

# ◆ Pacific Division News ◆

American Phytopathological Society

Fall 2001

## From the President

Dear Pacific Division members,  
Changes are afoot that will influence whether the APS Divisions continue to exist or go the way of the 25¢ cup of coffee.

In case you missed it at the National APS meeting (or were unable to attend) the parent society is contemplating a change in how the organization governs itself. In the fall of 2000, then -APS President Steve Slack appointed an ad hoc committee to address some issues of concern regarding governance. The resulting Governance Structure Committee prepared a report, the content of which was shared in Salt Lake City on various occasions. The report outlined some suggestions as to how APS could restructure itself to improve efficiency, become more strategic in scope, and be fully representative of the membership.

The report discussed a number of proposals, but germane to the Divisions is the assertion by the Committee that one's disciplinary interest is of greater importance to the members than one's geographic placement. Following this line of thought, the Committee suggests the creation of five Disciplinary (subject matter) Divisions, perhaps similar to the current meeting sections of Biology of Pathogens, Diseases of Plants, Epidemiology/Ecology/ Environmental Biology, Molecular /

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Alaska  
Arizona  
California  
Colorado  
Hawaii  
Montana  
Nevada  
New Mexico  
Oregon  
Utah  
Washington  
Wyoming



PRESIDENT  
**Melodie Putnam**  
Oregon St Univ  
[putnamm@bcc.orst.edu](mailto:putnamm@bcc.orst.edu)

PRESIDENT ELECT  
**Jim Adaskaveg**  
UC-Riverside  
[jim.adaskaveg@ucr.edu](mailto:jim.adaskaveg@ucr.edu)

SECRETARY/TREASURER  
**Pete Bristow**  
WSU-Puyallup  
[bristow@wsu.edu](mailto:bristow@wsu.edu)

COUNCILOR  
**Michael Matheron**  
Univ of Arizona  
[matheron@ag.arizona.edu](mailto:matheron@ag.arizona.edu)

MEDIA EDITOR  
**Ellen Bentley**  
WSU-Prosser  
[ellen\\_bentley@wsu.edu](mailto:ellen_bentley@wsu.edu)

## 2001 Annual Division Meeting

Natalie Goldberg

The Pacific Division of the American Phytopathological Society held its annual meeting in conjunction with the National APS meeting in Salt Lake City, UT from August 23-28, 2001. The meeting began with a full day field trip to agricultural sites around Salt Lake City, Utah. **Melodie Putnam**, Oregon State University, and **Sherm Thompson**, Utah State University, worked jointly to organize the tour. Sherm did a fabulous job of lining up interesting sites with a variety of disease problems. The field trip enticed over 50 participants from all over the world.

The tour started with a stop at a commercial apple orchard with a history of fire blight. At this location participants also saw the effects of a serious hailstorm and Cytospora canker on peach. The next stop was a commercial tart cherry orchard with spider mites and powdery mildew. After a brief stop in a local park for a picnic lunch, we headed to a large commercial ornamental nursery where the primary topic of

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## SLC Meeting Highlights (Continued from page 1)

discussion centered on management of virus diseases.

The remainder of the tour consisted of stops at



*The beautiful Utah mountains during the Pacific Division sponsored field trip.*

several locations where vegetables were being grown. Each stop presented a whole new array of diseases, including those of viral, fungal, and bacterial origin. The highlight of the trip was a stop in a commercial onion field where participants were able to see a new onion disease in the West - Iris Yellow Spot Virus.

student travel grants, APS-PD awards, and future APS-PD meeting sites.

The APS-PD presented two first place awards for *student papers*. Students were judged on their written abstract, delivery of the presentation, quality of visuals, and relevance and validity of the research.

Winners were **Joyce M. Sakamoto** and **Magalie Guilhabert**

both from the University of California, Davis. Ms. Sakamoto presented "The potential for *Pityophthorus setosus* to provide infection courts for pitch canker on *Pinus radiata*," co-authored by T. R.

Gordon, A. J. Storer and D. L. Wood. Ms. Guilhabert presented "Transposon mutagenesis of *Xylella fastidiosa* by electroporation of Tn5 synaptic complexes," co-authored by L. M. Hoffman, D.A. Mills and B. C. Kirkpatrick. The students received monetary awards and an engraved plaque commemorating their achievement.



