

**ABRIDGED MINUTES**  
**from the September 28, 2023**  
**APS Council Call**

**A. Call to Order (Nik)**

Meeting called to order 11:01 a.m. CDT. A quorum was present.

**Council attending:** Nik Grünwald (President), Carolee Bull (Vice President), Ron Walcott (Past President), Nicole Donofrio (CAL), Jerry Weiland (CAL), George Sundin (Pubs Councilor), Nicole Gauthier (Division Councilor), Bonnie Ownley (Treasurer-elect)

**Council Regrets:** Lawrence Datnoff (Treasurer), Sally Mallowa (ICO), Karen Garrett (President-elect), Sydney Everhart (Sr. CAL)

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

**B. Council Orientation (Amy/Carol)**

Slides from today's orientation are available on the Council Collaborative site, as well as the Council's liaisons for 2023-24 and duties of liaison.

**NOTED** the Conflict of Interest and Whistleblower forms that Council members need to sign each year for the auditors will be sent via DocuSign.

**C. Strategic Planning (Amy/Carol/Greg/Erik)**

- **ICPP 20230 Meeting Recap:**
  - APS had a booth at ICPP. The meeting had about 2500 attendees and staff spoke to a lot of members and prospects at the meeting.
  - During the meeting an issue was brought to the Public Policy Board (PPB), and they were able to turn it around quickly while there and already have an action plan in place.
  - International Focus Group met but didn't have a great output from the meeting so we will cycle back and regroup.
  - Will have more of a digital focus when we participate in international meetings since shipping books international is expensive.
- **Content Delivery Task Force:**
  - Darin Eastburn is chair and group met in Denver and had good discussion and discussed current content channels and the need to gather and disseminate information.
  - Working on scheduling their next call in October with plans to provide Council with an update at a future meeting.
- **Curriculum Task Force:**
  - Amy Charkowski is chair, task force also met in Denver and had good participation.
  - Task force members represent dept heads and those who teach at different levels with a range of sizes in colleges/universities.
  - Their long-term goals include how to ensure our workforce comes out of university training with correct skill sets and working on what a standard curriculum should look like. They are starting with the undergrad curriculum first and are currently collecting syllabi from plant pathology depts and identifying gaps.

**D. Finance (Laura/Bonnie)**

**RECEIVED** pre-audit June statement.

The American Phytopathological Society's (APS) current fiscal year began on July 1, 2022. Thus, the June 2023 financial summary represents the complete fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. These financial results are prior to the independent audit and may change. No material changes are expected.

The net operating loss on the financial snapshot for the fiscal year is \$155,369, which is \$49,301 worse than the budget. The investment portfolio performance resulted in a \$695,965 gain. This results in a total net gain of \$540,596 on June 30, 2023.

Total revenues fell short of the budget by \$220,531. 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, APS PRESS, and Publications.

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

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

- Total Assets - \$13,577,240
- Total Liabilities/Deferred Revenue - \$2,815,509
- Net Assets - \$10,761,731

**RECEIVED** proposed 2024 membership dues increase. **RECOMMENDING** a 4% increase in dues.

**MOTION:** to approve the proposed 4% increase to membership dues for 2024, with the new rate going into effect on January 1, 2024. *Seconded; motion passed.*

#### **E. Council's Foundation Board member appointment (All)**

**RECEIVED** a nomination from Fulya Baysal-Gurel who is interested in joining the Foundation Board.

**NOTED** that the Foundation Board supports the nomination. Per the [Manual of Operations](#) four of the seven Foundation board members are selected/approved by Council, this appointment being one of them for a 3-year term.

**MOTION:** to approve the appointment of Fulya Baysal-Gurel to the Foundation Board as a member for a 3-year term starting now through August 2026. *Seconded; motion passed.*

**ACTION:** Linda to notify Foundation Board and invite Fulya to their board calls.

#### **F. Plantopia Podcast Chair appointment (All)**

Jim Bradeen is interested in serving as chair of the Plantopia Podcast working group to replace Mark Gleason. Jim was the former podcast host. Noted that Matt Kasson is the new Plantopia podcast host.

**MOTION:** to approve appointing Jim Bradeen as Plantopia Podcast Chair. *Seconded; motion passed.*

*Call adjourned at 12:00 p.m. CDT.*