

# MINUTES OF APS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

## Conference Call

April 24, 2002

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**A. Attendance**

Present: J. Fletcher, S. Slack, G. Bergstrom, C. Ishimaru, J. Sherwood, S. Hurtt, E. Stromberg, R. Ploetz, J. Andrews

Staff: S. Nelson, M. Smith

**B. Call to Order**

President-elect J. Fletcher called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. Central

The agenda for the call was distributed electronically prior to the call.

J. Fletcher gave brief summary of the recent meeting at HQ, during which time President Keen had passed away.

**1. NTK memorial requests**

J. Fletcher indicated there will be two sources for donations for N. Keen memorials. There will be a N. Keen Center for Molecular Biology at U.C. Riverside, and an award through APS called Excellence in Molecular Biology, which will be developed along the lines of the Ruth Allen Award. S. Coakley is working with D. Keen on developing the description of the APS award.

J. Fletcher has had a number of requests for a memorial at the APS Annual Meeting in Milwaukee for N. Keen. After discussion it was decided that there would be three places where N. Keen would be recognized in Milwaukee. At the plenary, it would be noted that N. Keen had organized the plenary and selected the topic. At the Business meeting there would be a short tribute. At the Council meeting, there would be recognition of Keen’s contributions to APS.

Other items discussed were a special email news release, an article in PhytoNews, and moving Keen’s obituary to a prominent place in PhytoNews.

**ACTION.** J. Fletcher will contact M. Stanghellini about writing an obituary for N. Keen, which would be targeted for the July Phytonews issue and in advance of the APS meeting in Milwaukee.

**ACTION.** J. Andrews will contact P. Williams at Madison, former advisor of N. Keen, and have him contact J. Fletcher for help with preparing remarks for the recognition events and for the PhytoNews articles.

J. Fletcher reported that PPB might bestow a “Friends of Plant Pathology Award” on N. Keen posthumously.

D. Keen has requested that the first APS N. Keen Award be made in 2003. She would like to present the award.

## **2. Appointments to vacant positions (vacant positions are filled by Council appointment)**

### **a. President, President-elect, Immediate Past President (and Chair of HOC in 2003)**

J. Fletcher reminded Exec that the President position is vacant and that there isn't an automatic chain of command designated in the Constitution.

S. Slack volunteered to continue on for another year as Immediate Past President. Discussions led to the proposal that J. Andrews would seek Council's approval for J. Fletcher to become President immediately and for G. Bergstrom to remain as Vice-President, with the understanding that J. Fletcher and G. Bergstrom would jointly execute the duties of President-elect.

### **b. Director of OPAAE**

G. Tylka contacted J. Fletcher about the need to identify another Director for OPAAE. He is in his second year of a three-year term. J. Fletcher asked G. Tylka to provide brief nominating statements for six individuals. The list of nominations would be sent to Council for a vote.

## **3. Appointment of ad hoc committees (ad hoc committees are appointed by the President)**

### **a. Awards issues**

### **b. Journal issues**

### **c. Private practice and consulting members' issues**

### **d. Divisional councilors request (not really an ad hoc committee, but a request for issues)**

J. Fletcher has followed up on these appointments, but these are supposed to be made by President. Further action will require approval by Council for J. Fletcher to become President or for permission for the President-elect to make these appointments.

## **4. Governance Update**

### **a and b. Communication with full Council and article for Phyto News**

G. Bergstrom drafted an article and submitted it to Exec and others for input. Comments have been supportive of the article and the "experiment". Once the article is sent to Council, S. Slack advised there be a deadline stated for receipt of feedback of the article and the "experiment" of having potential new Council positions present at the Council meetings in Milwaukee.

### **c. Annual meeting "experiment"**

Invitations to the annual Council meeting have not been sent out. Once Council input on the "experimental" meeting has been received, invitations will be sent. E. Rosskopf will invite the Programs Board. Invitations should include a schedule for the Council meeting. The directors of all the boards and offices should be invited, as well as the additional Editors-in-Chief and subject matter committee chairs.

