

MINUTES OF APS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE/ FAC

Conference Call
May 22, 2002

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A. Attendance

Present: J. Fletcher, S. Slack, G. Bergstrom, C. Ishimaru, J. Sherwood, J. Andrews

Staff: S. Nelson, M. Smith

B. Call to Order

President-Elect J. Fletcher called the meeting to order at 11:08 a.m. Central

The agenda for the call and attachments from G. Tylka were distributed electronically prior to the meeting.

1. OPAE issues updates (see attachment from G. Tylka)

a. Proposed changes to Manual of Operations

J. Fletcher reminded everyone that full Council would need to approve the changes proposed by G. Tylka on OPAE issues, but wanted to get Exec input on the changes before presenting them to Council. The following items from G. Tylka were discussed.

i. There was general support for the recommendation of adding an Immediate past Director to OPAE for one year. Doing so would provide continuity.

ii. Regarding the addition of the Immediate Past President, rather than the President, as an ex-officio voting member, the decision was made to hold this issue until the new governance structure has been determined. The Director of OPAE might be on the new Council, so there may not be a need for an Executive representative on the Office.

iii. Executive Committee supported the recommendation of discontinuing the Communications Committee and of having instead a board member who will serve as a Communications Coordinator.

iv. Executive Committee also supported the recommendation of Council appointing an incoming OPAE Director so that the new Director can participate in the OPAE mid-year meeting prior to starting their official term. Language to this effect would be added to the Director's responsibilities

ACTION. J. Fletcher will present the recommendations of OPAE, as modified by Exec, to Council for a vote.

b. Appointments

J. Fletcher had requested input from G. Tylka on potential appointees to OPAE. Exec considered having a conference call with full Council to discuss each candidate. It was decided instead to have a discussion of names first and then present a modified list of names to Council. Individuals on the list from OPAE included C. D'Arcy, A. K. Vidaver, G. Schumann, C. Curtis, D. Jardine, and C. Windels. M. Ellis was nominated by Exec. After discussion, Exec decided to consider C. Curtis, D. Jardine, C. Windels, M. Ellis, and A. Vidaver.

MOTION. Submit for Council vote a list of candidates for the Director of OPAE in the following ranked order: C. Windels, D. Jardine, A. Vidaver, C. Curtis, and M. Ellis. MOTION SECONDED. Discussion. None. MOTION PASSED.

ACTION. J. Fletcher will put together an email to Council and ask for input and vote.

2. Ad hoc committee issues

J. Fletcher gave an update on the status of ad hoc committee appointments:

i. B. Christ will coordinate the Division Councilors activities on developing an action plan and objectives for the strategic plan, as requested by Council at the midyear meeting.

ii. J. Fletcher will appoint an ad hoc committee to consider the needs and issues of APS members in private practice.

iii. J. Fletcher reported that M. Matheron has agreed to chair the ad hoc awards committee, which will address the questions presented at midyear from the Awards Committee regarding committee composition and eligibility of Fellows for other APS awards. Other members of the committee are B. Hillman, M. Powelson and C. Ishimaru. The committee has been charged with making a recommendation to Council at either the midyear or the 2003 annual meeting.

iv. J. Fletcher and G. Bergstrom have discussed development of a committee to address the issues associated with electronic publishing. They planned to continue their discussion over the next few days.

S. Nelson indicated that there would be a meeting on June 5th of more than 10 scientific societies at APS Headquarters. One of the items to be discussed will be electronic publishing.

3. Public Policy Board news

a. Bioterrorism workshop (Sherwood)

J. Sherwood reported PPB has sent letters to ARS and APHIS CSREES asking for \$65,000 from the two offices to hold a workshop on bioterrorism in the next month or so. S. Nelson suggested a preliminary date for the workshop be set up soon so that when funds are released, a site for the workshop is available.

ACTION. J. Sherwood will contact K. Eversole O. W. Barnett, S. Nelson and J. Fletcher about potential dates for the workshop.

b. Sequencing proposal to ARS

PPB developed a short list from the existing APS list of organisms targeted for sequencing. The list was given to ARS, which may have acquired funds for sequencing plant microbes.

c. Nature interview

An editor for Nature was present at the PPB briefing of Congress on APS efforts to develop a first line defense for US crops. The editor has been in contact with J. Fletcher for input on an article for Nature.

d. Added item

J. Sherwood reported on a visit he had with C. Rexrood from ARS, Acting Associate Administrator

4. Annual Meeting

J. Fletcher indicated that Undersecretary for Research, Education, and Economics Joe Jen might not be able to come to the annual meeting as previously arranged. The Deputy Under Secretary, Dr. Rodney Brown would come in his place. PPB is considering giving a "Friends of APS Award" to Herbert Kohl, even though he is unable to participate in the Plenary Session this year as planned. PPB is also considering an award for N. Keen. The Friends Awards will be presented at the President's reception.

a. The Council experiment

Discussion delayed until later.

e. Media coverage and Security Issues

Item discussed out of order in agenda. A press release for bioterrorism symposium at the APS Annual Meeting will come out soon. J. Fletcher asked about possible need for additional security for annual meeting. S. Slack indicated there is a need for this.