*Graduate student winners and their advisors.*

*L - Joyce Sakamoto and Tom Gordon.  
R - Magalie Guilhabert and Bruce Kirkpatrick*

***"The Division has long running success in the DeBary Bowl, winning 4 out of the last 5 annual competitions!"***

The Pacific Division is proud to announce that they have retained the title of *DeBary Bowl Champions*. This year's team, which defeated the Potomac Division in the championship game, was organized and led by **Ellen Bentley** (Washington State University-Prosser, IAREC). Team participants

included **Jan Mickler** (University of California, Riverside), **Claudia Nischwitz** (University of Idaho), **Lyndon Porter** and **Zahi Kanaan-Atallah** (Washington State University), **Russ Bulluck** (University of California, Davis), **Natalie Goldberg** (New Mexico State University) and **Ellen Bentley**. Student team members were outstanding and shared the \$200 award.

The *annual business meeting* was held on Tuesday. APS President Steve Slack gave a brief update on what is happening in APS and those in attendance were treated to a lively discussion regarding proposed changes to APS governance. Other agenda items included discussions regarding



*Roland Line (center) with Xianming Chen (left) and WSU Department of Plant Pathology Chair Tim Murray (right).*

The Pacific Division presented a *Lifetime*

**Lifetime Achievement Award**

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## *Society Governance* (continued from page 1)

Cellular Plant Microbe Interactions, and Plant Disease Management. Each section would be represented by a Disciplinary Councilor who altogether would comprise a "Scientific Forum" and sit on Council.

The presence of the current Divisions on Council would be reduced from six Councilors (one per Division) to two. These two Divisional Councilors would serve on an envisioned Member Services Board that would also include the General Policy Committees of APS. This Member Services Board would elect the two Divisional Councilors who would serve on Council. The report recognizes that, with these proposed changes, "the role of Divisions in governance would be smaller than in the current structure."

There are additional changes suggested in the report but those above are of immediate interest to me, as President of the Society's largest Division. I should emphasize that the proposed changes are simply suggestions at this point, and no decisions have been made as to how governance will be changed.

At issue, for me, is the reduced role of the Divisions in governance. I have spoken with several of the Governance Structure Committee members about the proposed changes and was able to get a clearer understanding of what was behind the report. A driving force was the need for APS to be more representative of the membership. Stated inequities included:

- the disproportionate sizes of the Divisions. Compare the Pacific Division, with 13 member states; and the Potomac Division, with 4 states and the District of Columbia.
- the lack of representation of international members
- the over representation on Council of members from land grant universities, which is 80% compared with the percentage of the entire membership (around 30%)
- the over representation on Council of the disciplines of general plant pathology and disease management
- the under representation of members of certain disciplines, specifically molecular biology and molecular plant-microbe interactions.

Other driving forces were the need for a more flexible Council that can operate efficiently and economically; and the need to be more strategic in operations.

The members of the Governance Structure Committee were acting with the best of intentions, taking into consideration the structure of the Society as a whole and keeping an eye to the future. Unfortunately their proposal left many members feeling the future did not include Divisions.

A primary concern is that the proposed modifications will weaken the Divisions and eventually lead to their demise. This would occur due to decreased representation on Council and the shifting of allegiance to Disciplines. Other concerns I heard voiced in Salt Lake City included the following:

