

APS Exec/Fac Conference Call
April 12, 2006 – 9:00 AM

Present: John A.; Erik S.; Ray M.; Rose G.; Tom E.; Danise B.; Wayne W.; Allison T.; Barb M.; Steve N.;
Absent: Jan L.; Randy R.; Jim M.; Marci S.

1. **Approval of Minutes:** (Mar. 8, 2006 Exec/Fac) approved with correction that Wayne W. was absent from the call.
2. **Centennial Issues:** Ray M. reported that overall progress is being made and activity is high through e-mail correspondence and planning for a June 11/12 meeting at Headquarters. Participation by the key participants is confirmed. The goal is to lay groundwork for the three primary components of the centennial meeting: central program; centennial celebration; and the plenary or special sessions. The format for the meeting may be different from normal meetings and the format needs to be determined (will there be oral papers, how many special sessions, etc.). The funding/budget for the meeting will also be discussed as well as continuation of the fund raising efforts. The goal will be to come away from this meeting with the overall format and a plan for cooperation and communication.
3. **Quebec City Leadership Forum and Council Topics:** John A. reported that we are proceeding with plans to dedicate the entire Friday meeting for a workshop to train committee and board chairs on leadership issues and tools that will better enable them to perform their responsibilities as APS leaders. Staff will identify expert facilitators and help create the intensive day long program.

John A. is looking for input on topics for the Saturday Council meeting. There will be a report from the Ad Hoc Committees on the Future of Plant Pathology and Culture Collections. It was suggested that the Electronic Communications Committee also be asked to report. It was also suggested that the new Educational Center Editor-in-Chief, Anton Baudoin, also be invited. Danise B. requested time on the agenda for reviewing changes to the APS Strategic Plan. **ACTION:** everyone should send additional ideas to John A.

4. **Revising/updating Strategic Plan:** Danise B. reported that very few have responded to repeated requests for input on the plan. **ACTION:** everyone is requested to spend some time studying the plan and identifying gaps. Prior work will be done to prepare specific sections for a face-to-face discussion by Council in Quebec.
5. **Finances:** Erik S. reported that through eight months of the fiscal year all is looking very good. Total revenue is down from budget, but better than the prior year. The Austin Meeting and book sales are highlights. PMN continues to do better through adding partners. The bottom line is a positive surplus year to date. There still has been no purchase of Canadian dollars for Quebec expenses. The advice from the experts are to continue to monitor. It may turn out that there is no benefit to hedging the currency depending on fluctuations.
6. **Other Business:** the mileage reimbursement for car travel has fluctuated over the last few months. **Action:** staff to make sure APS is using the current IRS approved rate. Have the travel restrictions changed for traveling to Canada? The requirement that travelers must have a passport when traveling from the US has actually been delayed to take effect later this year, but travelers are better off if they carry one. Attendees should be reminded to check their own specific requirements well in advance of the meeting, especially those with citizenship from countries other than Canada and the US. **Action:** staff to put reminder in electronic message to members/attendees soon and make sure it is highlighted as one of the first items in the message. At this point the conference call scheduled for April 26th will not be needed. **Action:** cancel conference call.