ACTION. S. Nelson will look into security for the meeting.

b. Agenda

J. Fletcher is preparing for the annual meeting and has reviewed the past Council meeting agendas. She will be asking for input on the agenda.

a. The Council experiment

i. Progress with invitation and planning

Invitations to the annual Council meeting have been sent. M. Smith brought the issue of J. Ristaino's query about travel expenses covered by APS. J. Fletcher reiterated that the offer is only for Thursday's expenses. ACTION. M. Smith will respond to J. Ristaino and copy the response to J. Fletcher.

ii. Strategic exercise

G. Bergstrom, J. Fletcher and S. Nelson will contact each other about a strategic planning exercise and the portion of the meeting that should be committed to planning. G. Bergstrom asked for input to be sent via email on this issue.

c. Tribute to N. Keen and PPB Award

See 4 and 7.

d. Plenary Progress

Discussion of item postponed.

5. Report on Council of Scientific Societies Presidents

Discussion postponed until after items 6 and 7.

6. Foundations appointments

J. Fletcher indicated W. Fry has been contacted about his appointment to Foundation. Council recommended that A. Chase be offered the appointment if W. Fry declines.

7. Keen Awards

J. Fletcher reported that S. Coakley has been working on developing guidelines for an APS N. Keen Award. She reminded J. Fletcher that a call for nominees is usually published in the October issue of PhytoNews. To meet this deadline, guidelines for the award must be approved by August 15th. Foundation could draft the description of the Keen Award. The draft would be given to D. Keen for review. The final description requires Council approval.

Exec discussed some aspects of the award description. It should be broad enough to encourage an adequate pool of nominees, while maintaining a focus on molecular biology.

ACTION. J. Fletcher will ask Foundation to draft a description for the N. Keen Award.

5. Report on Council of Scientific Societies Presidents

G. Bergstrom reviewed his experience at the recent CSSP meeting. He participated in a discussion panel on biosecurity. The panel, organized by M. Apple, brought together a diverse group of scientists to look at this issue. V. Caldwell, R. Phillips and other panel members all included references to plant diseases in their presentations.

He also reported that UPI will do a headline front page series and guarantee an exclusive story once a week on issues related to biosecurity. M. Apple might be contacting APS to ask for its participation. The obligation would be one exclusive story per quarter per participating Society. UPI has to have exclusivity of the article for a period of time. J. Fletcher suggested OPAAE be contacted.

ACTION. G. Bergstrom will contact G. Tylka about participation in the UPI series.

J. Fletcher thanked G. Bergstrom for going to the meeting

8. Additional Items.

a. Report from S. Nelson on staffing

Five staff will retire from APS. Most will retire by May 31st. L. Hartman is one of the retirees. G. Bergstrom suggested that an article on the retirements be published in PhytoNEWS.

ACTION. S. Nelson will write an article for PhytoNews that will include pictures of those retiring.

b. Entomological Society of America

S. Nelson reported that K. Steffey from the ESA responded positively to Nelsons' concern that the ESA President misrepresented APS information. As a courtesy, the ESA Vice-President-Elect will be given a complimentary one- day registration to the APS annual meeting. The intent is to arrange for a meeting between the ESA President and Plant Management Network representatives to encourage ESA participation in PMN.

He summarized some of the financial difficulties experienced by the ESA recently.

a cont.

Of the five positions, three were eliminated, and one was reduced to part time. L. Hartman's position is under consideration by HOC. L. Hartman is on a part time contract for the time being.

9. Future conference calls

M. Smith gave an update on the arrangements and dates for the Council meeting in Milwaukee. A discussion of the best seating arrangement for a group of 25-28 people was initiated. This item will be revisited when the agenda is discussed.

Next conference call was scheduled for June 12, 2002 at 11:00 Central. M. Smith and J. Fletcher will set up the call.

Call adjourned at 12:15 p.m. Central.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Ishimaru

APS Secretary