

**Minutes of the midyear meeting of the APS Executive Committee  
February 23, 2001**

Present: S. Slack, D. Jardine, N. VanAlfen, J. Fletcher, J. Sherwood, R. Gergerich

Absent: N. Keen

Staff present: S. Nelson, C. Ash

Guests: C. Ishimaru, T. Neuman

President S. Slack called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

The agenda was distributed and approved. (attachment #1)

Minutes of the previous Executive Committee conference call were distributed.

**1. Status of Committee Boards**

**A. Scheduled for Council Discussion**

**1. National Plant Pathology Board.** J. Sherwood reviewed the report from the ad hoc committee (attachment #2). There is a proposal for a name change to the "Public Policy Board" and to remove the word "federal" from its charge in the MOO. Term of service would be reduced from five years to three. There will also be a change in the structure of the membership increasing membership to 11 plus 3 ex officio members from the presidential lineage.

A proposal from Eversole and Associates to assist the NPPB (attachment #3 and 4) was reviewed by J. Sherwood. There will be a motion from Financial Advisory Council (FAC) in this regard. There was discussion on how this organization was selected. References came from several sources.

**2. Industry Advisory Council.** The report from IAC was distributed (attachment #5). IAC is proposing a restructuring of the committee and moving to the status of a board or office. They are also requesting a seat on Council, but this request will be tabled until after the Governance Committee makes its reports. There was general discussion on the submitted report and what the difference, if any, there was between a board and an office. There was a discussion on the role of current boards within APS. The current role of the IAC is more advisory than functional.

**3. Meetings Board.** J. Fletcher distributed information on a Meetings Board proposal (attachments 6 & 7). J. Fletcher provided some information on the three areas of activity of the board. They are 1) annual meeting planning; 2) the APS Education Center; and 3) short courses and workshops. The first two activities are already in place. The third area is ongoing but has not been formalized yet. There was discussion on the role of the director. This is a coordinating position responsible for maintaining communications among the three branches. The mission and responsibilities of the board have not changed from previous proposals. Activities were reviewed (attachment #6). There are five proposals concerning the Meetings Board. 1) develop a process for proposing workshops/short courses; 2) annual meeting workshops should be presented to the Annual Meeting Program Committee; 3) guidelines for budget allocations for workshops are needed; 4) resources should be received commensurate with priority ranking by the Annual Meeting Planning Committee; and 5) definitions of types of workshops, short courses, and related events are needed to clarify the financial status of each. There was discussion on annual meeting workshops versus others held throughout the year and the financial requirements of each. It was noted that the Director of Scientific Services needs an advisory group since none currently exists and the third branch of the Meetings Board could serve this function. There was discussion on whether a

separate branch for workshops was needed. There was further discussion on the role of the director. A three-year term will provide for continuity. There was discussion on who would develop the meeting theme. The president usually does this and it relates to the plenary session theme. Some rewording of the proposal needs to be done in this regard. J. Fletcher will take care of it. There was a question on proposal four, but it was decided that this would not be dealt with until the structural details of the board are resolved.

**4. Constitution and By-laws.** Discussion was postponed till later in the meeting.

**B. In Progress**

**1. Governance.** L. Madden will be present at the Council meeting to address this issue.

**2. Affiliations/Alliances.** C. Windels has submitted a report (attachment #8). S. Slack reviewed the report. The committee has some questions for Council on which they will be seeking input. These will be dealt with during the brainstorming session (item F on the Council agenda).

**3. Market Branding.** S. Slack reviewed a report from the committee (attachment #9). No action is needed at this time.

**2. Professional Society Relations/Requests (on Council agenda)**

**1. AIBS.** J. Fletcher reviewed the makeup and issues of AIBS (American Institute of Biological Sciences). One issue is should we remain affiliated with them. They are changing their mission and goals. They are developing a Public Issues Council (PIC). J. Fletcher reviewed what the PIC does and their plans for expanding their size and role. To be a full partner in the PIC, we would have to commit \$5,000/yr for at least three years. We could also be involved in a lesser way for a negotiated reduced fee. We could also partner with the entomologists and agronomists who are not yet ready to join in with AIBS. There was discussion on the many good opportunities for coordination and cooperation with AIBS. We are probably not ready to join at the \$5,000 level yet. We should monitor what they are doing for future decision-making. There was unanimous agreement that we will stay at our current level of involvement. There was a brief discussion on the Council of Scientific Society Presidents. It was agreed that our relationship to this group is very important.

