

# ABRIDGED MINUTES

## from the February 17, 2022

### APS Council Virtual Meeting

#### **A. Call to Order (Charkowski)**

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

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

**Council apologies:** Lawrence Datnoff, Ashok Chanda

**Staff:** Amy Hope, Carol Ericson, Greg Grahek, Kurt Rood, Linda Schmitt, Erik Uner, Megan Boatman

**Invited:** Gary Bergstrom

#### **B. Nominations Committee (Bergstrom)**

Provided update on nomination process and status of candidates for 2022 election. Gary plans on drafting an article on the nomination process for future *Phyto News*.

**SHARED** candidates for Vice President and Councilors-at-Large (one will be elected for each position).

**NOTED** the committee will hold another call to narrow down to two VP candidates and will share final slate with Council once finalized.

#### **C. Financial Health (Rood)**

**SHARED** January 31, 2022 financials.

**NOTED** FAC will meet virtually on April 4 and 8 and will present FY23 budget and recommendations to Council for approval during the April 21 meeting.

#### REVENUES:

- YTD revenues of \$3,050,222 which is better than budget by \$202,112
- Journals are favorable to budget by \$312K due to page and color charges within Phytopathology and Plant Disease
- Grow-PHE unfavorable by (\$47K) due to outreach funded webcasts and production webcasts
- Annual Meeting income is unfavorable to budget by (\$75K) due to lower registration however event profit was favorable to budget (due to lower spend in audio visual and payroll)
- APS Press unfavorable by (\$79K)

#### EXPENSES:

- YTD expenses of \$2,636,059 which is better (lower) than budget by \$522,091
- All business centers have expenses that are favorable or close to budget
- Staff has tightly managed expenses in personnel, publications, and administration

#### PROFIT & LOSS:

- YTD operating profit of \$414,163 which is better than plan by \$724,303
- PPP (Payroll Protection Program) Round 2 loan forgiveness of \$403,118

- All business centers are showing net profit favorable to budget except for Grow-PHE and PhytoFrontiers which are showing a slight miss

#### **D. Project Dashboard (Ericson)**

Ed Center volunteers for tagging have been trained and are working on getting more than 1000 pages tagged!

Much going on with Plant Health 2022, but a key new item is the way Virtual EPosters. People can submit to only virtual ePosters without having to attend the meeting or pay a reg fee. They will be able to interact with virtual poster attendees, and other virtual poster presenters.

Membership: anti-racism page has been published, lapsed member calling is complete, and we'll have a report of results available in 30 days.

Careers 101 is refreshing Interviewing 101 as an offering for Early career and student members.

#### **E. Plantopia Assessment (Gleason)**

What do we do? Mark provided a recap. Originally developed as a component of IYPH and produced 20 episodes in 2020 and were launched and published. Last year we budgeted for 6 episodes but were never released. Since December of 2020, no output of Plantopia.

**RECOMMEND** Plantopia be formally run by a small group versus one person. What about a subcommittee that would be charge of facilitating the process and reports back to Ed Center? Determining value is crucial and we can track metrics. Podcases are also an opportunity to include younger members. Podcasts are also an opportunity for sponsorships.

Est. \$1,000-\$1,200 cost per episode. Current budget has funding for it.

**SHARED** some numbers on Plantopia podcasts, almost 19k total downloads, 3 episodes with more than 1.3k downloads, all episodes had at least 600 downloads. These numbers are across all platforms (Spotify, apple podcasts).

**ACTION:** Mark to contact Brantlee Spakes Richter (EIC of Ed Center) to form a Plantopia subcommittee to work with him.

#### **E. Code of Conduct and Member misconduct process documents (Charkowski)**

**RECEIVED** revised code of conduct and member misconduct and process documents. Files are posted to the Council collab site.

**NOTED** the code of conduct is listed in the APS Constitution, so any amendments will need membership approval. Further conversation is needed about removing the Code of Conduct verbiage from the Constitution and having it housed separately as a policy document.

**MOTION:** to approve the revised Code of Conduct as received. *Seconded; motion passed.*

**ACTION:** Jim and Staff will work on Code of Conduct communication piece to go along with the Constitution vote to membership.

**MOTION:** to approve the member misconduct response procedures as received. *Seconded; motion passed.*

**NOTED** the member misconduct response document is for internal use and not made public.

#### **F. Boards and Committees meetings (Charkowski)**

Amy drafted a letter and is seeking input from Council with recommendations that boards and committee continue to meet virtually unless mission critical.

**ACTION:** Linda to route draft letter to Council for comment and include document approval on next month's agenda.

#### **G. Awards & Honors (Schmitt)**

**RECEIVED** report from the Awards and Honors Committee (AHC) with their recommendations for the 2022 awards and their committee's Vice Chair recommendation of Gary Munkvold.

**MOTION:** Approve the 2022 award recommendations from the Awards & Honors Committee and the appointment of Gary Munkvold as Vice Chair (term 2022-23)/Chair (term 2023-24) to the Awards & Honors Committee. *Seconded; motion passed.*

**ACTION:** Amy to contact each of the APS awardees congratulating them and to notify Linda and George Sundin once completed.

#### **H. APS Focus Group Meeting recap (Ericson)**

Industry group met in-person with consultant Jim Meffert and staff in California last month. The other task forces met virtually.

RECAP from focus group meetings:

Industry

- Needs: Common research agenda, data tools and methods, workforce with soft skills, trust in science

Graduate/Undergraduate

- Volatile environment, changing expectations, online implications re: course size and accessibility; shared courses, workforce preparation, trust in education

Data and Technology

- Accessibility, usability, privacy, equity; standardization, collaboration, encourage submission to journals

Next steps: Jim Meffert will provide summary to Council, and we'll continue to prioritize and implement after our April meeting.

#### **I. Publications (Grunwald, Subbarao, Grahek)**

##### **1. PDMR Task Force**

Publication that we put out that is behind a pay wall. Pubs come out twice a year, reports encompassing efficacy of conventional fungicides, nematicides, biological control substances, varieties, and cultural techniques used for disease management.

- Task Force objectives to include:
  - Modernize the PDMR to be open access, establish APC
  - Move handling to Manuscript Central (no peer-review)
  - Publish year-round
  - Establish open access data guidelines
- Require innovation funds in FY23 and possibly FY24
- First meeting in June 2022

**SHARED** list of suggested task force members.

Discussion followed on estimated funds needed. (est. mid five figures?) Work to be done would include such things as moving to Manuscript Central, Ayton, and technical work – initially mostly staff time hours. We will need to receive input and business plan from the task force to include funding in FY23 budget.

**MOTION:** To establish a taskforce to modernize *PDMR* with the objective of making it a regular, open access journal published throughout the year, and to provide a business proposal to Council. *Secoded; motion passed.*

## **2. Plant Disease Editorial Board Manual of Operation Revisions**

**RECEIVED** track change document with changes that is posted to the APS Council collab site.

**MOTION:** to approve the recommended [Plant Disease Manual of Operations](#) changes as received. *Secoded; motion passed.*

## **J. Administrative (All)**

**MOTION:** to approve the January 20, 2022, minutes. *Secoded; motion passed.*

**TABLED** DALN Grant Update. Amy H. will provide an update next month.

*Meeting adjourned at 12:27 p.m. Central.*