

Minutes of APS FAC/Executive Committee

Conference Call
November 14, 2002

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Attendance

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

Staff: S. Nelson, M. Bjerkness

Absent: M. Matheron, J. Sherwood

Call to Order

President J. Fletcher called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. Central

Agenda was distributed electronically November 11, 2002 (see attachment 1).

Request for additional items.

a. CAST biotechnology response.

J. Fletcher explained that APS is a member of CAST. They have a variety of functions; one of the recent is biotechnology. They are facing financial constraints and are seeking input from other societies and on value of their efforts and possible financial contributions. The cereal chemists like the biotechnology program but are not in a financial position to provide additional financial support (beyond dues) for the program. John Sherwood reviewed the CAST request and thought CAST's efforts were becoming more focused on commercialization of biotechnology. B. Jacobsen was contacted for his input. He is a member of CAST and APS. He was supportive of APS allocating funds.

J. Fletcher drafted a letter indicating APS acknowledges the contributions of CAST. As they move more toward commercialization, APS support for the scientific aspects of this initiative may be less appropriate. Thus, APS may not be able to support CAST's biotechnology program financially.

APS gave \$2,000-3000 beyond our membership dues for the biotechnology effort in the past. B. Jacobsen says to continue this level of support. J. Sherwood, Treasurer and Chair of PPB, recommended against it. E. Stromberg suggested we might need to remain neutral, and take care that we are not supporting a commercial endeavor. It was clarified that the issue is not dues; the issue is additional dollars for biotechnology.

S. Slack suggested revisions to the letter drafted by J. Fletcher to include only the statement that APS is not in a financial position to support the request at this time. Overall, Exec was not supportive of additional funds for the biotechnology. **ACTION.** J. Fletcher will write the letter to T. Gruber

1. Actions completed

J. Fletcher reported the vote was almost unanimous for APS sponsorship of a session at the Ecology Society's meeting. G. Bergstrom talked with C. Maelstrom of Michigan State University who was very enthusiastic of APS involvement. They also discussed the possibility of an *APSnet* feature article on the session. **ACTION.** Depending on Ecology Society's decision to go forward with the session, G. Bergstrom and S. Nelson will draft a letter to them that will present basic terms of the agreement. J. Fletcher added that this kind of activity may be a means for developing alliances and beginning to set new directions for APS alliances.

2. Strategic Plan

G. Bergstrom gave an update on strategic plan activities. S. Nelson and G. Bergstrom compiled comments from the expanded Council meeting in Milwaukee. G. Bergstrom asked for input on procedure from here (discussed under agenda item 5.a.v. below). J. Fletcher suggested that once we have a modified strategic plan, it would be sent to Council, the expanded Council, and possibly other committees for feedback. Exec discussed ways of channeling the feedback, including the use of a form. Feedback could be compiled and sent back out, possibly through threaded input on the Internet. J. Fletcher favored the idea of a directed form, so feedback is directed at specific areas. The threaded Internet forum used by ESA has been very successful. As for timeframe, a revised strategic plan should be sent to the expanded Council before the midyear meeting. This would provide time to make a revised draft available at midyear.

J. Fletcher acknowledged S. Nelson and G. Bergstrom for their efforts. She intends to keep the expanded Council involved so they know their input is being utilized.

3. Motion from Pub Board

J. Fletcher reported the majority of members voting to date supports the motion put forth by Pub Board on changing the constitutional language on staggered terms of editors. **ACTION.** When the final vote is in, J. Fletcher will notify Pub Board. R. Ploetz will contact Tim Murray, who will contact persons affected by the change.

4. Ad hoc committee updates

J. Fletcher noted that there are currently nine active ad hoc committees.

a. Centennial

J. Fletcher announced that C. D'Arcy has enthusiastically agreed to chair the ad hoc Centennial committee. She is thinking about committee members and activity ideas. J. Fletcher and C. D'Arcy will be in communication about the committee. Its mission is being discussed. This might need to be modified, if we get the bid for ISPP. CD will think about the issue of terms for committee members and the chair. Terms could be for three years or optioned to six. G. Bergstrom asked for clarification on the purpose of the committee. It should not replace activities of the Program Committee. J. Fletcher reiterated that the ad hoc centennial committee would not do the same things as the Program Committee. It would look at special events and promotions, while the Program Committee would handle the scientific program.

The ISPP decision on the ICPP bid will be made soon. J. Fletcher is going to the ESA next week and will meet with P. Scott, President of ISPP at the ESA to discuss some aspects of the bid. The bids from Italy and USA are available online.

b. Name of Society

P. Lipps and D Beadle will co-chair this committee. Exec discussed and supported approaches proposed by the committee chairs.

c. New Products and Services

J. MacDonald, Chair, reported that the committee membership is in place. S. Nelson brainstormed with Staff about new products and G. Bergstrom has passed ideas on as well. This information will go out to the committee. Follow-ups will probably be by conferences calls. J. Fletcher expressed her gratitude to J. MacDonald and S. Nelson for their efforts and for keeping in contact with Staff about this.

d. Journals

Item will be discussed under 5.a.i. Headquarters has a parallel committee, chaired G. Grahek, talking about journals. The ad hoc Journal Issues committee is chaired by G. Shaner who has been in contact with that committee.

