

MINUTES OF APS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE/ FAC

CONFERENCE CALL

July 10, 2002

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A. Attendance

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

Staff: S. Nelson, M. Smith

B. Call to Order

President-Elect J. Fletcher called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. Central

An agenda was distributed electronically prior to the conference call.

1. Newly elected or appointed Councilors

J. Fletcher reviewed the recent appointments to Council.

Caribbean Division: Judy Brown

North Central Division: Ray Martin

Phytopathology Editor-in-Chief: Chris Mundt

Director of OPAAE: Doug Jardine

2. Ad hoc committee updates

a. Private Practice

C. Melanger has agreed to chair an ad hoc committee on Private Practice. Other members are Chris Becker, William Cobb (current chair of the standing committee), Roberta Spitko, and Ron Landis. J. Fletcher plans to reappoint the committee for another year. The committee will meet initially in Milwaukee.

b. Awards issues

Mike Matheron provided a report to J. Fletcher summarizing recommendations from the ad hoc committee on APS awards. The committee's recommendation, which will be presented as a motion to Council in Milwaukee, will make APS Fellows eligible for other Awards of Excellence. It will not recommend changes in the current policy of having only APS Fellows on the Awards Committee.

3. Brief reports from Divisional meetings

a. Caribbean Division

J. Fletcher reported on her experience at the recent Caribbean Division meeting in Guatemala. She noted that the quality of presentations and science was very good. Many participants in the CD meeting were not APS members. She reiterated previous comments made by others that the cost of registration and travel to the APS annual meeting is prohibitive for many scientists in the CD.

b. Pacific Division

Report presented after item 4.

4. PPB updates

a. Workshop on biosecurity

PPB is still working on organizing a USDA/ARS sponsored workshop on agricultural biosecurity. J. Sherwood has been in communication about the workshop and related issues with key officials in Washington DC. He has been invited to participate in a round table discussion with the Office of Homeland Security. One item he will address is the possible movement of APHIS into OHS. APHIS has many functions other than those pertaining to biosafety. Funding for those activities must be safeguarded if APHIS is moved to OHS.

b. List of regulated organisms

APS has been asked to comment on the agents tentatively placed on the list of organisms that will become regulated in the US. Of the 11 agents listed, about half are very common plant pathogens in the US. If approved, the list will become an interim rule, which means that it will become enacted immediately. Only one plant pathologist is on the APHIS committee that developed the list. If the list is approved and these common plant pathogens become regulated, it might have negative impacts on current research programs focused on these pathogens.

J. Fletcher is pleased that APHIS has asked APS for scientific input. D. Luster and his committee on biosecurity is also involved somewhat in the discussions.

c. State allocations for surveillance and detection network

G. Bergstrom reported on a meeting he attended July 8, 2002, in Washington DC, on USDA's new Homeland Security Diagnostic Network, which includes both animal and plant components. Five universities were designated as Regional Plant Diagnostic Centers: Cornell (Northeastern), UC Davis (Western), Florida (Southern), and Kansas State and Michigan State (North Central). An internal USDA committee composed of CSREES and APHIS representatives decided which universities would become centers based on undisclosed criteria. Each Regional Center will receive \$900,000 initially with the expectation that funds will be used to support network development in the region. Continued funding is anticipated but not guaranteed. In addition, Texas Tech is designated as a Plant Support Facility and will receive a smaller amount of funding. The National Agricultural Pest Information System (NAPIS) at Purdue will be funded to serve as the central communication and reporting entity for the entire network. Each university had to agree to become a Regional Diagnostic Center and be able to meet lab and communication security issues. IT people from each institute will be involved in developing encryptions as need be. Plans of work and initial budgets for the Regional Centers are due in Washington DC on September 1. Centers will convene planning meetings with other institutions in their regions within the next couple of months.

