2020 - Minutes of the American Pomological Society’s Executive Board and Advisory Committee Meeting

Marvin Pritts, APS President, calls the meeting to order via Zoom format the 10th day of August, 2020 at 4:30 pm EST.

There were 29 attendees: Anne Plotto, Clive Kaiser, David Cain, Emily Hoover, Jill Bushakra, John Preece, Dwight Wolfe, Megan Muehlbauer, Gina Fernandez, Ionnis Minas, Sara Serra, Dario Chavez, Ksenija Gasic, Todd Einhorn, Greg Peck, Tom Kon, Greg Lang, Heather Hilko, Essie Fallahi, Mike Parker, Shengrui Yao, Amaya Atucha, Brent Black, Ed Hellman, Fumi Takeda, Mercy Olmstead, Marvin Pritts, Nahla Bassil, and Michele Warmund.

President’s Remarks- Marvin provides a preview of reports to be given at the upcoming meeting.

Approval of minutes from 2019 meeting from Secretary, Todd Einhorn (posted prior to the meeting on the APS website). Ksenija Gasic makes motion to accept the minutes; Amaya Atucha seconds motion. Motion carries unanimously.

Report from ASHS – Heather Hilko provides an update on page charges. Only one outstanding charge from 2019. Fourteen papers have been charged to date in 2020.

Preview of Financial report – Ed Hellman. Overall, the financial position of APS is in good shape, but figures are slightly down relative to 2019. All communications regarding ATT stock come directly to ASHS (there is no longer a middle person). Stock value is lower than 2019. An additional factor is that ISHS dues collection (memberships) has not been accounted for/reported to ASHS. For example, there are no data for 2019; while membership dues paid to ISHS may not have been extensive, they are nonetheless an important component of the Society’s income. Total liabilities and equity data are provided. Penelope asks how ISHS is contacted (who and when?). Heather (Hilko) has attempted this task but has not received a reply. Marvin mentions that there has been turnover with officers at ISHS.

Preview of Editor’s report – Rich Marini. Highlights presented in Rich’s absence by Marvin. Of the 23 manuscripts submitted, 19 were accepted. The ASHS ‘Early fruit nurseries’ workshop will be published as a proceedings report. The average time to receive reviewer comments is 34 days. The October 2020 issue is full and five papers have been accepted for the subsequent issue. Brent Black voiced concern that the time to publish from the date of acceptance can be ~ one year. Marvin mentions that the journal has a limited number of pages per issue given that the postage price is based on weight. Heather comments that page charges are sufficient to offset additional charges on postage. Michele Warmund asks if posting ASHS talks on the website is a breach of ASHS policy. Heather replies that a virtual conference may present issues given the current embargos. Marvin suggests posting the link to ASHS. Heather will look into the timeline when these could be available.

Preview of Editorial committee report – Penny Perkins-Veazie. Nothing to add.

Preview of web site update – Mercy Olmstead. The hosting company has made it clear that frequent updates are necessary and require ~ bimonthly security checks. Photos were encouraged and welcome. Marvin mentions the website is current and well maintained and acknowledges Mercy for her efforts.

Preview of Nominations – Michele Warmund. Patrick Conner was nominated for 2nd Vice President of APS. Executive board- Mercy Olmstead nominated. Still need an additional person- Tom Kon agrees to serve a term. The new slate of Advisory board nomination is Anne Plotto, Daniel Ward, Edgar Vinson, Michael Dossett, Patrick Byers. Slate formerly presented to membership for an official vote.

Preview of U.P. Hedrick Award – Essie Fallahi. Essie acknowledges advisors encouragement of student applications. Marvin thanks Essie for his continued efforts. Essie thanks the committee (Susan Brown, Dan Ward, Rob Crassweller, and Peter Hirst).

Preview of Shepard Award – Fumi Takeda. Fumi acknowledges the seven-member committee (Ann Callahan, Sherif Sherif, Kathy Demchak, Juanita Popenoe, Cameron Peace, Sara Serra and Lisa De Vetter). There were good choices and a solid consensus. Certificate has been prepared, signed and is ready to be mailed.

Preview of Wilder Medal – Brent Black announces the selection committee (Patrick Byers, Mercy Olmstead, Daniel Ward, Christopher Walsh, Clive Kaiser, and Lee Kalcsits). There were two nominations; the decision was unanimous. The awardee was nominated by John Clark.

Motion to approve the slate of APS awards carries unanimously.

Workshop on Early Fruit Nurseries– Michele Warmund- Michele mentions the correct terminology for the workshop is ‘Planned oral sessions’ and requires six short presentations and 30 minutes of discussion. Michele, subsequently, requests the preparation and submission of questions to have sufficient material to satisfy the 30-minute live discussion session. Michele asks Heather how stringent the rules are regarding the number of presentations and time limits. Heather suggests contacting Negar (ASHS) to determine the flexibility of the sessions.

No other old business is reported/discussed.

New Business:

Marvin tests poll feature of Zoom to record attendees.

Approval of resolution to adopt a logo- Marvin shows logo. Cherry was selected to replace peach. Michele makes motion to replace peach with cherry and accept the logo; Greg Lang seconds the motion.

Approval of resolution to establish the Chad Finn Award- Mercy reads the description of the award. Essie makes motion to accept the Chad Finn award. Nahla Bassil seconds. Pairwise/PSI are interested in encouraging student involvement and education within the field of pomology; thus, the awardee can select a student of their choice to accompany the faculty member to a professional pomology meeting. A committee has formed comprising Gina Fernandez, Lisa De Vetter, and Michele Warmund. Greg Lang asks if Chad’s family has been contacted to provide a statement. Lisa De Vetter has a relationship with the family and thus will reach out to them on behalf of APS and offer an opportunity to make a statement.

DOIs for JAPS article. Heather Hilko provided estimated costs ($250 per year). A suggestion from Rich Marini is to include back issues. Heather mentions that the .pdf cannot be linked to an entire issue, only the paper. Marvin asks Penny to pursue how far back we need to go to assign DOIs and to present a recommendation this year. Shengrui Yao asks if DOI results in ‘open access’. Heather replies no.

Ideas for a workshop in Denver- Patrick Conner is organizing a workshop which includes a tour to the USDA National Seed Storage Laboratory (NSSL) at Fort Collins to visit the cryopreservation lab. Cideries and wineries can also be visited. Greg Peck will contribute ideas to Nahla on cideries. The Propagation and Fruit breeding and germplasm groups are also interested in a tour of the NSSL which could result in co-sponsorship of a visit. Marvin suggests tying in with a workshop that focuses on advances in the long-term conservation of germplasm.

Marvin asks if there is other new business

Essie requests the status of membership. Heather cites the last mailing list (disseminated to ~120 individual members and 51 institutions (35 in US and 16 overseas). Marvin mentions having a mailing list with over 300 names. Michele requests that Marvin forward a reminder message for membership renewals to Nahla.

Brent acknowledges the value of a virtual meeting or combination virtual/in-person meeting as a consistent forum to facilitate attendance for future meetings.

Motion to adjourn 5:59 pm.