

2021 Councilor-at-Large Subject Matter and General Policy Committee Summary Report

David Gent, Courtney Gallup, and Sydney Everhart

Executive Summary

Annual reports were submitted by every Subject Matter and General Policy Committee in 2021. Committee participation and engagement varied widely, with meeting attendance ranging from less than 10 to greater than 70 individuals depending on the committee. In general, the Councilors-at-Large believe that most Committees functioned relatively well with virtual meetings during 2020 and 2021. The transition to virtual committee meetings appears to have encouraged some committees to engage outside of the annual meeting time, such as social and networking events. There was a notable improvement in committee function in 2021 as compared to 2020, which may reflect the emphasis on leadership development and mission-oriented focus of the Leadership Institute Cohort Series. Also notable was the increased discussion and planning around events outside of the annual meeting, such as webinars and mentoring activities. Action items for Council from committees tended to focus on assistance with technology such as automating membership tracking, the newly launched APS Communities platform, and various ideas on mentoring. These requests were largely addressed immediately by APS staff.

Several items that warrant discussion by Council were centered on:

- (1) Developing an APS website focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion-related content;
- (2) Priorities for public policy and advocacy;
- (3) More formalized mentoring and networking ideas from multiple committees;
- (4) Strategies for liaising with the Mycological Society of America (MSA); and
- (5) APS-wide online discussion forums.

**APS Councilors-at-Large Summary of 2021 Subject Matter and General Policy Committee Reports,
Action Requests to Council, and Council Responses to Committees**

David Gent, Courtney Gallup, and Sydney Everhart

Date: 19 October 2021

Bacteriology (DG)

- Created and hosted two new networking sessions for students and early career professionals entitled “Pathways to and from bacteriology”
- Distributed a quarterly newsletters and other email communications throughout the year to promote year-round engagement
- Sponsored a workshop and two special sessions at Plant Health 2021
- Planning is ongoing for several workshops and session proposals relating to bacteriology topics for Plant Health 2022, award nominations, and the Councilors Challenge

Action for Council

- 1. We realize many members do not track when their memberships expire and thus are unaware when this occurs. Please create a notification for members when their committee membership will soon expire. For the past two years, Jeannie Klein-Gordon has been manually doing this for the bacteriology committee by sending an email in August to all members whose committee memberships are expiring that month, but having this be an automated system would be helpful for ours and other committees to retain membership.**
- 2. In the future when Plant Health is hosted in person, bacteriology committee members would like the option to join the meeting remotely (such as via Zoom). Membership strongly believes this is useful to promote more inclusion and membership involvement during our single annual meeting.**

Response from Council

- 1. Thank you for bringing this issue to our attention. In response to your request, APS staff are establishing an automated email reminder about committee membership end dates for all general policy and subject matter committees. With this functionality, individual can renew their committee membership without contacting the Chair or Vice Chair for this support.**
- 2. The Annual Meeting Board, APS staff, and Council are discussing the format, structure, and timing of events associated with future Annual Meeting. There is support for organizing Subject Matter Committees outside of the traditional Annual Meeting time and providing a virtual format.**

Bioengineering Applications (CG)

- Hosted a special session this year titled “GMOs in the Public Discourse: better communication for a better world”
- Potential future special session "Novel Bioengineering Tools in Modern Agriculture".
- Potential Seminar with students outside of meeting was discussed. "Advances in Gene Editing" was discussed.

- Considering outreach mentoring program for students with members from Bioengineering Applications. With our members diverse backgrounds, we could facilitate a sort of speed mentoring to give students a more rich experience.
- Plan to reach out to OPRO to potentially organize an external student seminar

Action for Council

1. Seeking Council's guidance on their thoughts of a student mentoring program. Considering hosting a speed mentoring event.
2. Consider offering an annual meeting registration pass for only special sessions or panels that people can purchase. This could possibly help raise some extra money, increase membership, and increase access for international students. It could also help increase participation from others that may forgo the main meeting and attract a more casual focused scientific crowd that does not want to see the entire meeting.

Response from Council

1. Council recognizes the importance of mentoring of students and other professionals in our society and discipline. Plant Health 2021 featured a speed networking and mentorship event. We encourage the Committee to formalize ideas and submit a proposal for a session and/or consider ways to develop mentoring programs outside of the Annual Meeting format.
2. Your Council Liaison will communicate this idea to the Annual Meeting Board and appropriate APS staff.