There are many outstanding issues that will need to be addressed, including 1) what are the specific functions of the centers, 2) how will funds be distributed, 3) how will Purdue function as a communication link for the centers, 4) what pests will be targeted in each region, and 5) how will these centers connect with the functions of APHIS - Plant Protection and Quarantine Unit and with the CSREES Regional Pest Management Centers? The current charge to the Regional Diagnostic Centers is to diagnosis and surveillance of particular plant pests, including pathogens, insects and weeds

The discussion session on Tuesday afternoon in Milwaukee, "Building a Distributed Laboratory Network for Plant Pests and Disease Diagnostics and Training", will include a presentation by K. Cardwell, CSREES National Program Leader for Plant Pathology. Information on the funding, distribution and designation of the centers will be presented at the session. E. Stromberg asked about the room size for this discussion session, as it may draw a larger than expected audience.

J. Fletcher acknowledged G. Bergstrom for his efforts.

3. Brief reports from Divisional meetings cont.

b. Pacific Division

G. Bergstrom reported that he had a very positive experience at the Pacific Division Meeting in San Jose. He noted that this is a vibrant group and that the scientific content of the meeting was excellent.

J. Fletcher asked G. Bergstrom to comment on feedback he'd received about the activities of PPB. Some comments questioned whether the opinions expressed by PPB were representative of APS members. The PPB stand on organic agriculture was given as an example of an issue that may not have been supported by all members.

J. Fletcher remarked that Council must continue to make every effort to represent the membership. It is hoped that recent changes in governance and committee structures will better facilitate communications between PPB and APS constituents.

5. Annual meeting plans

a. Council agenda and preparations

Yesterday, J. Fletcher sent an electronic draft of the Council meeting agenda along with a memo on preparations for the meeting. She presented an overview of the activities and events planned for Council at the annual meeting. M. Smith noted that the email did not get sent to certain people who are expected to participate in the meeting of the expanded Council.

ACTION. J. Fletcher will send the email on the agenda for the Council meeting to the section chairs, T. Murray and G. Schumann.

S. Hurtt relayed a question from the Post Harvest Committee about sending letters or otherwise acknowledging committee members who will retire from institutional positions. APS does not have a policy of sending letters. Typically, an individual's department sends an announcement to Phytonews. Committees should coordinate with the department on in acknowledging outstanding committee service.

b. Strategic plan

S. Nelson, G. Bergstrom and J. Fletcher have put together an activity for the first part of the Council meeting that will familiarize everyone with the process of strategic planning.

The Executive Committee will meet on Thursday evening in preparation for the Council meeting on Friday.

c. Website for information summaries

M. Smith is posting annual reports and background information on issues to be addressed by Council on the Councilor corner website. J. Fletcher urged everyone to read these reports before arriving in Milwaukee.

d. Plenary update

J. Fletcher is working on filling the final open position on the plenary. She has invited plenary speakers and official Council members to a reception on Saturday evening. This will provide an opportunity for informal discussions of issues impacting APS and its constituents.

The expanded Council is not invited to the Saturday evening reception with the plenary speakers. Instead, the expanded Council is invited to attend a dinner social Friday evening.

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

Recent activities of PPB and PMN will be highlighted at the Business meeting. The tribute to N. Keen, previously scheduled to be presented by D. Cooksey, will be given by C. Bender.

J. Fletcher asked for further input on the theme for the meeting in Charlotte. She expressed a desired that the theme should be inclusive of the varied interests represented by APS membership. There was agreement that a theme along the lines of "Promoting plant health and security in the age of genomics" would be of general interest and that it would not exclude those working outside of genomics. J. Fletcher decided to announce the theme for Charlotte at the Milwaukee business meeting.

f. Executive meeting

The Executive Committee and FAC will meet on Thursday and Friday in Milwaukee. J. Fletcher requested input on the agenda for these meetings.

5. Other

a. Binders

M. Smith will coordinate with G. Bergstrom, S. Hurtt and E. Stromberg on preparing the right number of binders and other materials for the new committee chairs and councilors.

b. Meeting registration

S. Nelson gave an update on registration for the Milwaukee meeting. There are 1330 people pre-registered for the meeting. He expects the final registration number to be about 1500-1600. He also mentioned that finances for this year are better than expected, and instead of a deficit, the Society is operating in the black.

Call adjourned at 11:05 p.m. Central.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Ishimaru

APS Secretary