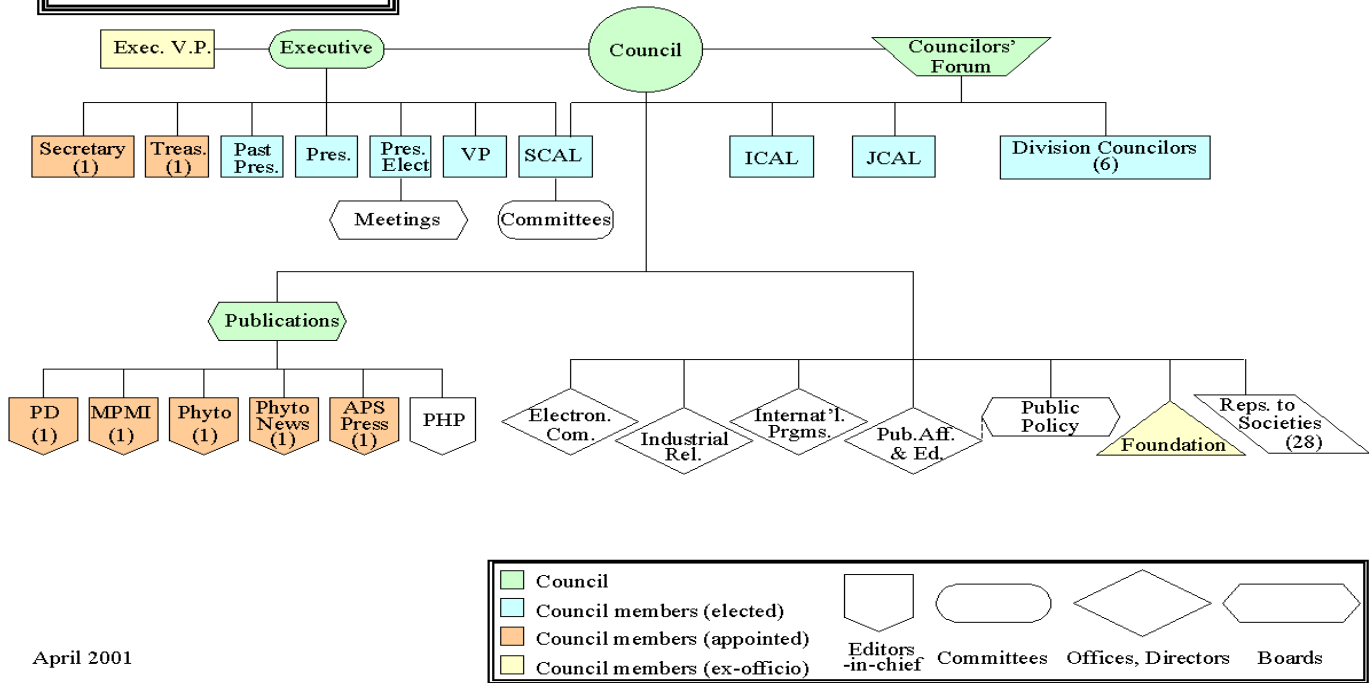
- Since Disciplines will not hold meetings, one may not be acquainted with the members running for Council, and subject matter Councilors would likely be selected by name recognition rather than any sort of leadership ability.
- Members from well-funded universities would likely predominate in elections at the expense of scientists from smaller institutions, especially younger scientists.
- Members in Extension do not fit well under any single Discipline.
- International members (most of whom are Canadian) can already be represented by becoming members of one or more of the Divisions.
- Giving under represented members a greater voice via a Disciplinary Councilor doesn't necessarily mean they will come back into the fold.

The issue of governance first came up in 1999 and *will* be addressed, if not by this proposal then by

*"A primary concern is that the proposed modifications will weaken the Divisions and eventually lead to their demise"*

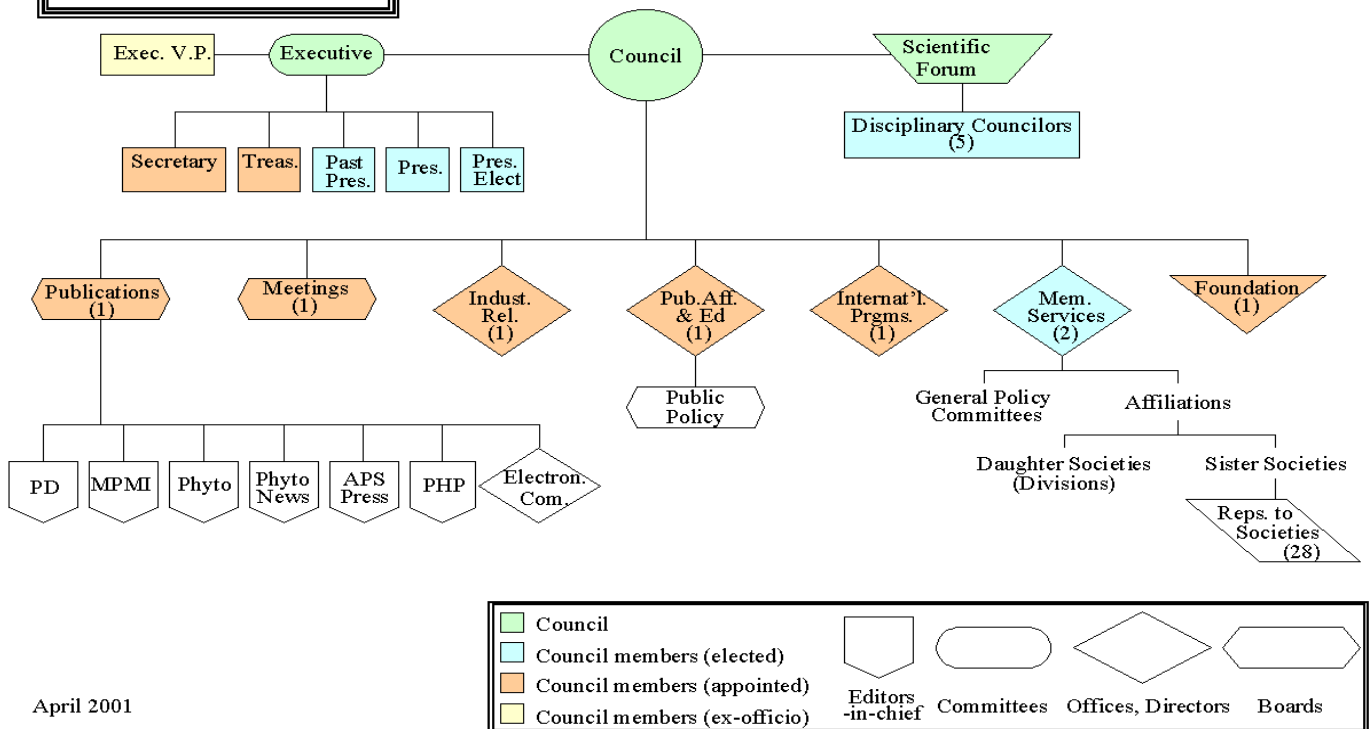
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# Current APS Organizational Chart



