

ABRIDGED MINUTES
from the February 16, 2023
APS Council Call

A. Call to Order (Ron)

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

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

Council Absent: Nicole Gauthier

Staff: Amy Hope, Greg Grahek, Laura McGrady, Linda Schmitt, Eric Fletty, Erik Uner, Dominika Kuzlak-Swanson, Megan Boatman

Invited: Lindsey du Toit, Jim Meffert

B. Nominations Committee Report (Lindsey)

RECEIVED 2023 candidate statements for Vice President and Councilors-at-Large (CALs).

- **Vice President Candidates:** Carolee Bull (Penn State Univ) and Courtney Gallup (Corteva Agriscience)
- **CALs:** James Hempfling (Envu) and Jerry Weiland (USDA ARS)

CONSENSUS from Council to accept the slate of officers as presented.

NOTED that Lindsey will follow-up with candidates to obtain their materials for the election article in *Phyto News* and for the election ballot that will be sent to eligible voting APS members in May.

SHARED candidates for Treasurer-elect and Internal Communications Officer (ICO).

These were reviewed by the Nominations Committee, but it is up to Council to make the final decision and appointments for these two positions.

ACTION: Council to review the TE and ICO applications that are posted in the Feb. folder on the [Council Collaborative Site](#) and be ready to finalize the appointments during the March Council call.

C. Finances (Laura/Lawrence)

RECEIVED December statement.

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

The net operating loss for the six-month period ended December 31, 2022, was \$21,902. The net operating loss compares favorably to the budget by \$262,205. The investment portfolio decreased by \$66,622, the majority of which is unrealized. This results in a total net loss for the period of \$88,524.

Total revenues fell short of the budget by approximately \$156,280. Much of the variance relates to annual meeting registration revenue. Total operating expenses compared favorably to the budget (Line 30). Much of the positive variance relates to staff payroll expenses and expense reductions related to the annual meeting.

Although the Business Center recap tab shows most business centers compared favorably to the budget at this time, *Phytobiomes*, annual meeting and APS PRESS do not currently compare favorably to the budget.

D. APS Volunteer Structure (Jim M.)

SHARED current and proposed APS volunteer structure. A copy of the slides are posted to the February 16 meeting folder on the Council Collaborative Site.

Role of committees in voluntary organizations:

- Thought Force – a group with unique knowledge, experience, and/or perspective brought together to make recommendations on strategic directions or new policies, products, or services.
- Work Force – a group with unique knowledge, experience, and/or perspective brought together to deliver a specific product or service that is aligned with the strategic goals of the organization.

Proposed volunteer structure categories and descriptions:

- **External Impact:** Volunteer groups who have a unique focus on audiences outside of APS.
 - Outreach
 - Public Policy
 - Private Sector Relations
- **Internal Impact:** Volunteer groups who have a unique focus non APS members by delivering content or are essential to the structure of APS
 - Publications
 - Nominations
 - Foundation
 - Awards/Honors
 - Finance
 - *Phytopathology News*
 - Leadership
- **Individual/Career Pathways:** Volunteer groups who have a unique focus on supporting the career pathway of plant scientists.
 - Early Career
 - Graduate Student
 - Family Caregiving
 - DEI
 - Careers 101 – **PROPOSE** changing this to Professional Development so it broadens it to the full membership.
 - Teaching
 - AULF
 - Regulatory
 - Industry
- **Subject Matter Expertise:** Volunteer groups with unique expertise in a specific subject area of interest to groups of members.
 - [Bacteriology](#)
 - [Bioengineering Applications](#)

- [Biological Control](#)
- [Chemical Control](#)
- [Crop Loss Assessment and Risk Evaluation \(CLARE\)](#)
- [Diagnostics](#)
- [Diseases of Ornamental Plants](#)
- [Emerging Diseases and Pathogens](#)
- [Epidemiology](#)
- [Evolutionary Genetics and Genomics](#)
- [Forest Pathology](#)
- [Host Resistance](#)
- [Integrated Plant Disease Management](#)
- [Molecular and Cellular Phytopathology](#)
- [Mycology](#)
- [Mycotoxicology](#)
- [Nematology](#)
- [Pathogen Resistance](#)
- [Phyllosphere Microbiology](#)
- [Plant Pathogen and Disease Detection](#)
- [Postharvest Pathology](#)
- [Seed Pathology](#)
- [Soil Microbiology and Root Diseases](#)
- [Tropical Plant Pathology](#)
- [Turfgrass Pathology](#)
- [Vector-Pathogen Complexes](#)
- [Virology](#)

NOTED Collections and Germplasms to move into this area. Currently is under General Policy.

- **Task Forces:** Volunteer groups who have been assembled for a specified period and specific purpose.
 - **PDMR Task Force**— Group is working on future role and tested and working on future of PDMR and will have a survey sent out soon. Will provide their recommendations to Council when ready.
 - **International Engagement Task Force** (longer term strategic discussion)
 - Purpose: to define the unique role of APS in the global plant pathology community.
 - Participants: Those with unique experience through their 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
 - **Content Strategy Development Task Force**

- Potomac
- Southern

NOTED reinforcing this new volunteer structure within the Leadership Training sessions. Staff will be drafting a series of communications (introductory letter, followed by a live webinar with Ron and Jim M. to allow time for Q&A, and then a recap at the annual meeting).

NOTED new charges and purpose for each group will need to be created as well as updating the Bylaws and Manual of Operations.

Also need to review and decide how we want these groups to report back to Council.

E. Awards & Honors Committee (report from Laurence Madden, Chair)

RECEIVED report from Awards & Honors Committee (AHC) with recommendations for 2023 awardees.

1. Fellow	Kira Bowen, Auburn University
2. Fellow	Gary Chastagner, Washington State University
3. Fellow	Marc Cubeta, North Carolina State University
4. Fellow	Maria Finckh, University of Kassel, Germany
5. Fellow	John Hartung, USDA ARS
6. Fellow	Anthony Keinath, Clemson University
7. Fellow	Alison Robertson, Iowa State University
8. Fellow	Nian Wang, University of Florida
9. Fellow	Yinong Yang, Penn State University
10. Excellence in Teaching	JP Dundore-Arias, California State University, Monterey Bay
11. Excellence in Extension	Jay Pscheidt, Oregon State University
12. Lee M. Hutchins	Clive Bock, USDA ARS
13. Ruth Allen Award	Anna Whitfield, North Carolina State University
14. Syngenta Award	Lina Quesada, North Carolina State University
15. William Boright Hewitt and Maybelle Ellen Ball Hewitt Award	Edel Pérez-López, Université Laval, Canada

Upon recommendation from the AHC, the committee asks for Council to approve **Seogchan Kang** (Penn State University) for the Vice Chair/Chair appointment (Vice Chair August 2023-24; Chair August 2024-2025).

NOTED the committee is working on appointing one more member (previous Fellow) for a 3-year term (2023-2026).

MOTION: to approve the recommended 2023 APS awardees as received from the AHC and to approve Seogchan Kang as the AHC Vice Chair/Chair appointment. *Seconded; motion passed.*

ACTION: Linda to forward awardee contact information to Ron who will contact the awardees to congratulate them.

Following the president notifications, the AHC will collect materials for the award announcement and ceremony.

F. Approval of Minutes (All)

MOTION: to approve the January 19, 2023, minutes. *Seconded; motion passed.*

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