Information on the AIBS BioOne Online Journals Initiative was distributed (attachment #10). J. Fletcher provided details of how it worked. It is a cross-linked database of member journals. There are private groups such as Elsevier that are doing something similar but costs are prohibitive to libraries. BioOne is an alternative to help keep these costs down. A society incurs no cost to have its journal in the database. Libraries purchase subscriptions at about 1/10 of the normal cost. Subscription fees flow back to the societies. It was agreed that electronic library subscriptions is our highest priority issue since subscriptions are our major revenue stream. Further discussion followed. It is a good deal for smaller societies. ESA has all four of its journals in the system. It was decided that Publications Board should discuss this issue before bringing it to Council.

Break for lunch at 11:40 a.m.

Reconvene at 11:55 a.m.

**1. A. 4. Constitution and By-Laws.** The committee membership was reviewed. Council will get a color copy of the proposed changes (attachment #11) and a draft article (attachment # 12) to be placed in Phytopathology News. Some of the major changes are in the Honors and Journals sections. Much of this material will be moved to the MOO upon ratification.

The outline for approval will be: 1) Council approves the changes; 2) Council decides when and where to vote; 3) Council decides how to prepare the ballot, i.e. all changes together vs. each item individually. The committee is recommending a mail ballot. This could potentially be done by e-mail but the legality needs to be checked. It was noted that the e-mail nomination procedure did not result in significantly more or less nominations than in previous years, but it saved a considerable amount of postage.

2. **2. IAPPS (International Association of Plant Pathology Societies).** This was discussed at Councilor's Forum. They have obtained a list of other societies that have affiliated (attachment #13). Headquarters has several concerns. Since they have individual memberships and a journal, they will be in direct competitions with us, particularly for meeting audiences. Additionally, their journal does not have page charges. The decision to affiliate should be based on whether or not it is in our strategic best interest to do so. Staff feels that it is not at this time. There was more general discussion on concerns. Councilor's Forum has had discussions on what we might gain that would make it a better deal for us. The problem is, they are so new, they have nothing to offer. **MOTION.** A recommendation will be made to Council that we not affiliate with IAPPS at this time because it is not in our best strategic interest. **SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.**

3. **3. CAMPPS (Center for Agricultural Microbes: Pathogens, Parasites & Symbiotes).** S. Slack reviewed this proposal for a new fungal collection center. There are concerns of its overlap with other collections such as ATCC and the ARS collection at Peoria. In a reply to our request for more information, they indicated that they are covering areas not covered in these other collections. It was felt that they would use our support to leverage funds to support the collection. It was decided to refer this to the subject matter committees including Bacteriology, Mycology, Virology and Collections and Germplasms.

### 3. Strategic Planning/Thinking

1. **1. Discussion of Exercise with Tim Neuman.** S. Slack reviewed the schedule.
2. **2. Brainstorming Exercise (Global Vision, Governance).** S. Slack gave a brief overview of what activities will occur during this session.
3. **3. Current Issues with HOC.** The Master Brewers Association of America has asked Scientific Societies for a full proposal to take over their management. Much of their membership overlaps with the Brewing Chemists. This is a \$900,000 proposal with \$300,000 for staff time and overhead. S. Nelson feels they would fit in well with the current structure and that headquarter costs would be about \$100,000 per year, thus APS and AACC would gain about \$100,000 per year each. There was some concern expressed that this might overload staff, reducing their service to us. This item will be referred to full Council for further discussion.

### 4. Current Issues

1. **1. Electronic Nominations process.** No discussion or action taken.
2. **2. Status of Plant Health Progress.** Full discussion will occur during Council.

### 5. Financial Advisory Committee Recommendations.

J. Sherwood reported that we are about \$50,000 in the red at the moment. This is mostly from unrealized income from Plant Health Progress, the annual meeting, and reduced accrual of interest.

The following recommendations will be proposed to Council from FAC

1). Propose the approval of a budget for 2001-02 as developed by Staff with an anticipated income of \$4,167,225, anticipated expenses of \$4,168,891 and deficit after contributions to reserves of \$28,436.