April 2001

# Proposed APS Organizational Chart



April 2001

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another. I urge you to participate in this discussion by voicing your concerns and thoughts, especially any suggestions for alternate approaches. Send your ideas to Suzanne Hurtt ([pgqosh@ars-grin.gov](mailto:pgqosh@ars-grin.gov)), Senior Councilor-at-Large or Forrest Nutter ([fwn@iastate.edu](mailto:fwn@iastate.edu)), Divisional Liaison to the Executive Board, which is considering the proposed changes. The Board is particularly interested in ways to correct some of the problems we now face with our present governance structure.

The Report of the APS Governance Structure Committee, which has additional details, follows..

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## A Vision of APS Council: Report of the APS Governance Structure Committee

In the Fall of 2000, APS President Steve Slack appointed an ad hoc committee to study the governance structure of APS and make recommendations for possible changes. Committee members are: Larry Madden (chair), OW Barnett, Joyce Loper, Jacque Fletcher, Luis Sequeira, Isaac Barash, Chris Becker, Danise Beadel, and Steve Nelson. The committee deliberated by email, conference call, and at a meeting in Atlanta.

The committee was first able to agree on several statements (tenets, conclusions) regarding the past, present and future of APS. Then, a visioning exercise was conducted to address the needed governance structure for APS in the future. Although governance of APS involves more than Council, we focused on the composition and workings of Council in our deliberations, and concluded that several changes were needed in terms of representation on Council. We then developed a 'roadmap' for making these changes. Based on our deliberations, we are making this report to Council.

### Tenets

The committee accepted or endorsed several tenets that had been previously made.

1. APS is an U.S. professional society with a global membership, and all regular members have the same rights.
2. Current governance structure was created many years ago in a very different society and environment.
3. Membership demographics have changed dramatically since the creation of the APS governance structure.
4. International membership in APS has increased dramatically over recent decades. Concurrent with this change, science in general, and plant pathology in particular, has become more global in scope.
5. Most APS members are not members of individual Divisions; the Divisions vary greatly in size and activity.
6. Divisions represent a very important part of APS, perhaps the most important part for some members, but many APS activities and functions do not involve Divisions.
7. Most members' first affinities are to their discipline or type of employment, not to geographic region.
8. There is a need for Council to spend increasing amounts of time on strategic issues, rather than on tactical issues.
9. There is an increasing need for Council to be looking outward rather than looking inward.
10. The complexity of issues dealt with by Council is increasing.
11. Governance is much more than Council; under the authority of Council, many APS boards, offices, and committees are involved in the running of our professional society.
12. Various groups now do many activities previously done by Council (e.g., approving book proposals); the trend towards increasing use of boards, offices, and committees will continue.

