

ABRIDGED MINUTES
from the May 18, 2023
APS Council Call

A. Call to Order (Ron)

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

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

Incoming Council (non-voting): Sally Mallowa

Council Regrets: Courtney Gallup

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

B. Financials (Laura/Lawrence)

RECEIVED March statement.

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

The net operating gain for the nine-month period ended March 31, 2023, was \$20,579. The investment portfolio increased by \$440,090. This results in a total net gain for the period of 460,669.

Total revenues fell short of the budget by approximately \$207,800. Much of the variance relates to annual meeting registration revenue, publication author charges and APS PRES 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.

The Business Center recap tab shows Member Services, Journals, *PhytoFrontiers*, *PHP/PDMR* and APS PRESS compared favorably to the budget. General & admin, Education, *Phytobiomes*, *Grow-PHE* and Annual Meeting do not currently compare favorably to the budget.

C. Strategic Initiatives (Amy H./Amy C.)

- **Content Strategy Task Force invites: (Amy H.)**
 - Chair is Darin Eastburn
 - Looking for 6 Task Force members
 - Anna Testen, Carolyn Young, and Krishna Subbarao have accepted. Additional people being invited.
 - Will kick off in late June with a couple of meetings with Jim Meffert to understand task at hand and will meet in person in Denver and have report end of calendar year 2023.
- **AULF Working Group members: (Amy C.)**
 - Expanding beyond AULF members.
 - Still working on invites

D. *Phytobiomes* Associate Editor-in-Chief Approval (George)

The Publications Board is recommending Étienne Yergeau as the Associate EIC of *Phytobiomes*. (Assoc. EIC term through December 2024 and moving up to Editor-in-Chief beginning January 2025 for a 3-year term.

MOTION: to approve the Publications Board recommendation of appointing Étienne Yergeau as the Associate EIC of *Phytobiomes* through January 2024 and moving into the Editor-in-Chief role for a 3-year term beginning January 2025. *Seconded; motion passed.*

E. Plant Health 2023 (Megan)

- Registration numbers at 322 to date
- Poster notifications went out last week and oral technical went up this morning.
- June 15 early reg deadline
- 41% of room block filled so far
- Social Offset contributions are zero so far and only have one person signed up for the volunteer event. Encouraged Council to help spread the word.
- Sponsorships on track with budget and have sold all 18 booths
- Dan Wildcat will do book signing
- POD talk speakers confirmed include Christine Smart, Krishna Subbarao, and Gilberto Olaya
- Late breaking abstract submission deadline is June 15
- Idea Café just been reviewed by AMB. 13 submissions and 2 were rejected. Topics were widespread and interesting. Working with marketing that we communicate what an idea café is (topic for 10 people to discuss) Will take place during a dedicated discussion time and not during poster sessions. Curated networking.

F. Approval of Minutes (All)

MOTION: to approve the April 19-20, 2023, minutes. *Seconded; motion passed.*

G. Foundation and Nominations member appointments (Linda)

Foundation Board: Per [MoO](#), Council appoints a member to the [Foundation Board](#) for a 3-year term beginning August 2023.

Recommended Pamela Roberts and Loren Giesler as possible member appointments. Noted that the Foundation Board selects their chair-elect position from either current or past board members.

ACTION: Council to forward Foundation board member suggestions to Linda and David Gadoury.

Also noted that there are several [member positions](#) that rotate off come August 2023 on the [Nominations Committee](#).

ACTION: Council to forward any committee member suggestions to Nominations Chair, Lindsey du Toit and Linda.

H. Plantopia Host (Jim)

Matt Kasson will be the new Plantopia host.

I. Survey Updates (Eric)

APS Membership Survey

- Launch date: 4/12, Close Date: 4/26
- Audience Size: 3447 APS members
- Response Size: 827
- Response rate: 24% - Very good response rate.
- NOTED will have READEX rep be on future Council call to discuss survey results in depth.

GPPN Survey (Global Plant Pathology OIP Survey)

- Launch date: 5/5, Close Date: 5/19
- Audience Size: 2911
- Response Size: 223 responses to date (5/17)
- Response Rate: 7.7% to date (5/17)

Caregiver Support Survey

- Launch date: 4/28, Close Date: 5/12
- Audience Size: 2911
- Response Size: 220
- Response Rate: 7.5%

Meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m. CDT.