

Thursday, August 11, 2016

2016 MSA Business Meeting Minutes

Joseph Wood Krutch Theatre, University of California-Berkeley

1. The 2016 Business Meeting of the Mycological Society of America was called to order by President *Kerry O'Donnell* at 12:20 pm. President *Kerry O'Donnell* thanked members for attending the meeting and providing a quorum, and introduced 2016 MSA officers *Georgiana May* (President elect), *Tom Volk* (Vice President), *Sarah Bergemann* (Executive Vice President), and *Sharon Cantrell* (Treasurer).
2. President *O'Donnell* called for approval of the minutes of the 2015 MSA Business Meeting [Inoculum 66(5)] held at the Shaw Conference Centre, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Paper copies of the minutes were provided at the Business Meeting by Executive Vice President *Sarah Bergemann*. The minutes were approved by member vote.
3. President *O'Donnell* summarized the highlights of the President's annual report, which will be published in the next issue of *Inoculum*. President *O'Donnell* introduced Keith Seifert, who provided an update on the transition to Taylor and Francis for co-publishing *Mycologia*. A 5-year contract has been signed. Highlights of the contract include no more page charges to authors, and 96 free color plates per volume (16 per issue). However, open access fees will increase. A meeting will be held this afternoon to finalize details regarding the transition. Keith Seifert requested that members exercise patience during the transition period, but expressed optimism that the ultimate outcome will be positive for *Mycologia* and the MSA in general. President *O'Donnell* thanked Keith Seifert and other members of the transition team for their service to the society. President *O'Donnell* thanked Finance committee members Jean Lodge, Lisa Castlebury (Chair), and *Sharon Cantrell* for their service to MSA in obtaining two competitive bids for management of MSA investments and selecting Middleton Advisory as our financial advisor. President *O'Donnell* thanked editors Cathie Aime (Managing Editor, *Mycologia*), Julia Kerrigan (Editor, *Inoculum*), and the outgoing officers, outgoing councilors – Meritxell Riquelme (Cell Biology/Physiology), Marin Talbot Brewer (Ecology/Pathology), Stephen Rehner (Genetics/Molecular Biology), and Matt Smith (Systematics/Evolution). President *Kerry O'Donnell* also acknowledged the service of MSA standing committee chairs for their time and effort: Lisa Castlebury (Finance), and Priscila Chaverri (Nomenclature). Additionally, the outgoing chairs of the Awards and General Service Rotating Committees were acknowledged for their service: Mary Berbee (Honorary Awards), Brian Perry (Mentor Student Travel Awards), François Lutzoni (Mycological Society Distinctions), David Geiser (Research Awards), Tim James (Student Awards), John Taylor and David Geiser (Endowment), Antonis Rokas (Karling Annual Lecture), Dan Luoma (Liaison with Amateur Mycological Clubs & Societies), Tom Bruns (Nominations Committee) and Anne Pringle (Program Committee). President *O'Donnell* acknowledged Sharon Cantrell (outgoing Treasurer) and Sarah Bergemann (Executive Vice President) for their service and outstanding organizational skills. President *O'Donnell* acknowledged Andy Wilson, membership committee chair, and reported an approximately 6% increase in membership.