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(APS Governance Structure Committee continued from page 5)

13. Current APS structure is such that there is continuing pressure for Council to expand as new activities are added (e.g., adding new Editors-in-Chief); at the same time, there is a tremendous need for Council to operate efficiently and economically in order to make, when needed, rapid, well-informed, and cost effective decisions.
14. Because of the need for year-round decision making, Executive Committee of Council is taking an increasing role in the operation of the society.
15. Currently, Council is not representative of APS as a whole, either in terms of membership interests or activities of APS. Six of the elected Councilors represent Divisions, and five of the appointed Councilors represent publications.
16. Proper functioning of Council (and the various boards, offices, and committees) depends on volunteers who are committed to the vitality of APS; on the other hand, volunteers have less free time to volunteer, and there may be fewer APS members willing to volunteer for certain time-consuming positions.
17. In general, *Council works well*. Typically, elected and appointed Councilors are individuals who truly care about APS and its future, and work hard to maintain the vitality and relevance of APS for the discipline of plant pathology. Moreover, Council increasingly is taking a more strategic and outward-looking approach to governance. The last point is especially relevant, since it is imperative that any proposed changes do not destroy a functioning governance structure.

*"...if we were charged with creating APS from scratch today, what governance structure would it have?"*

#### **Visioning exercise**

With the above tenets in mind, the committee asked the following question: *if we were charged with creating APS from scratch today, what governance structure would it have?* Although governance is larger than Council, as noted above, our committee focused on Council. Our conclusion was that Council would look very different from the one we currently have. Although the officers would be the same (with one exception), our vision involves representatives from various disciplinary groups (e.g., plant-microbe interactions), fewer editors, and some new appointed members that represent the broad activities of APS. Geographic Divisions would have representation on Council, but the role of Divisions in governance would be smaller than in the current structure. Details are given below. In addition, we outline steps that can be taken to move in the direction of this vision.

#### **Officers and Executive Committee**

Current and proposed organizational charts for Council are attached. In the new Council, Executive Committee would be comprised of the President Elect, President, Past President, Secretary, Treasurer, and one other elected councilor. This leads to the first major change: we envision that the office of Vice President will not exist. Many scientific societies have a 3-year sequence for the presidential succession, rather than the 4-year sequence that we currently have. The year as Vice President has been excellent for training purposes, giving time to the future President to learn the intricacies of APS. This training time is needed if the President Elect is in charge of the annual meeting program, a very time consuming job. However, a Scientific Programs Board has been approved by Council to coordinate the program for our annual meetings. The director of this board might not necessarily be the President Elect. We feel that if the director of the Scientific Programs Board is a member of Council (and not the President Elect), it would be unnecessary to maintain the Vice Presidential office. If the office of Vice President is maintained, however, then alternative duties should be assigned to the President Elect (assuming someone else is coordinating the annual meetings).

#### **Disciplines**

Disciplinary interests are of primary importance in categorizing members of APS or any scientific

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*(APS Governance Structure Committee continued from page 6)*

society. Discipline determines the journals one reads, the paper sessions and specialty meetings one attends, and often the colleagues one talks to on a regular basis. Through the respective discipline, one is part of a global community of professionals. This disciplinary focus appears everywhere in the organization of APS except on Council. Although it is possible for many disciplines to be represented through the current system of electing councilors, in practice certain disciplines dominate. For instance, the major growth areas in plant pathology and related professions are in molecular biology and molecular plant-microbe interactions. Yet, these disciplines are not common on Council. On the other hand, general plant pathology and disease management (also very important subjects) are commonly represented on Council. Because molecular scientists (as one example) do not tend to be involved in the activities of divisions, there is less opportunity for these members to be elected to Council with the current structure.

APS is moving towards Disciplinary Sections within the Annual Meeting structure, as evidenced by the six sections used in programming. It is natural to use these sections as a template for disciplinary representation on APS Council. We propose that there be five Disciplinary Divisions, which could be the same as, or similar to, the current meeting sections: Biology of pathogens (including molecular biology of the pathogens), Diseases of Plants (=general plant pathology), Epidemiology/Ecology/Environmental Biology, Molecular/Cellular Plant Microbe Interactions, and Plant Disease Management. (Other partitioning of disciplines is also possible). The group of Disciplinary Councilors could be organized within Council as a "Scientific Forum". A sixth section used at the Annual Meeting, Professionalism/Service/Outreach, is probably not appropriate for a discipline-based division. However, this section could be converted into a Division on Teaching/Extension/Service, because many members view themselves first as teachers in the broadest sense, rather than in terms of their scientific interests. With the new Disciplinary Divisions, there will no longer be a need for Councilors-at-Large.