2). Propose pricing for the annual meeting as follows: Registration fee for all full members of organizing societies (APS, MSA, SON) be set at \$245 and \$290 for early and late registration. Other fees would be set by Staff in accordance to earlier practices. For this meeting to become closer to revenue neutral at this registration fee: a) the reception would be a ticketed event (\$20-25), b) an administrative charge for university socials to cover some facilities expenses would be set, c) there would be no pre-meeting mailing of the program book, d) groups not associated with the scientific societies organizing the meeting that require meeting space would be assessed the cost of that space, e) each registrant would be provided one ticketed breakfast event, and f) there would be an additional \$7,000 from the reserves for N. Keen to use to support the sessions.

3). Propose that the following dues/subscription prices be adopted for FY2002:

Membership: member dues (\$66 from \$64), others adjusted accordingly by Staff

Journals (member, printed): Phytopathology (\$65 from \$60), Plant Disease (\$65 from \$60), MPMI (\$70 from \$65)

On-line: Phytopathology (\$43 from \$40), Plant Disease (\$43 from \$40), MPMI (\$43 from \$40), CD ROM (\$50 from \$46 for journal subscribers, \$100 from \$96 for non-subscribers)

Non-member subscriptions: Phytopathology (\$420 from \$385), Plant Disease (\$420 from \$385), MPMI (\$447 from \$410)

Sustaining Associates: 1-100 employees (\$425 from \$395), 101+ employees (\$595 from \$565)

4) Propose that the APS Historian be provided \$1,350 for current FY and \$700 for the upcoming FY.

5) Propose that support for Eversole Associates recommended by the NPPB and FAC for microbial genomics effort be provided. This would be \$8,625 for current FY and \$13,375 for 2001-02 FY.

6) Recommendation to Council that FAC in May: a) discuss the financial aspects of electronic journals, e-commerce and what might be the e-products of the future, b) discuss the financial aspects of the continuing education cost center.

Adjourned at 1:05 p.m., to be reconvened on February 24 at 12:30 p.m.

Reconvened at 12:30 p.m., Saturday, February 24, 2001

Present: S. Slack, J. Sherwood, J. Fletcher, D. Jardine,

Absent: N. Van Alfen, N. Keen, R. Gergerich

Staff: S. Nelson, A. Hope, L. Hartman, M. Wimer

Guests: C. Ishimaru

#### **4. Current Issues (con't)**

**2. Status of Plant Health Progress (con't).** M. Wimer provided an update on activities since the annual meeting. Progress is good. They are ready for a big promotion. There are currently three avenues of pursuit. 1) Content. They are not getting as much as hoped. They do have articles in all categories including a number that were unsolicited. There are eight in the current review process. They are actively seeking more. A search mechanism is being created. Items from other sites will be indexed. 2) Partners Program. This has been the most successful effort. There are seven current partners. Along with

the partner logos on the home page, there is a “Become a Partner” link. More academic and extension partners are being sought. Library subscriptions are not being pushed per se, but there have been inquiries. Subscriptions would be at the partner rate. Currently there are 100 paid subscribers and 500 receiving the newsletter. E-mail addresses would suggest a broad base of interest. M. Wimer gave details on how the search page would function. There was discussion on when profitability might be reached. It is not clear yet. The 2002 budget outline was distributed (attachment #14). Subscriptions are currently prorated. It is \$1,200 for 1,000 members or less and \$2,500 for over 1,000 members. There was discussion on a number of items including how fast we should move toward the breakeven point, the effect of increased investment, the need to assure value for partners and the importance of links to other locations and materials. There was general discussion on budget issues and items. Staff has added a director of sales. Some of this person’s time may be able to be directed to Plant Health Progress. There was general support for moving along faster so as not to disappoint partners/subscribers. 3) Individual subscriptions are slow but steady. M. Wimer distributed a Plant Health Progress vision statement to be used as a trailer (attachment #15).

## **7. MBAA Proposal**

S. Slack will present to Council the concept of the association with MBAA as it relates to strategic thinking and leveraging of current resources.

## **6. Joint meeting with the South African Society**

The South African Society of Plant Pathology is seeking a joint meeting with the International Congress of Plant Pathology and APS in 2008. S. Slack reviewed a letter from M. Wingfield. They do not have the infrastructure to plan such a meeting and want our help. Discussion of the proposal followed. We are not clear yet on what our international strategy is so as to know how to respond. It was decided more information on their request for “technical organization” was needed.

## **8. NPPB Letters**

Three letters were distributed for the committee to review (attachments 17-19). No action was taken.

## **9. Cornell Letter on Journals**

No action taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Jardine  
Secretary, APS