

ABRIDGED MINUTES
from the December 15, 2022
APS Council Call

A. Call to Order (Walcott)

Meeting called to order 11:05 a.m. A quorum was present.

Council attending: Ron Walcott, Nik Grünwald, Amy Charkowski, Jim Bradeen, Lawrence Datnoff, Nicole Donofrio, George Sundin, Courtney Gallup

Council regrets: Karen Garrett, Sydney Everhart, Nicole Gauthier

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

B. Finances (Laura/Lawrence)

RECEIVED October statement.

The American Phytopathological Society's (APS) fiscal year began on July 1st. The October 31, 2022, financial summary represents four months of activity for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. APS's financial results are reported monthly to leadership.

The net operating loss for the four-month period ended October 31, 2022, was \$151,157. The net operating loss compares favorably to the budget by \$116,065. The investment portfolio decreased by \$247,348, the majority of which is unrealized loss. This results in a total net loss for the period of \$398,505.

Total revenues exceeded the budget by approximately \$17,500. 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.

NOTED Estimating a loss of around \$30K from Plant Health 2022.

NOTED the audit has been completed and statements issued and will have auditor do presentation in upcoming Council meeting in 2023.

C. Plant Health 2024 Meeting in Memphis (Amy H./Lawrence)

Continued discussion from October meeting around the health and safety of our members at Plant Health meetings.

SHARED updates of items proposed to do for Memphis.

ACTION: Staff will look at process for donations via Social Offset. Amount to be determined by Council. Matching member's contributions as well as having one from Council.

ACTION: staff will do research and bring answers to Council in January.

D. PDMR Task Force Update (Greg)

Initial Task Force meeting was held November 17, 2022.

- Connected Task Force Mission with the APS Strategic Plan
- Provided background information about PDMR
- Opened it up for discussion
 - Impact of author fee increases on submissions
 - Depositing raw data in a repository in addition to publishing summary data
 - Broadening Scope
- Noted most PDMR authors on the call, don't provide "raw" data to anyone. They give summary data. Need to survey PDMR authorship.
- Group will meet again in January with the goal is for the Pub Board Chair to present proposal to Council in March 2023. Noted this timeline is a bit optimistic as there are a lot of things to work out yet. George feels we may need more time than originally planned, but is hopeful for Spring.

E. PDMR Potential Funding (Nik/Amy)

- AgData Commons
 - Met with Ag Library on December 7, 2022.
 - Database that USDA National Agriculture Library (NAL) hosts that is part of ARS. USDA scientists will be required to submit all USDA data to repository going forward. Recently this requirement has been added to performance plan and will trigger grants to other funding associations.
 - As a result of the meeting, NAL will get back to us in January to let us know if we could host data sets from *PDMR*, and under which criteria.
- There are other vendors that can house data, but there are fees. Agmatix, in Israel has provided a quote to Nik.
- The Entomological Society provides similar reports for insects here:
<https://academic.oup.com/amt?login=true>
 - ESA authors pay: CC BY-NC license – \$273 or CC BY-NC license member rate – \$216
- Hope to have funding leads in March to share with Council.

F. Diagnostic Assay Validation Network (DAVN) Meeting Update (Amy H./Greg/Erik)

- Meeting was held November 14-15.
- APS is part of a grant of a working group developing diagnostic assays called DAVN. Carrie Harmon and Kitty Cardwell are part of it. Hosting methods on APS website, and would use *PhytoFrontiers* as resource journal, staff is working with them on understanding the process of method development and validation. Scientific Societies does this with two other groups at headquarters.
- Staff is continuing to work with three subgroups and will keep tabs and provide updates to Council. This could be a new revenue line for APS and there is a need in the community.
- Q1 *PhytoFrontiers* will be a focus issue on diagnostics protocols. DAVN will meet with Publications in January.
- Concern about sustainability and that this group might be too exclusive. Ron suggested we have a steering group that runs this group running forward.

ACTION: Nik to have discussions with Amy H. and Carrie Harmon first and offer up an assistance on a creating a broader steering group. If there are other members to pull in let Amy know. Should be robust group of stakeholders that serves the needs of the people we wish to target.

G. Diversity in Award Nominations

- Awards & Honors Committee connected with CDEI committee
 - Letter to the Editor on Diversity in APS Award Nominations (*Phyto News* Nov 2022)
- Committee only reviews nominations received from the membership.
 - The committee is committed to DEI and keeps it in mind in all award deliberations.
- Race & ethnicity is not collected on nominations, but gender is collected via APS membership application if person submits this information.
- Since 2010, On average 24% of Fellow nominees were women and 25% of Fellow awardees were women. On average 29% of Named & Excellence Award nominees were women and 32% of Named & Excellence awardees were women.

2023 Award Nominations:

- Received a total of 57 award nominations
- Received 30 Fellow nominations (77% being new nominations)
 - 23% of Fellow nominees are women scientists
- Received 27 nominations (non-Fellow)
 - 30% of non-Fellow nominations are women scientists
- Awards & Honors Committee meets late January to select 2023 awardees

H. Approval of Minutes (All)

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.