Biological Control (DG)

- Co-sponsored a session proposal for Plant Health 2021
- Drafted case study for submission to Plant Health Instructor; the manuscript is in internal review
- Planning is ongoing for two special session proposals for Plant Health 2022, as well as the Councilors Challenge

Chemical Control (DG)

- Participated in a panel discussion session on sustainability: "A Clear Picture of What Sustainability Looks Like in Plant Disease Management - Special Session" during Plant Health 2021
- The committee is planning a two-part webinar series proposal for 2022 focused on labeling of conventional and biological products and safe and correct use pesticides, including speakers from multiple facets of agriculture and plant pathology

Collections and Germplasm (CG)

- A workshop on how to work with collection materials at the USDA collections site in Ft Collins for the 2020 APS meetings in Denver was approved in 2019. Those meetings were delayed to 2023.
- Ideas for a special session on collections for the 2022 meetings in Pittsburgh were discussed to prime interest in the 2023 workshop. Collections and Germplasm committee is the primary sponsor and is co-sponsored with the committees on Host Resistance, Bacteriology, Mycology and Virology.

- Set up our C&G community on line forum to discuss topics for videos to mentor new student, post doc and early career members. Forum will also facilitate discussions around proposed 2022 special session and the planned 2023 workshop.

Crop Loss Assessment and Risk Evaluation (CLARE) (DG)

- Sponsored a workshop “Data visualization in R” workshop on February 2021 in support of Plant Health 2020
- Special session and workshop proposals are planned for Plant Health 2022 on: (i) linking disease epidemics to post harvest grain contamination with mycotoxins; and (ii) an introduction to Python

Diagnostics (SE)

- Sponsored two special sessions: 1) Plant disease diagnosis of emerging pathogens in a changing ecosystem, 2) Best practices from experienced diagnosticians
- Online community platform having a positive impact for this group because it is a neutral place for discussing issues with commercial diagnostic tools (example was Agdia products and previously discussing issues on Agdia listserv now moved to APS online community)

Diseases of Ornamental Plants Committee (SE)

- Recent relevant publications coming from members of this group include the APS Compendium of Rose Diseases and an update of the book, Diseases of Woody Ornamentals, which will have 30 new chapters
- Planning to coordinate a field trip for the 2022 meeting

Action for Council:

- **None, however, the committee wanted to extend a thank you to APS staff for their dedication and service to our society.**

Committee for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (SE)

- Please note the new name of this committee is, “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion” and goes by the CDEI acronym.
- BLM taskforce was formed to build a webpage with resources on anti-Black racism, DEI in professional environments, and supporting Black colleagues. The taskforce met twice this past year and the collated resources were shared with APS staff to construct a draft website.
- An Accessibility Subcommittee (AS) was formed to address accessibility at APS meetings. The AS constructed a best practices list and presented it to the Annual Meetings Board resulting in the inclusion of language on disabilities and attendee needs in the APS meeting registration. The AS published an article titled “Helpful Tips for Making Presentations Accessible, From Your Disabled Colleagues” in IS-MPMI in June.
- CDEI also supported the formation of APS Family & Support Caregivers as a stand-alone group

Action for Council:

- 1. The group plans to develop websites and resources for DEI-related content, BLM content, and publish an article for Phytopathology News related to accessibility. The group requests APS staff support for website development and an update of the CDEI content on the existing webpage.**

Response from Council

1. **APS Council fully supports the efforts of the Committee for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Council discussed the need for more visible and accessible content on DEI resources. One idea for improving visibility and accessibility is to include a “DEI Resources” button on the APS header so that the link is visible on every APS page. An example can be found on this website: <https://www.mbaa.com/Pages/default.aspx> Council also discussed other website features APS is considering related to reporting inappropriate behaviors at APS-sponsored events to improve accountability to the APS code of conduct. Your Council Liaison, Dr. Sydney Everhart, can help facilitate a connection to appropriate APS contact that can provide support for website development as the Committee develops content.**

Early Career Professionals (DG)

- Organized a speed mentoring session during committee week, with approximately 40 people participating
- Sponsored Schroth Faces of the Future Symposium at Plant Health 2021; approximately 80 participants
- Organized ECP Virtual Networking Hour at Plant Health 2021; approximately 60 participants
- Hosted an online networking happy hour in March of 2021 and sent out periodic emails throughout the year with information on the Schroth Faces of the Future session and job openings at various companies.