ACTION. M. Smith will send a list for review to G. Bergstrom and J. Fletcher of people to invite to the next annual Council Meeting.

J. Fletcher acknowledged G. Bergstrom for his efforts.

**d. Present an “experiment” for Midyear 2003?**

Discussion postponed until after annual meeting.

**5. Annual meeting (see preliminary schedule attached)**

**a. Tribute to Noel**

Several options for tributes to N. Keen were discussed. The possibility of inserting his obituary into the registration packet was especially favored. Also favored was adding a dedication statement in the registration brochure.

ACTION. J. Fletcher will provide a couple of sentences dedicating the Milwaukee meeting to N. Keen to Staff for inclusion into the registration brochure.

**b. Coverage of events (President, President-elect, Vice President, Past-President’s normal activities-conflicts see attachments/duties.**

J. Fletcher went over the details of the officer duties prior to the conference call and suggested that G. Bergstrom, S. Slack and she divide up the duties. The Officers agreed.

**c. DeBary Bowl**

ACTION. J. Fletcher will contact R. Belanger about recruitment of teams for the Annual deBary Bowl.

**d. Business Meeting**

J. Fletcher suggested the following agenda items for the annual business meeting

i. Strategic planning

ii. Governance

iii. Activities of the Public Policy Board

iv. Report on PMN

v. Linkages and alliances report (possibly ask Council to present something on this)

PMN should also be covered at the Extension Breakfast. The President-Elect is responsible for going to the Extension Breakfast and presenting a report. J. Fletcher asked for input on the need for President-Elect to speak, since there is a time conflict with the PPB meeting. Feedback indicated that it would be important to the extension members that the President-Elect specifically presides at their meeting.

**e. Council discussion of strategic issues**

J. Fletcher asked for input on what could be realistically accomplished in the Council discussion at the annual “experimental” Council meeting. She suggested focusing on a few high priority items: governance, financial strategy, journals –transition to electronic, PPB (review objectives, set benchmarks), divisional issues, PMN, art of continuous strategic planning. The last issue (continuous strategic planning) might be a most important issue for discussion. It was suggested that a portion of S. Nelsons’ Power Point presentation on strategic planning be distributed prior to the meeting. (See also item 7b). Also discussed was the designation of time for a group strategic planning project.

## **6. PPB activities update**

### **a. midyear meeting**

### **b. biosecurity activities**

### **c. sustainable agriculture**

Discussion of items postponed due to lack of time.

## **7. Strategic issues**

### **a. Action list from recent meeting at HQ (attached)**

Item discussed after 7b.

### **b. Website for collection of background/history material on strategic issues**

The possibility of making a resource available to select groups with links to documents for perspectives and history of issues was well received. The idea is for people to have access to such information before meetings. The information should not be on Councilor's Corner, as some of the people who would need access are not on Council.

S. Hurtt reminded participants that the expanded Council is expected to be active in new ways. She asked for a session in the meeting to discuss these new expectations. To better prepare for such a discussion, session chairs from the Program Board could discuss strategic thinking before coming to the Council meeting.

ACTION. Since the Scientific Programs Board Meeting is held on Saturday afternoon (after Council meets) G. Bergstrom and J. Fletcher agreed to have a conference call with the Scientific Programs Board prior to the annual meeting to discuss strategic thinking.

### **c. Revised strategic plan document**

Discussion of item postponed.

#### **a cont.**

J. Fletcher asked S. Nelson to talk about the action list on strategic planning (attached document). He emphasized the importance of Exec and Officers in a continuous strategic planning environment. Each must actively influence committee, board, and office members to understand how important their charge is in strategic planning. He indicated that the nuts and bolts of continuous strategic planning were outlined in the action list.

## **8. Future conference calls**

Next conference call was scheduled for May 22, 2002 at 11:00 Central.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Ishimaru

APS Secretary