

MINUTES OF APS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE/ FAC

CONFERENCE CALL

June 12, 2002

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A. Attendance

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

Staff: M. Smith

B. Call to Order

President-Elect J. Fletcher called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Central

An agenda was distributed electronically prior to the conference call.

1. OPAE issues updates

J. Fletcher gave an update on the vote of Council on the list of ranked candidates for appointment to OPAE.
ACTION. J. Fletcher will contact the nominees for the director of OPAE in the prioritized order.

2. Ad hoc committee issues

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

a. Alliances Committee Final Report

The report from the Alliances Committee provided by C. Windels was sent out for input from Council. Specific alliances were not commented on in the report. At the annual meeting, Council will vote on accepting the final report from the committee. If accepted, possible action items will be developed.

b. Journal issues

An ad hoc committee of G. Shaner, chair, M. Daubs, B. Hillman, and R. Ploetz has been formed to look at issues relating to the strategic plan, especially those affecting finances. The committee will probably be expanded to include a junior member. The committee would be reappointed for another year and will be meet for the first time at the upcoming annual meeting in Milwaukee. R. Ploetz suggested G. Shaner should sit in on the Pub Board Meeting in Milwaukee.

ACTION. J. Fletcher will invite G. Shaner to attend the Pub Board Meeting in Milwaukee.

c. Private Practice

C. Melanger has been asked to chair an ad hoc committee on Private Practice. He is considering the offer

3. Public Policy Board

J. Fletcher gave an update on the workshop planned to focus on the US ability to respond to bioterrorism. Various agencies have asked for APS input and in general have been receptive to our proposals. The USDA is currently considering the establishment of “spokes and hubs” for response to bioterrorism, which would more than likely lead to construction of diagnostic facilities and centers. Such activities might set the idea proposed by the PPB of a “CDC” for plant health on the back burner for now.

APS continues to be a vital part of discussions on bioterrorism. E. Stromberg has been asked to be a part of a state panel on bioterrorism of row crops. The APS website on bioterrorism has been a valuable resource for these types of activities.

The workshop date has been put off until sometime in August or September. ARS and USDA will fund it. About ten people are expected to attend. They will consider exotic and indigenous pathogens as well as surveillance and diagnosis of plant diseases.

S. Hurtt offered the input of her group at the National Quarantine Unit in Beltsville. J. Fletcher suggested a larger workshop might be held at a later date, at which time the NQL could become involved.

4. Annual Meeting

a. Council agenda

J. Fletcher will ask for input from Council on the agenda soon.

b. Exec meeting

J. Fletcher reminded Officers that there will be a meeting of Executive Committee on Thursday evening, to prepare for the Council meeting on Friday.

c. Plenary progress

Two of the five invited speakers will not be able to participate in the plenary. Wisconsin Senator Kohl said he never got the invitation. K. Eversole is looking into a replacement for Sen. Kohl. If no one else can be recruited, K. Eversole will speak.

On Saturday evening, there will be a reception for the plenary speakers and regular Council. J. Fletcher will host a reception for the expanded Council on Friday evening.

J. Andrews suggested that the other Wisconsin Senator might be a good alternative for the plenary. J. Fletcher will discuss this idea with K. Eversole.

d. Security

J. Fletcher brought up a current issue of importance to scientific societies, in general, and to the APS meeting staff, in particular. APS, like other scientific societies, routinely receives requests from some of its international members for invitations to the society's meetings. (Invitations are used for obtaining permission, visas, and sometimes funding for travel to meetings.) In light of recent terrorist activities in the US, some scientific societies are establishing mechanisms that would limit and monitor the number of invitations sent out to international members. In some cases, names of individuals receiving invitations are being turned over to the FBI. The current position of the APS meeting staff is that they will not send out any more invitations until we have a policy.

There was much discussion of this issue. Concerns included the involvement of APS in a policy capacity. There was some surprise that APS provided invitations to scientist who are not invited as speakers. Even with these concerns, there might be a need for APS to establish a policy, especially if doing so can avert a problem in the future.

e. Business meeting presentations, including tribute, theme for Charlotte

i. Business meeting. J. Fletcher outlined the business meeting agenda, including a membership report (C. Ishimaru), financial report (J. Sherwood), tribute to N. Keen (D. Cooksey), announcement of the upcoming meeting in Charlotte (J. Fletcher), and presentation of awards and certificates for retiring boards and chairs (J. Fletcher). Time will also be devoted to highlights of the PPB and PMN.

E. Stromberg suggested adding PMN to J. Fletcher's presentation at the Extension breakfast.

J. Andrews asked about plans for continuing last year's activities for recognizing volunteers at the annual meeting.

ACTION. M. Smith will ask meetings staff if ribbons have been ordered and if a poster is being made, as was done last year.

J. Fletcher will acknowledge the volunteers in the Business meeting.

In place of N. Keen, S. Slack will pass the gavel to J. Fletcher.

J. Fletcher will host a reception on Monday evening and will invite N. Keen's department, as it is customary for the President's department to be invited.

ii. J. Fletcher asked for input on the theme for the next meeting. She is considering themes that would touch on aspects of bioethics, genomics, and biosecurity. Suggested themes included "Promoting plant health and security in the age of genomics".

5. Other

J. Fletcher informed the group of her plans to travel to Guatemala for the Caribbean meeting. G. Bergstrom was going to go to the Pacific Division meetings in San Jose.

The next conference call was scheduled for July 10, at 10 Central time.

C. Ishimaru mentioned that the minutes for the last two calls along with an updated action list were emailed to participants. She asked for input on the draft documents before the next meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Ishimaru

APS Secretary