Action for Council

1. **We ask that the ECP social not overlap the grad student or industry sponsored networking events during annual meetings. Time conflicts impact ECP member participation in these activities.**
2. **We ask that the ECP committee meeting again be on hour in length.**
3. **Confirm Schroth Faces of the Future Symposium for Plant Health 2022.**
4. **Continued support for the mentorship program being developed by the ECP, Grad Student committee, OPSR, and PDF 2026. We would like to have the same type of speed mentoring session again in 2022 regardless of the annual meeting format.**
5. **If the meeting is held virtually again in 2022, we would like to request 90 min for the ECP virtual networking social event to facilitate more and better member discussions.**

Response from Council

1. **Council recognizes that this request was also made in 2020. The senior Councilor-at-Large will participate with the Annual Meeting Board during session planning in autumn of 2021. At this meeting, we will reiterate the need to avoid scheduling conflicts, where possible, for this and other Committees.**
2. **All committee meetings held prior to Plant Health 2022 will likely be scheduled for 1 hour. Council also encourages the committee to consider engagement outside of the annual meeting.**
3. **Council liaison, David Gent, will follow up with AMB Chair Paul Esker to confirm.**
4. **Council liaison, David Gent, will follow up with AMB Chair Paul Esker to reiterate this request.**
5. **Council liaison, David Gent, will follow up with AMB Chair Paul Esker to reiterate this request.**

Emerging Diseases and Pathogens (DG)

- Sponsored a special session and Idea Café at Plant Health 2021: (i) A retrospective look at emergency responses to emerging plant diseases; and (ii) Emergency viruses of cucurbit crops.
- Planning is underway for special sessions proposals for Plant Health 2022

Epidemiology (DG)

- Sponsored and organized a workshop “Data visualization in R,” in support of Plant Health 2020 on February 9, 2021. The workshop was sold out, with approximately 100 participants.
- Co-sponsored a special session at Plant Health 2021: A retrospective look at emergency responses to emerging plant diseases - evaluating the shifts in our risk perception; approximately 172 attendees
- Maintained an active presence on Twitter (@ApsEpidemiology) for outreach and communication tools that presently has 700+ followers.
- Special sessions proposals are planned for Plant Health 2022

Action for Council

- 1. Several very active members of our committee are not listed as members. Although we understand that APS has changed this for an online form enrolment, we believe that an email letting members know that their Committee membership is expiring, or an auto-renew option may improve this situation.**

Response from Council

- 1. Thank you for bringing this issue to our attention. In response to your request, APS staff are establishing an automated email reminder about committee membership end dates for all general policy and subject matter committees. With this functionality, individuals can renew their committee membership without contacting the Chair or Vice Chair for this support.**

Evolutionary Genetics and Genomics (CG)

- Sponsored a Plant Health 2021 special session entitled “Plant-pathogen evolution in a rapidly changing world”, which was attended by 240 people.
- We are sponsoring a workshop to teach basic bioinformatics skills to plant pathologists, which will take place on October 26, 2021.
- Our APS 2021 councilor’s challenge proposal to develop a compendium of online resources and tools for microbial evolution and genomics was accepted and is being compiled on the recently launched EG&G APS communities page.
- We held a committee meeting with a peak attendance of 26. We discussed applications of machine learning to plant pathology as a possible special session proposal, although this area of research is underdeveloped thus holding a special session may be premature.
- Potential proposals were discussed for an advanced phylogenetic analysis workshop, although this most likely needs additional refinement. Success dependent on recruiting volunteers to teach/lead the workshop.

Extension Committee (SE)

- Holding an upcoming, Nov. 30, workshop on tools for effective Extension. Also maintaining activity with social media throughout the year.

Forest Pathology Committee (SE)

- Held special session in 2021 "Advances in point-of-care detection of forest diseases" and creating proposal for 2022 - "Indigenous perspectives on invasive forest pathogens"
- Plans to sponsor field trip in 2022
- Examples of advocacy for forest pathology in broader context include, "Forest Pathology Initiative started a couple of years ago. Advocacy for HR 1389, Invasive Species Prevention and Forest Restoration Act, introduced by Rep. Peter Welch (D-VT), <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1389?s=1&r=8> The APS Public Policy Board (PPB) is providing comment for APHIS's Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for deregulation of SUNY's transgenic Darling 58 American chestnut."

