

ABRIDGED MINUTES
from the March 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, Amy Charkowski, Lawrence Datnoff, Jim Bradeen, Courtney Gallup, George Sundin

Council Regrets: Karen Garrett, Sydney Everhart, Nicole Donofrio Nik Grünwald, Nicole Gauthier

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

B. Financials (Laura/Lawrence)

RECEIVED January financials.

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

The net operating loss for the seven-month period ended January 31, 2023, was \$104,499. The net operating loss is larger than budgeted by \$59,940. The investment portfolio increased by \$473,110, the majority of which is unrealized. This results in a total net gain for the period of \$368,622.

Total revenues fell short of the budget by approximately \$328,563. Much of the variance relates to annual meeting registration revenue, publication author charges and APS Press sales. We anticipate author charges to perform closer to budget as we continue to work through a billing back log. Total operating expenses compared favorably to the budget. Much of the positive variance relates to staff payroll expenses and expense reductions in the annual meeting, Member Services and APS Press.

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

C. Surveys (Carol/Greg)

NOTED that the 2019 full-member survey had a response rate of 23%, which is quite good.

***Phytopathology* Research Areas:**

- In the field now to targeted group

PDMR Survey

- Under review now
- Targeting to send sometime after April 5 to a select audience

Full Member Survey

- Going out March 22 – April 5 to full membership

- Have capability to cross reference against member type that will provide us direction to those needs that are specific to committees aiding us in supporting our strategic plan.

Family and Care Giver Support Survey

- April 6-20 to full membership
- Responses will aid them with their activities at this year's meeting in Denver.

Global Plant Pathology Network Survey

- April 21-May 5 to full membership
- Could possibly supplement with a focus group if we start to see survey fatigue.

C. Plant Health 2023 (Megan/Tressa)

1. Program Updates:

- Special Sessions:
 - Variety of topics, highlights include:
 - Lightning Updates on Emerging and Re-Emerging Diseases
 - Emerging Diseases of Hemp
 - Characterization of Plant Colonizing Yeasts and Their Impact on Plant Health
 - 3 Professional Development/Outreach – diverse plant pathology community, barriers to STEM, bridging academia and Indigenous communities.
- Plant Diagnostic Bowl back for second year!
- Abstract Submission Deadline: March 30, 2023.
 - To date at 70 submissions and note the bulk of submissions come in closer to the deadline.
- Closing Keynote Speaker
 - [Amanda Black](#), Lincoln University, New Zealand
 - Soil scientist. She investigates disease resistant traits in kauri forests and research is involves incorporating the kauri forests of Aotearoa which are some of the most ancient and unique in the world, with deep cultural connection to the Māori people.
- **NOTED** that CSU has just hired an Assistant VP for Indigenous and Native Relations. Happy to make introductions if there is some role for her in the “bridging academia and Indigenous communities” session??
 - **ACTION:** Jim to connect with Ron about using this in the program.

2. Meeting Updates

Pre-meeting events:

- 6 workshops
 - Capturing the wind: a guided session on low-cost airborne inoculum sampler construction and use
 - Utilizing Team-based Learning principles to develop and integrate authentic plant disease case studies into the classroom.
 - Agricultural Microbiomes Thinkathon: A Community-based Interactive Workshop
 - Learning the Basic Metagenomics Tools for Disease Diagnostics and Microbiome Analysis

- Advocacy Training for All 2: Advanced public policy involvement for scientists across the spectrum
- #SciComm Hype your work in your circle of influence
- APS Behavioral Based Interview Process, Sponsored by Bayer
- 4 field trips
 - Local Foods, Local Flavors: An Urban Feast for the Brain and the Body!
 - Diseases, Pests, and Fire, Oh My, Forest Health Issues in Alpine Forests of the Southern Rockies
 - Exploring the Incredible Impact of Plant and Microbe Collections at the USDA!
 - 2023 Ornamental Field Trip
- 1 volunteer outing on Saturday – still working on this

“Leaving Colorado Better than We Found It”

- Social Offset will be vetting associations for us and we will have this information available on our meeting website when registration opens.
- Following topics were selected based upon APS Value Statement:
 - sustainability/climate change
 - LGBTQ+
 - Hunger Relief
 - Social Offset

Accessibility

- More accommodation options available since Covid protocols are not as strict.
- Family & Caregivers
 - Reopening Sprouts Corner
 - Guest and children will be allowed to be in The Hub.
 - Guests may purchase tickets for Sunday welcoming and Tuesday closing receptions.

D. ICO and Treasurer-Elect Appointments (All)

RECEIVED candidate materials and noted they are also posted to Collab site.

DISCUSSION followed on candidates. Jim noted we should explore whether the Plantopia podcast role should officially be aligned with ICO and consensus was that this not be an ICO duty assignment as you need to find a person that has the right skill set to be the podcast host.

APPROVED by majority vote to appoint Sally Mallowa as ICO (term August 2023-August 2026) and Bonnie Ownley as Treasurer Elect (one year term beginning in August 2023 and moving up to Treasurer for a three-year beginning August 2024).

ACTION: Linda will inform the Nominations Committee of Council’s decision.

E. Leadership Institute Manual of Operation Approval (All)

RECEIVED proposed changes to Leadership Institute (LI) Manual of Operations (MoO).

- Modifications include updated terms for Chair, Vice Chair, and Past Chair and adding duties for past chair.
- Changes reflect how the Leadership Institute is currently working.

MOTION: to approve the Leadership Institute MoO changes as proposed. *Seconded; motion passed.*

ACTION: Linda to update LI MoO online and inform LI members.

F. Approval of Minutes (All)

MOTION: to approve the February 16, 2023, minutes. *Seconded; motion passed.*

Meeting adjourned at 11:38 a.m. CDT.