5. Midyear Council Meeting

a. Who should attend

J. Fletcher has been in discussion with S. Nelson and G. Bergstrom about this item. As proposed by Exec and Council, they have agreed to invite current council plus certain additional people who will be relevant to the issues discussed.

R. Ploetz asked for clarification of Pub Board representation on Council. It is as it was before, since Council's structure hasn't actually changed. Pub Board will meet before Council at midyear.

b. Focus issues

i. Future of our journals.

Topic is relevant because of potential impacts from new technologies, new library arrangements etc. J. Fletcher suggests having G. Shaner, G. Grahek, and possibly others from outside present for this item. J. Fletcher plans to have G. Shaner investigate this and make suggestions for a possible outside person. She hopes G. Shaner will be able to attend both the Pub Board and the Council meetings.

ii. APS efforts in biosecurity.

J. Fletcher raised the questions of what is the status of this issue in APS and where should we go from here? It has been a fairly major commitment of the society. E. Stromberg added there is a lot going on with the diagnostic centers. He proposed it was very important that APS continue to be involved in this topic. There are sensitive issues with arising from the establishment of the diagnostic centers.

G. Bergstrom saw PMN as a place where training for diagnostic can occur. APS could become a two-way communication source: scientific information out and getting information in and back out to cliental through PMN. M. Wimer is investigating getting the plant diagnostic centers to become a part of PMN.

There was considerable interest in this topic, so it will be on the agenda for midyear. People suggested as guests for this topic were L. Madden, D. Luster, K. Eversole, and J. Sherwood.

iii. Current issues facing plant pathology.

J. Fletcher needs to do some preliminary work on this topic, but the goal is to begin to create a list that could sever as a basis for initiating and prioritizing APS activities. This would help focus the strategic plan on prioritized issues. List will change over time and will need to be continually revisited. No discussion of topic.

iv. Communication across the governance structure.

How will communication be maintained between various groups in the current or proposed governance structure? S. Nelson is looking at polling a subset of members on particular issues on a regular basis. Other approaches include community software opportunities. A. Hope has been made progress on developing applications for APS. J. MacDonald added she might have a demo for Exec to preview before Midyear. ACTION. M. Bjerkness will contact A. Hope about a demo on community software and report back to J. Fletcher with her findings.

v. Strategic planning and governance.

J. Fletcher predicted this might be a major issue requiring an analysis of the comments that G. Bergstrom and S. Nelson put together from the Milwaukee meeting. Depending upon expanded Council's reaction, we might be ready to move on recommendations. J. Lindquist is working with his committee to poll the general membership for input. It was concluded there was no point in making major decisions until that input has been compiled. The discussion on communications (5.b.iv) may make a big impact in the success of 5.b.v. Thus, there won't be a final solution by midyear and this item should be scheduled for the annual meeting in Charlotte.

Additional items for discussion at midyear would be the financial budget. JF asked for others. None were given. S. Slack suggested the topics proposed (as outlined above) would take considerable time, but might want to include time for an update on the plant-CDC and diagnostic centers. J. Fletcher envisioned a discussion of these items under 5.b.ii. ACTION. J. Fletcher will invite K. Cardwell to the midyear meeting.

6. Meetings

J. Fletcher will be attend the ESA meeting and visit with P. Scott. She will also meet with all of the ESA officers to discuss possible interactions between APS and ESA. Eastern branch of the ESA will meet in March. R. Ploetz encouraged J. Fletcher to discuss PMN and ASP press offerings during her meetings.

S. Slack will be going to CSSP. Many of the same issues will be discussed there. CSSP plans to have a biosecurity discussion between the societies. **ACTION.** S. Slack will forward the CSSP agenda to J. Fletcher.

E. Stromberg suggested getting the travel plans for midyear established because of the close timing with the ICPP meeting. **ACTION.** M. Bjerkness will talk with M. Smith about setting up travel arrangements for the midyear as soon as possible.

7. Other items.

S. Slack will become Chair on HOC in January. He reported that there hasn't been much communication in HOC lately.

J. Fletcher reported that A. K. Vidaver asked for APS support on activities to establish an NIH a study section on pathogens cutting across plants and animals or having common mechanisms. J. Fletcher prepared and submitted a letter in support of A. K. Vidaver's request.

Constitution and by-law vote is due tomorrow. M. Bjerkness reported there has been about a 10% response: 520 (yes) and 12 (no) so far.

Adjourn

J. Fletcher extended her appreciation to the callers. Call was adjourned at 10:15 a.m. Central.

Next conference call

The next call is scheduled for Dec 12 at 8 a.m. Central

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Ishimaru

Secretary, APS

Attachments

1. Agenda