Action for Council

- 1. Created a Forest Pathology Initiative a couple of years ago and are requesting greater involvement of the APS PPB on this.**
- 2. Requesting more advocacy of APS for HR 1389, Invasive Species Prevention and Forest Restoration Act, introduced by Rep. Peter Welch (D-VT), <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1389?s=1&r=8>**

Response from Council

- 1. Council discussed Public Policy Board activities related to forest pathology and health in recent years, and recognized the importance of forest health issues that require appropriate framing in APS policy advocacy. Your Committee liaison, Dr. Sydney Everhart, will facilitate a connection between the Committee leadership and the Public Policy Board Chair, Rick Bennet, to discuss the previous and current activities of Board related to the Forest Pathology Initiative. Council and the APS Public Policy Board will review the priorities for advocacy in 2022 and give full attention and discussion to this initiative and specific advocacy of HR 1389.**

Graduate Student Committee (CG)

- co-sponsored 4 different sessions/events: APS Speed Networking and Mentorship Event (in collaboration with the Early Career Professional, Professional Development, and Industry committees), Special Session: A retrospective look at emergency responses to emerging plant diseases – evaluating the shifts in our risk perception (co-sponsored with the Regulatory, Emerging Diseases and Pathogens, and Epidemiology Committees), Workshop: Advocacy Training for All: The basics of public policy involvement for scientists across the spectrum (co-sponsored with the Public Policy Board), and Workshop: Developing a toolkit for effective extension and outreach (co-sponsored with the Extension Committee).
- Organized and ran a graduate student social during the meeting. Outside of the annual meeting, our committee organized 2 different webinars specifically for graduate students: A SARE Graduate Student Grant webinar and a Graduate Mental Health webinar.
- Gave out 6 awards for our Art in Phytopathology contest, featured 11 new graduate students in our Graduate Student Spotlights in Phytopathology News, helped to organize reviews for the

Student Travel Award applications, consistently posted on our Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook accounts, and were early adopters of the new APS Community.

- Planning on having monthly Zoom socials for members of our committee to better get to know one another and connect more in between the annual meeting
- We plan to organize several APS webinars geared towards graduate students, such as an Unconscious Bias workshop
- Katherine LaTourrette has started a networking program between North Central APS Plant Pathology Graduate Student Associations. Taylor Klass is planning on working with Katherine to try and expand this program to other APS divisions, specifically for graduate students

Action for Council

- 1. Would like to have an in-person student networking event at the APS North Central Division meeting and expand to all divisions. These events will require organizational assistance from APS Council in order to make them happen.**
- 2. Any workshops or webinars that we organize as a committee will need approval and possible funding from Council**

Response from Council

- 1. Council is fully supportive of the student networking event at the APS North Central Division meeting. The planning committee for each division is the appropriate body for local organization of networking events in other Divisional meetings. APS staff that work with the Divisions can provide support as needed as the Graduate Student Committee develops the programs and works with each Division to implement the event at their meetings.**
- 2. Workshops at the Annual Meeting and webinars have a formal approval process. Your Council liaison, Dr. Courtney Gallup, can provide guidance to the Committee as you develop the workshop and webinar concepts. APS on-demand webinars are available at this website: <https://www.apsnet.org/edcenter/resources/Webinars/Pages/default.aspx> This webpage has a link to connect with APS staff and the webinar coordinator to propose a webinar.**

Host Resistance (DG)

- Established an active social media presence to reach the general public about host-resistance related research, sharing relevant research or news stories with #HostResistance and tagging APS. This prevents the issues of having to maintain an official Host-Resistance Facebook profile or Twitter handle that would need to be transferred between users constantly.
- Two special sessions proposals are planned for Plant Health 2022, along with a mentoring toolkit idea for the Councilors Challenge

Action for Council

- 1. Reddit/whisper/stack overflow are great communities to get advice about life/research. The attractiveness of these communities is partially driven by the fact that users ask questions and post advice completely anonymously. Considering the new APS community sites, could a community site be set up that allows for anonymous posting of questions and advice. By hosting the site through APS rather than going through a public forum (e.g. reddit) we can ensure a safe and professional environment dedicated to plant pathology.**