3. Vice President *Tom Volk* reported on the results of the 2016 Spring Ballot and the active nomination process with approximately 50 nominations submitted. Vice President *Volk* recognized past presidents; executive vice presidents, and council members past and present. Vice President *Volk* described the nomination and voting process, and reported results of the election. He welcomed newly elected Vice President Sharon Cantrell, Treasurer Chris Schardl, and councilors Lisa Grubisha (Genetics/Molecular Biology), Heather Hallen-Adams (Cell Biology/Physiology), Todd Osmundson (Ecology/Pathology), and Else Vellinga (Systematics/Evolution), who will be starting their terms at the conclusion of the Business Meeting. Vice President *Volk* expressed appreciation to all those who stood for election and participated in voting.
4. Executive Vice President Sarah Bergemann thanked members for a great meeting. She then referred to her midyear report [Inoculum 67(2)] that summarized Council activities from August 2015 to January 2016. The mid-year MSA council meeting was held on Feb 6, 2016 by phone conference. Highlights of council activities during this meeting included approving the Taylor and Francis bid for co-publishing Mycologia and evaluation of bids for providing membership services. Council activity has been fairly heavy since January, with 12 email polls to council members including discounted memberships for 4 members, revision of the MSA Manual of Operations to include “best practices” recommendations to improve diversity and equity in all MSA functions, and contracting Middleton Advisory to advise MSA in its financial investments. The 2016 MSA Council meeting was held on Saturday, August 6, 2016 in Koshland Hall on the University of California, Berkeley campus. In addition to members of the Executive Council and General Council, the meeting was attended by Mycologia Executive Editors Keith Seifert and Chris Schardl (also incoming Treasurer), newly elected councilors Else Vellinga and Todd Osmundson, and student section representatives Jessie Uehling and Terry Torrez-Cruz. Annual reports from officers and committees were presented, and will appear in the next issue of Inoculum. Highlights of the meeting include approval of a contract with Allen Press to provide membership services, approval of renewing the status of the ad-hoc Diversity Committee while permanent status is considered by MSA council and membership, and discussion of a MSA anti-harassment and diversity policy.
5. Executive Vice President *Sarah Bergemann* announced the passing of the following members: Edward Butler, Gastón Guzman, Walter Sundberg, Chirayathumadom Venkatachaliar Subramanian, Thomas Taylor and noted that the an additional member of the MSA (Ken Wells, May 2016) was not included on the earlier list. EVP *Sarah Bergemann* requested a moment of silence for these 7 individuals.
6. Executive Vice President *Sarah Bergemann* welcomed 188 new members from 27 countries, many of which can be attributed to this year’s meeting venue and MSA’s active student section; membership for these individuals was unanimously approved by member vote. Emeritus member status for Donald Wicklow was unanimously approved by member vote. Executive VP *Sarah Bergemann* thanked members for their patience during her transition into the EVP role.
7. President *Kerry O’Donnell* thanked Antonio Izzo and Danny Halewaters for their help with web migration to Allen Press.
8. Treasurer *Sharon Cantrell* summarized the highlights of her annual report. The report contains details of the contract with Allen Press for membership services. Treasurer *Cantrell* recognized the efforts of Andy Wilson (Chair, Membership committee) and members of the Membership Committee to contact and recruit lapsed members. MSA currently includes more than 200

student members. Although membership has increased, subscriber numbers are reduced from last year. Mycologia is still one of biggest expenses for the society. Treasurer *Cantrell* thanked Mycologia Managing Editor, Cathie Aime, for her efforts in generating new subscriptions. Net income generated in 2015 was \$48,056.44. Treasurer *Cantrell* reported that the total of uncommitted endowment funds is \$287,433.00. Committed endowment totals are \$394,636 in principal, with a total fund value of \$626,260 as of June 2016. The 2015 MSA auction generated \$6,175.52 for the uncommitted endowment; an estimate of \$9000 was generated from the 2016 auction.

9. President *O'Donnell* thanked the chairs of the Distinctions Awards and Honorary Awards Committees (François Lutzoni and Mary Berbee, respectively). The following distinctions were awarded:

- William H. Weston Teaching Award: Elizabeth (Betsy) Arnold
- Alexopoulos Prize: Matt Smith
- Distinguished Mycologist Award (Donald T. Wicklow); received by Steve Peterson on behalf of Dr. Wicklow
- Gordon and Tina Wasson Award: David Arora

The following distinctions were awarded:

- 2016 MSA Honorary Member: received by Mary Berbee on behalf of Dr. Barbara Howlett (Australia)
- 2016 MSA Fellow: François Lutzoni

10. Brian Perry (Chair) and Sara Branco (member) of the Mentor Student Travel Awards Committee distributed the 2016 travel awards. Brian Perry congratulated all student presenters for an outstanding set of presentations, and thanked committee members Sara Branco, Maj Padamsee, and Scott Bates for their service. Awards were given to Ben Auxier (Alexopoulos fund), Paris Hamm (Bigelow), Lynnaun Johnson (Barr Bigelow), Gerald Cobian (Butler), Megan Daniels (Denison), Demetra Skaltsas (Gilbertson), Kevin Amses (Korf), Jaclyn Dee (Kramer), Ludovic Le Renard (Luttrell), Marisol Sanchez-Garcia (Miller), Cedric Ndinga Muniania (Miller), Naveed Davoodian (Thiers), Kristi Fenstermacher (Thiers), Mara DeMers (Trappe) and Yan Wang (Simmons).

