, this task force will identify the guidelines APS will require from authors upon submission of their research to an APS journal. While the scope of this Task Force may include broader discussions about the types of data and meta data the community needs, possible storage and access procedures, and coordination of guidelines with external groups, the Task Force should produce a set of recommendations that supports APS as a thought leader and a place where collaborations are identified and supported.

Participants:

- Those with deep experience in current and pending trends associated with sharing data among researchers, the regulations and requirements anticipated by the US federal government and relevant international governing bodies to support open access and collaboration.

Timeline:

- To begin in 2023 with a final recommendation to Council in late 2023.

Next steps:

- Identify and invite appropriate participants
- Set the stage with a conference call in Q1 2023 to further define the scope.
- Hold a focus group meeting with participants at Plant Health in August 2023
- Document recommendations in Q3 2023

ACTION: Council to send feedback to Carol and Amy by Friday of next week so that Staff can move forward on sending out the task force charges to the groups.

G. Councilors Challenge Update (CALs)

- Received 9 submissions, with a few of them being dual submissions from committees.
- Selected for first place a joint submission received from the Diagnostics and Soil Microbiology Root Diseases Committees. Tied for 2nd place were committees Turfgrass Pathology and Virology.
- Committees are being notified by Sydney and a formal announcement will be included in the January *Phyto News* issue.

H. Approval of Minutes (All)

MOTION: to approve the October 5, 2022, minutes. *Seconded; motion carried.*

I. Friend of APS Award (All)

MOTION: to approve awarding the Friend of APS Award to Richard Dunkle. *Seconded; motion passed.*

ACTION: Ron will contact Richard to inform him of the good news and Linda will mail award plaque to Richard.

Meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m. Central.