Response from Council

1. **APS is launching a member-only forum, APS Commons, in early November through the Online Communities platform to provide a platform for engagement and conversations among members. All APS members will be automatically enrolled. Council members discussed the idea of anonymous posting and there are significant concerns regarding anonymous posting in a professional forum sponsored and endorsed by APS. Council believes that the benefits of anonymous posting are not outweighed the potential for harm. If anonymous posting is essential for Host Resistance Committee members then individuals are free to establish a forum through existing public platforms outside of APS.**

Industry Committee (DG)

- Organized the recurring Student-Industry networking social and Extension-Industry networking social
- Sponsored New Products and Services Special Session
- Discussed planning for a webinar on pesticide labeling, "Labels 101", an Industry-graduate student mentorship program, and one-on-one conversations with an industry representative

Action for Council

1. **Please see previous statement for an overview of our proposed activities. We are interested in hearing whether APS Council is interested in us pursuing the mentorship program and/or one-on-one conversations with an industry representative. We may need assistance from APS staff to coordinate these programs.**

Response from Council

1. **Council discussed the concepts put forth by the Industry Committee and recognized the merit in both, and encourages the Industry Committee to formulate the goals and structure of the mentoring program and one-on-one conversation with an industry representative. We also discussed the many potential linkages to other groups and venues such as divisional meetings. As the Committee develops these ideas, we encourage engagement with other groups with similar interests such as the Graduate Student Committee and the Academic Unit Leaders Forum.**

Integrated Plant Disease Management (SE)

- Proposed or co-sponsored special sessions that were not selected in 2021.
- A special session of "Smart IPM" for Plant Health 2022 has been proposed, which will include new technologies such as use of UAV for disease detection and precision spraying as a smart way for integrated disease management.

Molecular and Cellular Plant Pathology (CG)

- Sponsored workshop delayed until February 2022.
- Among the co-first place winners of the 2020 Councilors' Challenge
- For the next year: 1) The Molecular and Cellular Phytopathology committee will submit special session/workshop proposals for Plant Health 2022 and collaborate with the other committees

for co-organizing other related sessions. 2) Consolidating a list of senior scientists to share their experience in building successful and mutually beneficial mentor/mentee relationships.

Action for Council

1. **The Molecular and Cellular Phytopathology Committee would like the Council to consider coordinating the related researchers/educators and making resources available for creating and depositing educational videos related to developing mentorships.**

Response from Council

1. **Council supports the concept of sharing mentoring resources. We encourage the Committee to develop their idea into a submission for the 2022 Councilors Challenge. Information on the Councilors Challenge and the submission link can be found here:**
<https://www.apsnet.org/members/leadership/apsleadership/Pages/CouncilorsChallenge.aspx>

Mycology (DG)

- Proposals are planned for a special session and the fungal foray field trip for Plant Health 2022

Action for Council

1. **We would like to reassume our objective of serving as a liaison with MSA. We would like to know if there is any specific guidelines from APS council about how to interact with other professional organizations.**

Response from Council

2. **Council appreciates that the Mycology Committee wishes to liaise and engage more intentionally with the MSA. We believe that APS has much to offer MSA members who presently do not affiliate with our society. Council discussed MSA engagement and suggests that the Mycology Committee reach out to MSA leadership and establish an MSA liaison that can attend Mycology Committee meetings and events.**

We also believe there are several ways that the Mycology Committee could engage with the MSA. At the Annual Meeting, sessions proposals could include topics that are of broad interest to both APS and MSA members and presenters from both societies. Promotion of this session, or other sessions of potential interest, could be communication through existing MSA channels, via social media, and networking directly with MSA-affiliated colleagues. Divisional Meetings could provide another venue for organizing joint sessions, as could developing workshops or webinars, to name a few ideas.

Mycotoxicology (DG)

- Sponsored and organized a panel discussion at Plant Health 2021: Why Do Plant Pathogenic Fungi Produce Mycotoxins? Potential Roles for Mycotoxins In The Plant Ecosystem. Approximately 100 attendees.
- Increased social media presence and developed #APSToxinTalks to promote 2021 special sessions
- Three special sessions proposal are planned for Plant Health 2022.