11. The 2016 research awards were presented by David Geiser, Chair of the Research Awards committee. A total of 47 applications were received, compared to 19 in 2015); therefore, many deserving proposals could not be funded. David Geiser acknowledged the MSA Student Section for announcing the awards through social media, and encouraged people to resubmit proposals next year. He thanked Research Awards committee members Peter Kennedy, Jolanta Miadlikowska, Tim James, Greg Mueller, and Betty Strack (ex officio) for their service. The following awards were presented:

- Robert W. Lichtwardt award for studies of fungi associated with insects: Yan Wang
- Martin-Baker award: Sarah Bergemann
- John W. Rippon award: Kayla Pennerman
- C.T. Rogerson award: Jorge Diaz-Valderrama
- Salomon Bartnicki-Garcia Research Fund: Ningxiao Li
- Emory G. Simmons award: Joyce Woudenberg
- Forest Fungal Ecology awards: Tyler Bourret, Demetra Skaltsas, Ben Morgan, Jennifer Jones

- Postdoctoral Forest Fungal Ecology Award: Chris Fernandez, Romina Gazis
- Translational Mycology award: Kristi Fenstermacher, Chris Smyth, Isabelita Zapata, Geoff Zahn

No applicants for the Helen V. and Alexander H. Smith award were received this year.

12. Tim James, Chair of the Student Awards committee, presented the 2016 MSA student awards. He thanked committee members Tom Horton, Heather Hallen-Adams, and Allison Walker for their service. The following awards were presented:

- MSA Graduate Fellowships: Danny Haelewaters, Devin Leopold, Brian Looney (NAMA Memorial Fellowship), Jaclyn Dee (Myron P. Backus Award)
- Undergraduate Research Award: Mareli Sanchez

The following awards for best student posters and oral presentations were presented:

- Graduate Oral: Rachel Koch; Lotus Lofgren, Wenjing Xia
- Graduate Poster: Emile Gluck-Thaler, Martha Lee Jenkins
- Undergraduate Poster: Shannon Newerth

Tim James congratulated winners and all student presenters for an excellent set of student presentations.

13. Final Business:

- Salomon Bartnicki-Garcia announced the 2017 Fungal Cell Wall Conference, to be held in Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico from October 9-12, 2017.
- Marin Talbot Brewer, local arrangements Chair, announced the 2017 MSA conference to be held at The Classic Center, Athens, Georgia, July 15-19, 2017. A call for symposium proposals will go out within the next few weeks.
- Sharon Cantrell announced the 11th International Mycological Congress, to be held from July 16-21, 2018, at the San Juan Puerto Rico Convention Center. More information can be found at: www.imc11.com, including the call for symposia and workshop proposals. The submission deadline for proposals is October 31, 2016.
- The 2019 MSA annual meeting location has not yet been determined
- President *O'Donnell* thanked the 2016 meeting Program Chair Anne Pringle and Executive Vice President Sarah Bergemann for their efforts in making the meeting a success.
- President *O'Donnell* introduced 2016-2017 President *Georgiana May* and passed over the official MSA gavel.
- President *May* expressed thanks to members, stating that it is a thrill and pleasure to serve such a wonderful group of people. As her first official act, she presented certificates of appreciation to Society members in recognition of exceptional service: Antonio Izzo (webmaster), Meritxell Riquelme (outgoing councilor, Cell Biology/Physiology), Marin Talbot Brewer (outgoing councilor, Ecology/Pathology and 2017 annual meeting local organizer), Stephen Rehner (outgoing councilor, Genetics/Molecular Biology), Matthew Smith (outgoing councilor, Systematics/Evolution), David Geiser (Endowment Committee chair), Julia Kerrigan (outgoing Inoculum editor), and to Lisa Castlebury (Finance Committee chair) and Jean Lodge (Finance Committee member) for their efforts in the transition to Middleton Advisory.

- President *May* also presented certificates of appreciation to the following members: Keith Seifert (Mycologia Executive Editor) and Cathie Aime for their roles in assisting with the co-publishing contract with Taylor and Francis; Sharon Cantrell (outgoing Treasurer) for assisting with the transition to Middleton Advisory; past President Kerry O'Donnell for his excellent service to the MSA for the past year; Anne Pringle for her role as 2016 annual meeting program chair; and to Tom Bruns and John Taylor, 2016 annual meeting local organizers.
- President *May* announced that MSA is seeking a new editor for *Inoculum*.
- President *May* officially adjourned the 2016 Business Meeting at 1:59 p.m.