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*"We propose that there be five Disciplinary Divisions..."*

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## Editors

Although publications are key to the current and future health of the society, both financially and intellectually, there is no reason why all Editors-in-Chief should be on Council. There are active editorial boards for individual publications and a working Publications Board that deals with financial and technical issues facing all publications. Plus, the editors are very busy running journals, and cannot, in general, be expected to participate in the many deliberations of Council. However, it is very important that a member of the Publications Board be on Council, to ensure communication and to guarantee that there is always an advocate for all publications present as strategic issues are being discussed and decisions are being made. In our vision for Council, the Publications Board (including the editors of the electronic-media products) would elect one member to serve on Council, and this person could serve more than one year. Under this new approach, a new publication product (either in print or electronic form) could be added without having to decide about whether to call the product a journal or not, or whether to add an Editor in Chief to Council.

## Divisions

Because geographic Divisions are important to some of our members, especially some of our most active members, and Divisions are important leadership-development training grounds, they should have a role in the governance of the society. However, as discussed above in relation to disciplines, discipline more fully defines the role of members in scientific and professional societies than does geography. Societies such as the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) have active geographic divisions, but their governing board is based on disciplinary representation.

We propose that the Divisional Representatives should comprise a (new) 'Member Services Board' as a replacement of the current Councilors' Forum. As currently constructed and operated, Councilors'

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*(APS Governance Structure Committee continued from page 7)*

Forum seldom has the time to fully address many issues of concern. Thus, we believe that a forming a separate board is a significant step towards more fully dealing with multiple intra- and inter-societal issues. The new Member Services Board would be charged with general policies on committees, site selection, and relations with affiliates and sister societies. Additional responsibilities are also possible (such as the nomination of Councilors). Through this formal group, it should be possible to form alliances with other scientific societies and expand or improve relationships with currently allied societies. This would require that the Board meets for a sufficient period of time on an annual basis. Our vision calls for the current Divisional Councilors to become Representatives on the new Member Services Board. Two of the Divisional Representatives then would be elected by the members of this Board to serve on Council. These individuals could serve for multiple years. Operating procedures would have to be written for the new Board and for the election of Council members from the Board.

It should be pointed out that some members of the ad hoc committee felt that the Disciplinary Councilors should have some responsibility for relationships with sister societies. One approach is to have a subset of Disciplinary Councilors also serve on this new Member Services Board. Other arrangements are also possible.

### **Additional Council members**

Although APS is involved in an increasing number of activities, of ever increasing complexity, expertise in the relevant areas is not necessarily represented on the current Council. In the broad sense, these activities include public affairs and education, industry relations, and international programs. Thus, we envision a Council in which there are members representing OPAE, OIP, and the new Industries Relations Board. We also envision that the Director of the recently created Scientific Programs Board (not necessarily the President Elect) and the Director of APS Foundation will serve as regular members of Council.

We realize that our vision includes a fairly large number of appointed positions. However, the makeup of Council will be different from the current situation, in which most of the appointed members represent publications. Moreover, some of these Council members could be 'elected' from within the respected groups, just as the Director of the Foundation (a current ex officio member of Council) is elected by members of the Foundation Board.

### **How to achieve the vision of a new Council?**

We believe that the proposed Council will be more representative of our membership and provide a greater diversity of skills and interests than does the current Council. However, the many changes proposed should only be adopted in stages. Although it would be relatively easy to add Council members representing OIP, public affairs, and other groups, adding these positions now would mean increasing the size of current Council, a violation of our goal of making Council more efficient. We propose here some of the steps that can be taken to change the composition of Council.

1. Create a system to elect Councilors for Disciplinary Divisions. This will take some time, since there is no structure for doing this now. First, a decision will need to be made regarding the exact composition of the divisions; the current annual meeting sections is a good starting point. Then, a process for soliciting nominations from each disciplinary division will need to be developed, as well as a process for electing the Councilors.

2. Change the current system regarding Editors in Chief. Set up the system so that a single Editor is elected by the Publications Board to serve on Council. This change can be made immediately, and implemented as the system for #1 is developed.

3. Create the new Member Services Board, to be comprised of (geographic) Divisional Representatives, and develop the specific duties of the Board. One important item is to develop the process for electing two of the Divisional Representatives to serve on Council.

4. Drop the offices of Councilor at Large and Vice President. The latter assumes that there will

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## Report on the APS Council Meeting in Salt Lake City

by **Michael E. Matheron**, Pacific Division Councilor

### Future annual meetings.

Plans are well under way for the 2002 APS annual meeting, which will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Future meeting sites are Charlotte, NC in 2003, Anaheim, CA in 2004 and Austin, TX in 2005. The 2006 site has yet to be decided; however, the northeast is the target geographical area. The site selection process has evolved from rotating the annual meeting among the divisions to a system considering market conditions and three general geographical regions (western, middle and eastern US).

