

ABRIDGED MINUTES
from the June 15, 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, Jim Bradeen, Nicole Gauthier

Council Regrets: Nicole Donofrio, Courtney Gallup, George Sundin, Lawrence Datnoff, Sydney Everhart,

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

Invited: Emily Fread (ReadEx)

B. Membership Survey Summary (Emily)

RECEIVED survey summary and report was also posted to Council collaborative site.

- Survey closed on April 26 with 827 total responses – 24% which is a very good response rate
- Among the 735 core member surveys tabulated, 70% were regular members, 18% early career (post-doc), 12% students, and less than 1% CAPS members.
- More than 64% of core members come from the U.S. and 2% from Canada and 33% from other countries.
- Over a 1/3 of members are volunteering in APS.
- On page 22 of the summary report, it lists the overall findings: implications and recommendations.
 - 91% agree APS is an organization they can trust
 - 89% are likely to renew their membership when it next comes due
 - 86% are likely to recommend APS membership to others.
 - As was the case in prior studies, the 2023 results suggest that APS should generally keep doing what it has been doing, making only minor adjustments at the margins of what it offers. See summary report for additional recommendations.
- **NOTED** that a final report will be shared with Council.

C. Plant Health 2023 Updates (Megan/Tressa)

- Monday Keynote is Corinne Valdivia, University of Missouri.
- Idea Cafés and Trending Topics Hour *New*
- Registration counts to date is 988 registrants with 33% being first timers.
 - The presenter registration deadline is today - there are still 100 presenters not yet registered and of those 21 are from USDA.
- At 76% of filling required our room block requirement
- Currently slotting session/meeting rooms
- Volunteer opportunity - Leave Denver Better than We Found It, has 6 ppl signed up for so far to volunteer. Amy C. will be attending.
- Field trip registrations are doing okay.

D. Finances (Laura/Lawrence)

RECEIVED April statement.

The American Phytopathological Society's (APS) fiscal year began on July 1st. The April 2023 financial summary represents ten 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 ten-month period ended April 30, 2023, was \$104,245. The investment portfolio increased by \$534,639. This results in a total net gain for the period of \$638,884.

Total revenues fell short of the budget by approximately \$193,300. Much of the variance relates to annual meeting registration revenues and APS Press sales. 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, *Phytobiomes*, *PhytoFrontiers*, and PHP/PDMR compared favorably to the budget. General & admin, Education, Grow-PHE, Annual Meeting and APS Press do not currently compare favorably to the budget.

Key metrics from the statement of financial position on April 30, 2023, are as follows:

- Total Assets - \$13,083,031
- Total Liabilities/Deferred Revenue - \$2,222,965
- Net Assets - \$10,860,066

E. OIP Leadership Appointments (Carol)

Background: Per the [Manual of Operations](#), APS Council appoints the leadership (**Director and Vice Director**) to [OIP](#). In 2022, when Sue Cohen's Director term ended, a new Director was not appointed due to the Strategic Planning and Volunteer restructuring work taking place. In the interim, OIP had Sue Cohen continued as Immediate Past Director for a year and Ron French's Vice Director term was extended through August 2023.

OIP Ask from Council:

Recently, OIP has reached out to Ron Walcott regarding Council's appointments for 2023-26 for OIP's Director and Vice Director positions. OIP is recommending **Ron French as Director** for a 3-year term (August 2023-26) and **Carla Garzon as Vice Director** for a 3-year term (August 2023-26). OIP would like to have these appointments confirmed prior to the APS Committee Connections online meetings that take place 2 weeks before Plant Health 2023.

MOTION: to approve recommended OIP leadership appointments for 2023-26 with Ron French as Director and Carla Garzon as Vice Director. *Seconded; motion passed.*

F. Officer Election Results (Linda)

- The election ballot was sent on May 11, 2023, to eligible voting APS members and closed on June 5, 2023.
- Carolle Bull was elected as Vice President for 2023-24 and Jerry Weiland as Councilor at Large for 2023-26. Their official terms will begin at the close of Plant Health 2023.
- Council orientation will take place virtually in September.

ACTION: Linda will invite the newly elected Council members to the July Council call and then the new Council call schedule for 2023-24 will be sent after Plant Health 2023.

G. Approval of minutes (All)

MOTION: to approve the May 18, 2023, minutes. *Seconded; motion carried.*

Meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m. CDT. Next call is July 20, 2023.