

February 3, 2018

2018 MSA Executive Council Meeting Minutes

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

The 2018 MSA Executive Council meeting was called to order by conference at 8:04 am CST on Saturday, February 3, by President Tom Volk. Attending were President Tom Volk, President-Elect Sharon Cantrell, Vice President Anne Pringle, Treasurer Chris Schardl and Executive Vice President Sarah Bergemann. Invited guests included Executive Editor Keith Seifert, Managing Editor Brian Shaw and Finance Committee chair Jean Lodge. Executive Vice President Bergemann had distributed electronic copies of the midyear Executive Council meeting packet by email on Saturday, January 27, 2018. The midyear executive council meeting packet included the meeting agenda, the 2018 midyear reports, minutes of the 2017 Executive Council meeting held by teleconference and minutes of the Council meeting held in Athens, GA (July 15, 2017) and action items from the annual Council meeting, the 2017-2018 Official MSA Roster and copies of the MSA Constitution and Bylaws. The Appendices included proposed amendments to the MSA By-laws including a draft of the amendment proposing permanent status of the Editorial Advisory committee, proposed amendments to the MSA bylaws from the Diversity and Inclusion committee, a proposal to establish a postdoctoral travel award, inquiries from the Student Section, an invoice for print and online subscriptions of *Mycologia* and balances on endowments.

Executive Vice President Bergemann referred to the 2017 MSA Executive Council Meeting minutes in the Council packet and asked if there were any corrections. Treasurer Chris Schardl commented that there were corrections for the 2017 Council meeting minutes. *Motion to approve the 2017 minutes was conducted by email poll and approved by quorum.*

Officers' Reports

1. **President's Report:** President Volk thanked members of the MSA committees and officers for their efforts. President Volk acknowledged the efforts of the Student Section to provide support for students in Puerto Rico affected by Hurricane Maria and also noted a particular thanks to Executive Vice President Sarah Bergemann for her organization of the meeting. President Volk also referred to the Treasurer's and Finance committee report which suggested that the MSA was in good financial shape.
2. **President-Elect's Report:** President-Elect Sharon Cantrell discussed the accomplishments of the local organization for the IMC11 meeting. Cantrell reported that 660 abstracts were received by the close of IMC11 abstract submission (deadline January 31, 2018). Cantrell mentioned that she was sorting poster abstracts according to congress themes and was planning to announce abstract acceptance decisions around March 1. Cantrell reported that 203 abstracts were received for IMC11 symposia (and to be reviewed by the MSA Program Committee). Cantrell also reported that 118 people have registered for IMC11 and that the number of registrants should increase by late February or early March (the early bird deadline for registration is March 31, 2018). Cantrell also noted that the IMC11 Program Chair should follow up with missing abstracts from symposia speakers. Cantrell emphasized the importance of

publishing the IMC11 program on the website by the end of March to attract more attention for the meeting. Cantrell and the Executive Council discussed a suitable date and time for the annual MSA Council meeting. The Council meeting was scheduled for Monday, July 16, 2018; Cantrell would coordinate with officers from the IMA to avoid scheduling conflicts for participants of both the IMA Executive Committee and MSA Council. Cantrell noted that the MSA banquet, presidential address and awards ceremony would be scheduled for Thursday, July 19, 2018 at a place to be determined.

Action Item: Sharon Cantrell will work with IMA officers to establish times for the IMA Executive Committee meeting and the MSA Executive Council meeting to avoid overlap.

Action Item: IMC11 Program Chair Chris Schardl will follow up to obtain missing abstracts for IMC11 symposia.