The costs of having an annual meeting continue to increase. One significant increase at Salt Lake was the estimated cost of \$60,000 for audio-visual equipment. A major portion of this cost was due to projectors for computer presentations. Each projector rents for \$500 per day. With the increasing use of this projection equipment, these costs will be a significant component of future annual meeting costs as well. Convention center rental fees are also substantial (\$24,000 for Salt Lake City, \$32,000 for Milwaukee next year). The site selection group works diligently to keep costs as low as possible. As an example, the 2004 meeting was moved from Long Beach to Anaheim due in large part to better convention center rates.

### Membership Trends.

Membership increased by 14 from 2000 to 2001, increasing from 4873 to 4887. The results of a membership survey conducted in 2001 were presented. A few highlights from this survey include the following: 1) 32% of surveyed members live outside the United States; 2) 65% are from 35-54 years old, 19% are < 35 years old, and 15% are 55 years old or higher; 3) 54% have a PhD, 21% are Post-docs, and 17% have a Masters Degree; 4) 46% are employed by a college or university, 21% by a government agency, and 11% by industry. The two top reasons noted for belonging to APS are to keep up on research and to maintain contacts with colleagues.

### Public Policy Board.

This is the new name for the National Plant Pathology Board. Although the name has changed, the purpose of the board is still "to provide scientific input to national policy-making processes." Through the Public Policy Board, APS Council voted to support a Washington, D.C. representative, Kellye Eversole, on a part-time basis. Kellye Eversole will interact with key people to support increased federal funding for plant pathogen research.

### Financial status of APS.

From fiscal year 1992 through 1998, APS consistently posted surpluses averaging approximately \$200,000 per year. These funds helped establish an operating reserve of over \$1.2 million. Fortunes changed in 1999 and 2000, with budget deficits of approximately \$30,000 and \$75,000, respectively. The 2001 budget ended with a deficit of \$106,500.

There are several factors that have contributed to the reversal from budget surpluses to deficits. Over the last few years, several new programs and projects have been supported by APS, such as digitizing the visual resources of APS Press, launching the new electronic journal *Plant Health Progress*, establishing the Education Resource Center and informing the public of what we do through the Office of Public Affairs and Education (OPAE) and the Public Policy Board (PPB). Member services are the largest expense for the Society and include publication of *Phytopathology News*, support for *APSnet*, the awards program, placement, as well as many other activities.

The main sources of income are publications, including *Phytopathology*, *Plant Disease*, MPMI and APS Press. Library subscriptions for the journals provide the bulk of the income from these

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be a Director of the Scientific Programs Board on Council (different from the President Elect).

5. When the new Member Services Board becomes active, and the Disciplinary Representatives are being elected, add the representatives from the designated groups (e.g., Industry Relations) to Council. The above-listed steps assume that the current Council approves of the vision of APS Council outlined here and that the Constitution is modified to allow the proposed changes to be made. Successful modification of the Constitution will require considerable efforts in communicating the new vision of APS governance to the membership as a whole. This will mandate articles in the newsletter, *APSnet*, and in special sessions at the annual meeting. If this plan is adopted, a schedule should be adopted so that the changes can be made in a reasonable period of time. Otherwise, the momentum for change could be lost.

### Conclusions

APS needs a governance structure appropriate for a global society of plant pathologists that meets the needs of members with a wide range of scientific and professional interests. The current structure has served the membership well in the past, and Council is working hard at improving efficiency and changing to become more strategic in scope. However, to be fully representative of the membership as a whole and efficiently address an increasing number of complex issues, a change in governance structure is needed for APS. To optimize our governance for the future, the ad hoc governance committee recommends changes in the elected and appointed members of Council, as well as the creation of a new Board. This report has described a proposed revision in the composition of Council, and has outlined the steps needed to implement the changes.

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publications. However, the future status of institutional subscription income (due to pricing and access to electronic subscriptions) is unknown. If library subscriptions erode significantly, so will the income to the Society. Careful monitoring of the budget with appropriate adjustments of expenses as income changes will insure that sizeable deficits do not accumulate in the future.

