**WSSA BOD Meeting**

**February 2, 2023**

**In attendance:**

Stanley Culpepper, Carroll Moseley, Christian Willenborg, Lauren Lazaro, Michael Flessner, Pamela Carvalho-Moore, John Lindquist, Lee Van Wychen, Peter Dotray, Lynn Sosnoskie, Alan Helm, Greg Dahl, Greg Elmore, Eric Gustafson, Hilary Sandler

**Call to Order**

Carroll Moseley at 2:02PM EST.

**Roll Call**

**Welcome New Officers: Carroll Moseley**

Carroll welcome both Pamela and Hilary to the BOD, as well as Peter and Ben as regional representatives.

**Approval of BOD Agenda**

**Motion to approve made by Alan Helm at 2:05PM EST. Seconded by Hilary Sandler. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Approval of Previous BOD Meeting Minutes**

**Motion to approve previous BOD meeting minutes pending minor revisions by Greg Dahl at 2:07PM EST. Seconded by Lynn Sosnoskie. Motion passed unanimously.**

**2023 Conference Update: Carroll and Eric Gustafson**

Eric stated that 560 people attended the conference. Greg Dahl asked how many government employees attended the conference. Eric responded that 54 people utilized the free registration code, but that did not include the speakers who received free registration. Hilary noted that there was some confusion by the NEWSS people on how to register for the joint meeting. Eric noted that he will work with the SWSS BOD on drafting language surrounding this. There were several issues noted with the hotel, such as lights blinking on and off, elevators not working, conference Wi-Fi not working, timing of food/drinks, etc. There was a lot of concern surrounding the meeting app not working properly. Greg Dahl added that there was a cohort of people who still would like a printed copy. There was some discussion surrounding the format of printing. Stanley notes that a few people would be willing to pay for a printed copy. Eric stated that the book is out of date as soon as it is printed due to the variability of the program changing. There was a consensus that a printed book is not needed if an app is properly working. There is a consensus that some form of a printed book should be done for the next joint meeting.

**Finance Committee – 2023 Budget: Greg Elmore**

The finance committee met February 1, 2023, morning and there have been several requests for 2023 funding. The total funding requests, outside of what is already in the budget, was $46,000. $26,000 was unexpected requests, which included a request from Chris Willenborg and one additional person, likely Sarah Ward, for funding to travel to Cambridge and ESA committee has also asked for funding for presentations and literature reviews. The funding committee recommends to fund both requests in its entirety. Eric will add the new items to the budget. The operating budget for 2023 is expected to be less than the expected revenue, but the overall financial health of WSSA can handle this. There was a suggestion to examine the overall financial health of WSSA quarterly. The BOD will vote via email once the proposed budget changes has been circulated.

**Student Contest Update**

Carroll notes that Darrin Dodds and Marty Schraer did a wonderful job organizing the student contest. Pamela notes that there many posters did not adhere to the proper poster size guidelines and this affected other posters when in close proximity. It was unclear of the rules surrounding animation during the single slide talk and the length of time students had to present and the rules should be updated to reflect this. Marty will take the lead on these changes. Eric asks Pamela to reach out the GSO about using gift cards instead of checks in the future. Pamela will follow-up on this. Peter clarified that students could only choose the regional or WSSA contest, but that they could not compete in both competitions.

**GSO Update: Pamela Carvalho-Moore**

The GSO mental health breakfast was a huge success with about 75 students in attendance, which was double the expected number. Pamela asks for future funding to help cover speaker costs if this event continues. Eric clarifies that her travel and hotel was covered. Pamela is not sure if future speakers would have a speaker fee associated with their time. The GSO would like to continue this event.

The graduate student luncheon had 120 students and 14 government official representatives. They plan to have a sign that designates that the lunch/event is for students only and not open to the society. Eric says in the future that this event can potentially have a large room with food inside to clearly indicate that this is only for students.

Students would like to use the photo contest photos to create a calendar to see for revenue. Pamela will lead this effort. Lynn noted that we would need to add a consent form to use the photos.

New officers were elected at the GSO lunch.

**2024 Joint WSSA/SWSS Conference: Greg Dahl, Peter Dotray, Hilary Sandler**

Monthly planning meetings will begin soon. Greg would like to make sure that all the SWSS needs are met in the agenda. Peter notes that the local arrangement chairs are already working on events.

**WSSA Committees - Membership Update: Greg Dahl, Peter Dotray, Hilary Sandler**

Hilary will begin working on updating the committee member lists. Carroll has received several emails on updating the section chairs. He will forward that information on to Hilary. Greg asked how many committees did not send in committee reports. Stanley notes that about 60% of the committees have not submitted reports. Hilary will follow-up with the committees who have not submitted reports. There was a question surrounding if students can serve on committees. The MOP states that any member can serve on committees, including students, but the terms are three years.

**Science Policy Fellow(s) Plan: Lee VanWychen**

Eric emailed out the application for the Science Policy Fellow this morning. Applications are due April 3, 2023. Eric asked how frequently a reminder should be sent out. Lee said that probably two reminder emails will be sent out.

**P23 Change of Common Names Communication Plan: Lee VanWychen**

Carroll notes that there needs to be a clear communication plan in place to distribute the common name changes to USDA, EPA, industry, etc. Theresa will put together a committee to begin distributing the information.

**Innovative Grants MOP Updates: Greg Elmore**

Language changes to the MOP and Innovative Grants section that if publishing. John states that the changes should be made to section 4.13.4.i. Michael Flessner asks if this would cover multiple entities and John said yes, but there would have to be made specific to the individual request. A point was also made that exceptions to this could be made if approved by the BOD. The finance committee will make changes to the RFP surrounding this.

**A motion is made to adopt language changes to the MOP that state if WSSA provides publication charges, the paper shall be published in a WSSA journal, with exception to be made by the BOD by Greg Elmore at 3:15PM EST. Seconded by Alan Helm. Motion approved unanimously.**

**Upcoming BOD Meetings**

The quarterly spring and fall meetings will be determined via an online poll. The summer BOD meeting proposed dates are June 2-15. The summer is difficult to schedule, Eric will look at alternative dates in August/September. There is a possibility that the BOD could meet after the Nation Weed Contest and the program committee could continue to the site location.

**Old Business**

Diversity and Inclusion/Code of Conduct

Michael applauds Lynn for bringing this issue up. A comment was made that there is no way to file a complaint for diversity and inclusion or code of conduct. John notes that this issue falls more under the code of conduct/ethics. Discussion surrounding adding more sensitivity language may be needed. The BOD reiterated the need for this and to make it a priority. Carroll suggested adding something in the next newsletter regarding this. John notes that there should also be some language drafted for the MOP.

Global Reach Strategies

Move discussion to next meeting.

ATZ-LOC

Greg Elmore notices a few committee reports that requested a follow-up communication from the BOD. The Science Advisory Panel may take the initiative on this.

**New Business**

Authorship

In the future, all authors will be notified that they were included as a co-author on all submissions. Michael notes that the journals have guidelines in place, and we could possibly mimic those guidelines. Further discussion is needed on this topic.

General Code of Conduct

John discusses what occurs when someone makes a complaint by reading over the Code of Ethics MOP language. There are additional sections in the MOP that has differing language on how to report an issue but there is no language surrounding what to do once a report has been filed. John also asks if any of this was vetted by a legal entity. Further discussions are needed on this, and the BOD is taking this seriously.

**Motion to adjourn made by John Lindquist at 4:02PM EST. Seconded by Alan Helm. Motion passed unanimously.**