3. **Vice President's Report:** Vice President Anne Pringle referred to her midyear report noting that nominations for the spring ballot were a primary emphasis for her term. Pringle announced the nominations by membership for councilors and Vice President and also noted that there were clear nominations by vote of MSA membership for all offices except councilor of Cell Biology/Physiology. Pringle mentioned that she would be coordinating with the chair of the Nominations committee, Tim Baroni, to secure the second slate of candidates for the ballot. Pringle also discussed her efforts with Don Natvig to secure a publishing contract for *Inoculum* with Allen Press. For the first issue, MSA business would be the focus. Pringle asked the Executive Council for feedback on formatting and content of future issues. Pringle also stressed the need for finding an *Inoculum* editor and emphasized that an annual rotating editor was not ideal for this appointment.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Chris Schardl reported that the MSA was in great financial shape with nearly 1.8 million in assets with nearly 379K in the MSA checking account, 780K in unrestricted assets and 884K restricted assets. The publication income for *Mycologia* netted royalties of ca. 58K and 35K from a stipend from Taylor and Francis to support editorial expenses. Schardl also noted that financials are needed for the next fiscal year to assess the yearly revenues netted from the co-publishing contract with Taylor and Francis. Schardl also referred to his report and noted that membership statistics for 2017 showed that membership was not in decline (1061 members for FY2017). Schardl referred to the invoice for *Mycologia* subscriptions included as Appendix 5 in the executive council packet and noted that the MSA was paying around 12K for subscriptions to *Mycologia*. Schardl also informed executive council that the MSA netted ca. 35K from the registration and miscellaneous income from the annual 2016 meeting held in Berkeley, CA, a significant donation was received from the Martha Christensen estate to fund the Backus Award and 50K was received from an anonymous donor to support the Forest Ecology and Translational Mycology Awards. President-Elect Cantrell noted that the financials were reported through June 30, 2017, rather than December 31, 2017; Schardl commented that Allen Press was not current with their accounting through the 2017 fiscal year. Schardl also mentioned that the MSA council approved a motion to use the 35K stipend from Taylor and Francis to offset the costs of travel and registration for *Mycologia* Associate Editors to attend the annual MSA meeting or another meeting (with approval from the President). Schardl also noted that the Council had approved a request to support 54K for IMC11 symposia speakers. President-Elect Cantrell noted the need to draft and send a

letter to the symposia chairs outlining a process to request funding for participants for the support from the MSA.

Action Item: Tom Volk will continue discussions with an anonymous donor to determine award criteria and award amounts for dissemination of 50K in donations.

Action Item: Chris Schardl will draft and email IMC11 symposia participants an outline of the process for symposia speakers to apply for support from the MSA.

Action Item: Executive Vice President Sarah Bergemann will request that the donation report is added to the monthly reports received by MSA officers from Allen Press.

5. **Executive Vice President's Report:** Executive Vice President Bergemann summarized her activities for the year and items in her midyear report including 12 email polls conducted since the last annual meeting. Bergemann noted that since submitting her midyear report, MSA members had reported that new members could no longer register with the online registration through the website and that Allen Press required an email before allowing registration. Executive Council discussed the need to resolve this issue by scheduling a meeting with the Association Manager, Terry Leatherman, at Allen Press.

Action Item: Chris Schardl will draft an email to Terry Leatherman at Allen Press to discuss the current issues of online registration. A conference call is needed with Allen Press will also include representatives of the MSA Executive Council, Sarah Bergemann and Georgiana May.

6. **Editor's Report:** Managing Editor Brian Shaw reported that the transition to Taylor and Francis was going well. Shaw also reported that *Mycologia* 109.5 was going to print and all articles accepted for 109.6 should also be going to print within a week. Shaw reported that the Impact Factor for the *Mycologia* in 2016 was 2.55, a minimal decrease from 2015. Shaw noted that the rejection rate for manuscripts for 2017 was about 68% and this was on par with previous years. Shaw also announced that Brandon Matheny was appointed as a new executive editor of *Mycologia* and also acknowledged the former executive editor, Frances Trail, for her service. Shaw also acknowledged the efforts of nine *Mycologia* Associate Editors whose terms of service had ended in 2017 and noted that Council had approved the nomination of 13 new Associate Editors to begin terms in 2018. Shaw reported that he and Keith Schardl had a phone conversation with the lawyer at NYBG to discuss a resolution to a copyright claim to issues of *Mycologia* housed on JSTOR prior to 1998. The position of the NYBG is that they would like information on the publication revenues received by the MSA from JSTOR.
7. **Finance Report:** Finance committee chair Jean Lodge reported that the MSA has done very well on investments during the FY2017 and the endowments have seen a gain in terms of \$147,270 which represented a 10.9% gain from the previous fiscal year. The outsourced chief investment officer, David Middleton, advised Lodge that a drop in the Dow Jones as a response to higher inflation rates might impact MSA investments for FY2018. Lodge also noted that if donations to endowments are sufficient, the MSA could expect a 3-4% return on the investments for FY2018.