### Volunteerism.

The success of APS is due in large part to the

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**Achievement Award to Roland Line.** This award is presented to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the science of plant pathology and to the Pacific Division of APS. Rollie, a world authority on wheat rust diseases, recently retired as Research Plant Pathologist with USDA-ARS stationed at WSU-Pullman. **Xianming Chen** () nominated Rollie who who received an engraved plaque in recognition of his tremendous achievement.

The division recognized **Carolee Bull** (USDA-ARS, Salinas) for her contribution to the Division as Newsletter Editor (1999-2001). Carolee not only put out the Newsletter, but also developed the Division's website.

The Division also recognized **Natalie Goldberg**

(New Mexico State Univ) for exceptional service and leadership as division president (2000-2001).



Outgoing Pacific Division President, Natalie Goldberg (left) with new President, Melodie Putnam (right).

## New Officers

New division officers, elected prior to the meeting, were announced at the annual business meeting.

The Pacific Division *Officers for 2001-2002* are: **Melodie Putnam** (Oregon State University), President, **James Adaskaveg** (University of California, Riverside), President-Elect; **Pete Bristow** (Washington State University-Puyallup REC), Secretary-Treasurer; and **Mike Matheron** (University of Arizona), Pacific Division Councilor. **Ellen Bentley** (Washington State University-Prosser, IAREC) has agreed to serve as Newsletter Editor/Webmaster.

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efforts of the many volunteers that devote countless hours to completing the business of our professional Society. A committee has been charged with developing mechanisms for encouraging volunteers and appropriate recognition of their efforts. Recognition activities that were in place for the annual meeting in Salt Lake City included (1) special badges for APS member volunteers, (2) posters to recognize and thank volunteers, and to emphasize the role of volunteers in our Society, and (3) commentary by APS officers on the importance of volunteerism at various group meetings. Additional activities not associated with the annual meeting are in consideration to encourage and recognize volunteers in our Society.

### **Proposed New Governance Structure for APS.**

In the fall of 2000, APS President Steve Slack appointed a committee of nine APS members, chaired by Larry Madden, to study the governance structure of APS and make recommendations for possible changes. This committee suggested several changes in the composition of APS Council, which would change the way that members are represented on Council. The highlights of the plan include the following major changes. 1) Creation of five Disciplinary Divisions plus a Teaching/Extension/Service Division, each of which would have an elected representative that would sit on APS Council. 2) The six geographic divisions would still exist, with each electing a geographic divisional councilor to become part of a new Member Services Board. Two of the Divisional Representatives would be elected by the members of this Board to serve on APS Council (with the remaining four geographical divisions having no direct representation on APS Council). 3) Elimination of the office of Vice President. 4) Elimination of the three councilors-at-Large. 5) Currently the Editor-in-Chief of each journal, including the electronic journals, are members of Council. Under the new plan, one member of the Publications Board would be elected to sit on Council.

*“...overwhelming majority...voted against the plan..”*

The proposed changes would greatly alter the composition of APS Council as well as how each member is represented in that body. At this point, these are just recommended changes. The membership will need to carefully consider this plan and make suggestions for modifications where they see fit. Ultimately the membership will vote on this issue, as the proposed changes in the governance structure will require changes in the APS Constitution. I urge each of you to read the report and carefully consider how the changes may effect you. For those of you not at the Pacific Division business meeting in Salt Lake City, the proposed new governance structure was introduced and discussed by President Steve Slack. After the discussion, I called for a vote for or against the plan in its present form. The overwhelming majority of those present voted against the plan (with one vote for the plan). The sense of Pacific Division members at the meeting was that the loss of guaranteed representation of all geographic divisions on APS Council would weaken the Divisions. Recently I have heard that the Northeastern, Potomac and Southern Divisions also are strongly opposed to losing direct representation on APS Council.

### **Role of the Division Councilor.**

Please remember that my primary responsibility to the Pacific Division is to represent you at APS Council meetings. I have also been appointed to the Financial Advisory Committee, which is composed of Steve Nelson and other APS Staff, the APS President, President-Elect, Vice President, Treasurer, one Councilor-at-Large and myself as a Division Councilor. Let me know about your concerns on the issues currently affecting APS, including matters concerning the financial status of our Society. I can represent you effectively only if I know your opinions concerning the issues confronting the Pacific Division and APS.

**Michael E. Matheron**  
University of Arizona  
Yuma Agricultural  
Center  
6425 W. Eighth Street

Phone: 928-726-0458  
Fax: 928-726-1363  
E-mail: [matheron@ag.arizona.edu](mailto:matheron@ag.arizona.edu)