Process for Soliciting Annual Reports from APS Boards and Offices:

Leaders of all boards and offices reporting to the ICO were contacted via email (July 8 and August 1) by the ICO with instructions about how to submit annual reports by the due date of August 7, 2019. Follow up emails were sent on August 19 to those who missed the deadline. Additionally, APS staff sent a series of correspondences encouraging report submission.

As of November 7, 2019, reports are still sought from:
- Annual Meeting Board (AMB)
- Office of Private Sector Relations (OPSR)
- Office of Public Relations & Outreach (OPRO)
- Divisional Forum (DF)
- Publications Board
- APS Historian

Summary of Board/Office Activities and Accomplishments:

1. **2026 Professional Development Forum:**
   a. Priorities include professional development resources; mid-career engagement/membership; Family Frieldy APS; First Timer’s Orientation
   b. Working on social media team called Phyte Club; presented to APS Council in November 2018 (with Ginnie O’Neill)
   c. Family Friendly APS continued successfully at Plant Health 2019
   d. Organized and executed First Timer’s Orientation at Plant Helath 2019 (Anna Testen, Bill Weldon and Jacqueline Joshua recognized for leadership and contributions)
   e. Convened a mid-career focus group at Plant Health 2019
   f. Organized an ad hoc group of social media savvy Plant Helath 2019 meeting attendees to brainstorm on the Phyte Club social media idea

2. **Academic Unit Leader Forum (AULF):** AULF met during Plant Health 2019: meeting updates from USDA NIFA staff included overview of AFRI grant programs and NIFA relocation to Kansas City; and discussion of APS salary survey content; Phil Mulder (Oklahoma State University) will revise the APS salary survey to better serve the needs of unit leaders.

3. **Annual Meeting Board (AMB):** No Report Submitted

4. **Awards and Honors Committee:**
   a. reviewed nominations for all award categories submitted in November 2018 and met at APS headquarters in January 2019 to select the 2019 awardees.
      i. Following approval of the selections by APS Council and notification by the APS President, members of the committee worked with APS staff,
David Gadoury and the awardees to develop the bios and abstracts for upcoming APS annual meeting.

b. Three members of the committee (Deborah Samac, Nona Beth Carroll, Gail Ruhl) rotated off and three new members (Rose Loria, Melissa Mitchum and George Sundin) were identified and have agreed to serve.

c. The committee met at Plant Health 2019 to discuss business and plan for the 2020 awards.

5. **Divisional Forum: No Report Submitted**

6. **Foundation Board:**
   a. Foundation endowment grew to over 2.5 million dollars.
   b. Launched several new initiatives with goal of doubling endowment funds within 3 years.
      i. a revamped and streamlined application process for student travel awards;
      ii. a give-back option wherein applicants can return the monetary portion of student travel grants while retaining the award recognition;
      iii. registration of APS on Amazon Smile, thereby directing 0.5% of all purchases of members who sign up and select APS as their preferred charity;
      iv. development of a grants template for use in soliciting small grants from industry, government, and commodity groups for direct donation to the endowment, or to co-fund Foundation activities.
      v. Developed and launched an outreach effort to increase planned giving options for members and non-members through gifts and bequests;
      vi. New outreach tools were distributed at the annual meeting, including simple business cards to announce the Amazon Smile program, and to capitalize on pivotal moments to direct donations to Foundation
      vii. a mobile Foundation Booth concept was deployed at the 2019 annual meeting,
      viii. several articles were published in Phytopathology News and in APS News Capsules 2019 to “create a buzz” around the new fundraising drive
      ix. hosted a social at Plant Health 2019 for donors, and an educational session designed to familiarize donors with new options to support Foundation.

7. **Historian: No Report Submitted**

8. **Leadership Institute Committee (LI):**
   a. Met monthly to develop the LI annual training session for the Plant Health 2019

9. **Nominations Committee:**
   a. Coordinated, with HQ staff, nomination, application and election of APS officers
      i. 37 nominations were received (17 for VP; 20 for CAL)
         1. Committee notes a general decrease in nominations compared to previous years and plans more aggressive advertisement for future nominations.
      ii. Nominations resulted in 5 applications for VP and 8 applications for CAL
      iii. Election held in May 2019
         1. Amy Charkowski was elected Vice President
         2. David Gent was elected Councilor at Large.
iv. Percent of members voting was 28%, considerably higher than for last year, and the highest turnout in a decade (or more)

10. Office of Education (OE):
   a. Professional Development Webinar Series: continues with 15 webinars presented to APS members since 2017; Doug Jardine’s role as Acquisitions Editor ended in August 2019 and OE is seeking a new Acquisitions Editor.
   b. Undergraduate Task Force: Led by Lydia Tymon et al., this group implemented new ideas for Plant Health 2019; 22 undergraduate students participated; students received a welcome letter, attended First Timer’s Orientation, and special events including Undergraduate Research Highlights talks, networking lunches, Idea Cafés, and a Scavenger Hunt. The Undergraduate Task Force continues efforts to improve APS website content for undergraduate and prospective students.
   c. Professional Development: At Plant Health 2019, OE Board member Ana Cristina Fulladolsa led a café discussion around international students and postdocs, OE priorities include career change resources with Kim Gwinn, managing editor for the Professional Development Center, pursuing a possible webinar speakers for this topic.
   d. Website: The Education Center accounts for significant APS website traffic.
   e. International Year of Plant Health: OE will develop ideas for the International Year of Plant Health and will work with the 2020 IYPH Task Force and Office of Public Relations and Outreach.