Action for Council

1. Promoting cross-committee collaborative efforts in special session planning will improve the meeting experience for members. For example, during the 2021 Annual Meeting, there were mycotoxin-focused sessions and Idea Cafes that were hosted without any involvement of the Mycotoxicology Committee. Connecting committees with like-minded proposals for special sessions or breakouts for upcoming meetings will improve both the quality of the sessions, and networking within the society. It will also result in less duplication within the Annual Meeting Program, and will, in turn, likely result in a greater chance for approval of proposed sessions into the Program. Council should consider looking into a means of improving cross-committee communications by connecting groups who submit similar or complimentary proposals.

Response from Council

1. We appreciate the desire for improved collaboration and communication across Committees. The Council liaisons to Subject Matter Committees attend every, or nearly every, Committee meeting to provide precisely this type of cross-committee connection. We routinely communicate with Committee leadership when we are aware of session proposals or ideas that span the subject matter expertise and interests of multiple groups. The Councilors-at-Large will attend every Subject Matter Committee in 2022 when scheduling permits to serve as a resource and communicate opportunities for cross-committee collaboration.

Nematology (CG)

- Unable to execute workshop due to pandemic.
- Discussed the possibility of creating a webinar and/or pest alert for invasive *Meloidogyne enterolobii*
- No one volunteered to be the new Vice-chair, and the current vice-chair formally resigned due to other commitments.
- Will Rutter volunteered to take another year as Chair hold the committee through the pandemic years. Hopefully an in person meeting next year will provide a better opportunity for greater participation and development of future objectives.

Pathogen Resistance (CG)

- The Pathogen Resistance Committee sponsored a special session titled “The Future of Agricultural Antibiotics in the Face of Bacterial Resistance in Agricultural and Medical Settings”, which was well attended with 105 participants.
- Organized a successful Idea Cafe focused on “Pesticide Resistance in Perennial Crops”.
- Discussed proposing a special session (or potentially a different format) that focuses on managing pathogen resistance without broad-spectrum fungicides.
- Worked on putting together a full day workshop with FRAC, but it has been postponed the past 2 meetings until the next in-person Plant Health, potentially 2022. The workshop proposal is titled “Biocontrol products for the management of fungicide resistance and reduction of fungicide residues”.

Action for Council

1. **Members need assistance with user interface of APS Communities. There is no way for people to delete their own posts - even some issues for admins. For example, an incorrect attachment was used in a post and instead of being able to delete it, had to report it for moderation and then remove that way.**

Response from Council

1. **Basic information on APS Communities can be found at this site: <https://community.apsnet.org/home>. A recording of an orientation and training sessions conducted for Committee Chair and Vice Chairs can be accessed here: <https://www.apsnet.org/members/leadership/apsleadership/Pages/CommitteeChairOrientation.aspx>
If you should need specific support, please feel free to reach out to your Council liaison, Dr. Courtney Gallup, to connect you with the appropriate APS staff.**

Phyllosphere Microbiology (DG)

- Sponsored the 20th I. E. Melhus Graduate Student Symposium
- Discussed planning for quarterly presentations by early career professionals to keep members connected

Action for Council

1. **We may take the advantage of some available materials for mentorship training, leadership training from APS Council. In the meeting, most members seem not familiar with the APS online committee, we will appreciate it if the APS Council would help to promote the usage of the tool.**

Response from Council

1. **Online Communities are a new tool launched in 2021 in response to requests from Committees for a more efficient means of communication with their members. Basic information on APS Communities can be found at this site: <https://community.apsnet.org/home>. A recording of an orientation and training sessions conducted for Committee Chair and Vice Chairs can be accessed here: <https://www.apsnet.org/members/leadership/apsleadership/Pages/CommitteeChairOrientation.aspx>
If you should need additional support, please feel free to reach out to your Council liaison, David Gent, to connect you with APS staff.**

Plant Pathogen and Disease Detection Committee (SE)

- Proposed and co-sponsored multiple special sessions, one of which was proposed for 2021 and converted into an in-person workshop that was rescheduled as a virtual workshop for 2022.