11. Office of International Programs (OIP):
   a. Books of the World: 5 awards in 2018-19 (2 in Pakistan, 1 each in South Africa, Nigeria and Argentina)
   b. Library Assistance: provided 18 books to University of Benin; Melvin Grove donated >300 books in March; Charles Kenerley donated 20 books in June; currently the program has ~400 plant pathology books to donate to international libraries or institutions
   d. OIP Silent Auction: 113 items were donated from 22 countries; final proceeds had not been reported by APS staff at time of report submission.
   e. International Plant Pathology Societies: Discussions and activities are ongoing with societies in China, India and Brazil. These include translation of compendia to additional languages; proposed joint special sessions and Idea Cafes at Plant Health meetings; coordination on the International Year of Plant Health; seeking funding for joint projects and student participation in APS meetings; etc.
   g. OIP Award Winners: Tonjock Rsemary-Kinge (University of Bemenda, Cameroon) was awarded the International Travel Award ($1,500 funded by APS Foundation); Maria Ratti (Escuela Superior Politécnica del Litoral, Guayaquil, Ecuador) was awarded the John and Ann Niederhauser Endowment Award ($3,000 funded by APS Foundation); David Shew (Faculty) and Andres D. Sanabria-Velasquez (Graduate Student) of North Carolina State University
received the Global Experience Program Award ($1,500); Shankar K. Shakya (Graduate Student) of Oregon State University was also awarded a Global Experience Program Award ($1,500).

12. **Office of Private Sector Relations (OPSR)**: No Report Submitted

13. **Office of Public Relations and Outreach (OPRO)**: No Report Submitted

14. **Public Policy Board:**
   a. Advocacy
      i. NPDN:
         1. hosted a briefing in Washington DC in which Melodie Putnam highlighted to congressional staffers the importance of safeguarding agriculture from pests and diseases.
         2. generated whitepapers on Emerging Diseases and on the NPDN, which we shared in Washington DC.
      ii. NIFA Relocation:
         1. call-to-action to try to stop the proposed NIFA relocation,
         2. sponsored a webinar on the topic,
         3. joined with other societies and coalitions in signing nine letters to congressional leaders to address concerns with the relocation of NIFA and ERS, and the proposed administrative shift of the ERS.
      iii. Research funding:
         1. surveyed APS membership on the research priorities of interest in September and used the results to generate written comments and two oral presentations responding to the USDA NIFA Listening session on research priorities.
         2. advocated for agricultural funding in the Farm Bill funding through letters and took specific asks to Washington DC.
      iv. Science policy and regulation:
         1. submitted recommendations/comments on several issues, including input into the research agenda at NIFA (i.e., NIFA Listening Sessions), the Dept of Education on Title IX regulations, the EPA on Plant Biostimulants, APHIS on genetically engineered organisms, and the Farm Bill for support for the NPDN, ARS and AGARDA.
         2. joined with other organizations in letters of support for two federal agencies nominations, the National Microbiome Data Collaborative, and support for agriculture funding in general and increased funding levels for specific agencies such as ARS, ERS and NASS, and NSF.
      v. Promoting the discipline:
         1. recruited an APS member to highlight plant pathology research at the Coalition for NSF Exhibition & Reception.
         2. conferred the “Friend of PPB” Award to Dan Drell upon his retirement from the DOE Joint Genome Institute.
         3. communicated with the membership about potential impacts before and after a government shutdown,
4. submitted at least 10 articles into Phytopathology News to keep APS members up-to-date on relevant public policy issues.

15. Publications Board: **No Report Submitted**

**Items of Concern Raised by Boards and Offices that Warrant Review by APS Council:**

1) **Office of Education (OE):**
   a) Is there a budget or resources (posters, stickers, publicity materials, traveling exhibit) available to committees for International Year of Plant Health?
   i) **ICO comment:** IYPH planning committee and/or Council should develop clear communications for board/committees

2) **Office of International Programs (OIP):**
   a) Revise schedules for submission such as yearly report so that deadlines are not in August (many folks are away from after the annual meeting until school starts).
   b) Increase available space in online form so that yearly reports can accommodate longer narratives.
   i) **ICO response:** the OIP report is routinely verbose and includes extraneous details that require significant editing; OIP should be encouraged to streamline their report rather than expand the online form.
   c) Give committees outline of report with questions at the beginning of the term.
   i) **ICO comment:** This would be easy to do. APS staff or ICO can be charged with task.

3) **2026 Professional Development Forum:**
   a) A proposal was prepared and delivered to Ginnie O'Neill for a formal Family Friendly APS Committee - we would like this proposal considered in 2019-2020.
   b) Our name (‘2026’) will eventually be irrelevant. We would like input from Council on whether the forum will continue after 2025/2026, if there will be a future name change, and if the mission/role of the forum will remain the same in the future.
   c) We are unsure of the exact wants/goals for a social media team stemming from 2026 PDF and are interested in Council feedback on this idea.

4) **APS Foundation Board:**
   a) APS Foundation's fundraising efforts would benefit from brief and focused messaging from the presidential team, ICO, and Counselors at Large in routine contacts with membership and at the annual meeting.
   b) Foundation seeks to work more closely with presidential team, ICO, and Counselors at Large in the coming year to keep Foundation in the minds of the general membership and committees.

5) **Public Policy Board:**
   a) We would appreciate efforts by Council and the IYPH Task Force to coordinate and promote synergy among all APS IYPH-directed efforts.

6) **Awards and Honors Committee:**
   a) Identify the APS staff liaison with the A&H committee.
   i) **ICO comment:** input from APS staff should be sought.
   b) Consider providing complementary meeting registration for awardees.
   c) Determine policy for awardees to delay their award for a year if they cannot attend the annual meeting.