Action for Council

1. **Our committee discussed the value of year-round webinars on topics of interest (which are not finding space at APS annual meetings due to space and time limitations) for APS community. We recommend and request APS to consider organizing year round webinars.**

Response from Council

1. Council wholly agrees that year-round webinars are valuable and encourage engagement outside of the Annual Meeting. APS on-demand webinars are available at this website:

<https://www.apsnet.org/edcenter/resources/Webinars/Pages/default.aspx>

This webpage has a link to connect with APS staff and the webinar coordinator to propose a webinar. We look forward to your future submission and webinar.

Postharvest Pathology (CG)

- Organized a special session and two idea café sessions. Approximately 60 members joined the session with discussions on fungicide resistance of high-risk materials, mechanisms of resistance, and practical tools and methods to detect and manage fungicide resistance. Approximately 45 members joined the session with discussions on key mycotoxin problems and their management on cereal crops, pome fruits, and nuts.
- Committee members met multiple times in 2020/2021 with scientists from Syngenta and the USDA to discuss the possibility of a virtual field trip for APS 2021. The committee proposed a virtual field trip to Agricenter International in Memphis, Tennessee with objectives to learn about the research and development programs with focus on cotton production and classing standards. This proposal however was not approved to be included in 2021 APS annual meeting.
- An idea café session was proposed that would involve the discussion around emerging pathogens on postharvest diseases, climate change and abiotic stresses and their effect on current and emerging pathogens.

Action for Council

1. It would be helpful to receive a feedback on the sessions that were not approved. The new workshop for committee chair and vice-chair is very helpful on understanding the APS strategic plans, missions, and visions. Besides these contents, it would be helpful to understand how the committee puts different sessions together and what kind of contents are good for each of these sessions.
2. Would also appreciate guidance to understand how to fund and organize guest speakers for in-person conferences.

Response from Council

1. We appreciate the time that the Postharvest Pathology Committee and other committee put into developing session proposals. There are many factors that go into these decisions and many good proposals simply cannot be supported because of time constraints. Beginning in 2021, the Annual Meeting Board will provide explanations in their correspondences with committees when session proposals were not selected. The letter from the Annual Meeting Board to the contact for the proposal submission should have the information you are seeking.

Council also encourages the Committee to think about other mediums and venues where your ideas can be communicated to the membership and public. For example, APS on-demand webinars may be an appropriate means to reach the membership, and others, with timely information. Other opportunities exist as well.

- 2. Committees typically fund guest speakers through a mixture of solicitations from potential donors that may have an interest in the topic (e.g., a private company), funds from winning past Councilors Challenge events, and monies requested from the Annual Meeting Board at the time of proposal submission. In some instances, a committee member have grant funds that can cover travel costs if the guest speaker is assisting with outreach and technology transfer. APS staff can provide additional support on guest speaker arrangements for the Annual Meeting as questions arise.**

Regulatory Plant Pathology Committee (SE)

Special Session, “A retrospective look at emergency responses to emerging plant diseases-evaluating the shifts in our risk perception”, was featured at Plant Health 2021

Action for Council

- 1. Members thought the Plant Pathology community could benefit from facilitated interactions between late-stage graduate students/early career professionals and mid-/late- career professionals in the realm of regulatory plant pathology and public policy. We proposed a sort of “virtual career shadowing program”, where participants go through a “matching” process, in order to pair mentees wanting to learn more about certain careers and mentors who are willing to talk about their experiences. This could be achieved by having a dedicated week for these meetings to occur, and have mentors and mentees arrange a(n) X hour long session where they can discuss these topics. We can develop and provide questions and talking points but encourage an open conversation. We feel this program is feasible but would need the assistance of APS to develop, advertise, and facilitate the matching process. We would like input from our APS Councilor representative on the feasibility of this idea, and the resources that could be provided on the part of APS.**

Response from Council

- 1. APS recognizes the need for mentoring, coaching, and networking of members at all stages of their career development. This exists in part through networking events at the Plant Health annual meeting, divisional meetings, Office of Public Sector Relations Experiential Aware, and more informally within individual Subject Matter Committees. The concept put forward by the committee seems like an appropriate one to submit for the 2022 Councilors Challenge.**

Seed Pathology (CG)

- The 2021 Plant Health Seed Pathology committee meeting was very well attended
- Plan to develop of a webinar or series of webinars related to seed pathology.
- There is a desire to sponsor a session or workshop during 2022 or future meetings
- There are numerous activities that members of this committee participate in throughout the year. These include various American Seed Trade Association, International Seed Federation and IPPC committees and meetings.

Soil Microbiology and Root Diseases Committee (SE)

- Developed special session proposals for 2022

- Twitter account @SMRD_APS was established to disseminate activities, promote members in the committee and share any other information relevant to the committee.

Teaching Committee (SE)

- Planning to host a panel discussion to reflect online teaching in 2022 annual meeting.
- Activities outside annual meeting: Webinars: Engaging Students Online: A Two-Part Webinar Featuring Synchronous vs Asynchronous Virtual Learning (December, 2020 – relevant to teaching, but I am not sure if teaching committee organized it as I was not involved.)
- In addition to leadership trainings, it would be great if the council can help committee chairs/vice chairs clarify their responsibilities and make sure the transition between terms can go smoothly.

Action for Council

1. **In addition to leadership trainings, it would be great if the council can help committee chairs/vice chairs clarify their responsibilities and make sure the transition between terms can go smoothly.**

Response from Council

1. **Council wholly agrees that training of Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs is important for the most effective functioning of committees and member engagement. In 2021, APS developed Leadership Institute Cohorts with a specific focus on Chairs and Vice Chairs of all committee, offices, and boards. The leadership of the Teaching Committee will be invited to participate in these training sessions. We encourage the Chair and Vice Chair to attend the orientation session in June 2022 as well, where expectations and responsibilities for Committee leaders are presented.**

Tropical Plant Pathology (CG)

- Discussed potential proposals for workshops, special sessions, or other potential Plant Health 2022 activities a.
- The group plans to develop a new twitter account for Tropical Plant Pathology
 - There was the idea to swap out responsibility for the account among committee members (and maybe others).
 - Also the idea to regularly highlight people and programs doing work in tropical plant pathology

Action for Council

1. **Need assistance from Council for how to create an APS Committee Twitter account.**

Response from Council

2. **APS staff will contact the committee leadership to assist with establishing the Twitter account.**

Turfgrass Pathology Committee (SE)

- APS Awards—During 2020, APS Turf Committee member Dr. Alfredo Martinez was nominated and awarded the 2021 Excellence in Extension Award. Dr. Bruce Martin was nominated for APS Fellow but his application was unsuccessful. Committee will revise and resubmit Dr. Martin's application during 2021.

- Committee website—The Committee will be transitioning to the new online community platform but will keep the former SharePoint website active during transition.
- Student Travel Award—The Committee needs to raise \$10,800 to reach the \$20,000 balance needed to fund an annual award of \$500. APS Foundation will match dollar-for-dollar until we reach \$20K.

Action for Council

- 1. Confirm with APS Foundation how donations can be made toward the award, then petition industry for donations. Also explore possibility for a small portion of Turf Disease Compendium sales (e.g., \$1/compendium sale) to go toward the award.**
- 2. This group also interested in forming a Twitter account.**

Response from Council

- 1. Your Council liaison, Dr. Sydney Everhart, can facilitate an introduction to APS Foundation Board Chair APS, David Gadoury, to discuss fundraising strategies and processes.**
- 2. APS staff will contact the committee leadership to assist with establishing the Twitter account**

Vector-Pathogen Complexes (CG)

- The VPC committee met on July 26, 2021, prior to the annual virtual meeting to discuss current issues and coordinate strategies for hosting VPC-related special sessions for the 2022 APS meeting.
- A subcommittee also met on August 5, 2021 to further discuss special session subjects that align with the mission of the VPC and APS strategic plans.
- A special session proposal will be submitted to the 2022 APS board with a focus on how climate change is affecting the biology of vectors and their transmission of pathogens. The special session will be co-sponsored by the Virology committee and sponsored funding to support invited speakers are in progress. The VPC will also co-sponsor a special session proposal that is being led by the Virology committee.

Virology Committee (SE)

- Sponsored activities included a special session, idea café, and POD
- A Virology Satellite meeting (Fall 2021, date TBD) was discussed by John Hammond. The title is “Factors changing prevalence of viruses over time”. APS will send out email announcements for the registration, will likely be \$49 for APS members, less for students. 12 crop areas will be covered- grapevine, citrus, cucurbits, tomato, sweet potato, tree fruit, ornamentals, wheat, cotton, cassava, sugar, cane, grasses. This meeting will be zoomed.