8. **New Business**

- a. Stabilization of the MSA tax reporting address: Finance chair Jean Lodge noted that in 2016, taxes were filed using the MSA business address at Allen Press and noted that the MSA will need to stabilize their address for tax reporting purposes. Lodge advised Executive Council of the need to mitigate the effects of changing association service firms when the contract expires in 2019 if a new Association Services contract is secured by the MSA. Lodge also noted that if the MSA was to change Association Services, our outsourced chief financial officer, David Middleton, has advised that the accounting on endowment balances may be delayed. Lodge also commented that one way to address this issue was to outsource this service to the accounting firm Mize Houser.
- b. Martin-Baker Award increase: Executive Vice President Sarah Bergemann referred to an email thread involving several council members, chair of the Finance Committee Jean Lodge, and members of research awards in 2015 which proposed an increase in the Martin-Baker award from \$2500 to \$3000. Bergemann asked for Lodge's advice on increasing the award amount and Lodge recommended that it was a safe financial decision to increase the award amount to \$3000.

Motion: Tom Volk motioned to approve an increase in the Martin-Baker award amount to \$3000 (seconded by Chris Schardl). *Motion unanimously approved*

- c. **Executive** Council discussed a draft of the Editorial Advisory Committee By-laws amendment that would grant permanent status to the committee, clarify the charges and allow the President to appoint a member annually to the rotating committee.

Action Item: Sarah Bergemann will draft an amendment to the MSA By-laws, which will include a description of the Editorial Advisory committee with suggestions from Executive Editor Keith Seifert.

- d. Executive Council reviewed amendments proposed by the Diversity and Inclusion committee to promote diversity in the call for nominations and editorial and committee appointments. Executive council approved amendments to the By-laws to promote diversity in the call for nominations and appointment of committees and officers and tabled the discussion concerning the term limit for all members until the rationale of the proposed limit could be clarified.

Action Item: Sarah Bergemann will draft an amendment to the MSA By-laws with the proposed amendments to promote diversity, send to Executive Council for review, and if approved, send to the MSA council for approval and draft amendments for inclusion in the spring 2018 ballot.

Action Item: Georgiana May will contact the chair of the Diversity and Inclusion committee, Danny Haelewaters, to obtain clarification of the rationale to reduce the term limit to two years.

- e. Local Organizer for 2019 annual meeting Georgiana May discussed the dates for the annual meeting in 2019. Based on her discussions with other colleagues at the University of Minnesota, the tentative dates were set for August 10-15, 2019. The tentative dates of the meeting will depend on the availability at the University of Minnesota.

Action Item: Georgiana May will continue discussions with the University of Minnesota conference planning to confirm dates for the 2019 annual MSA meeting.

- f. Executive Council discussed an anonymous donation of 50K that was received by the MSA. The donor indicated that they would also like to see research funded for special topics. The Executive Council discussed the feasibility of announcing this as a separate call for research proposals. Executive council also discussed providing support to the MSA executive council to offset travel and registration costs for the annual meetings.

Action Item: Tom Volk will continue discussions with an anonymous donor to establish the amount of awards for Forest Fungal Ecology and Translational awards; discussions also include establishing a call for awards for research topics at a future date.

Motion: Georgiana May motioned to approve support by the MSA to offset the costs of funding for executive council to attend the annual MSA meeting (\$1000 limit for each annual meeting) (seconded by Chris Schardl). *Motion unanimously approved*

- g. Joanne Strogan has requested that the MSA consider hosting a joint meeting with Botany in 2021. Executive Council discussed the need for finding a local organizer. President-Elect Sharon Cantrell suggested that we have a meeting in the Pacific Northwest. The Executive Council expressed enthusiasm for the annual meeting locale but emphasized the need to find a local meeting organizer.

Action Item: Executive Vice President Sarah Bergemann to contact Joey Spatafora to inquire about the interest and feasibility of hosting the 2021 meeting.

- h. Executive council reviewed an award for postdoctoral travel submitted by Jessie Uehling at UC Berkeley. The award specified 2K to offset travel expenses for post-docs to travel and train at another institution. Executive Council discussed the need to raise funds to support this award and endowment (50K).

Action Item: Vice President Anne Pringle to contact Jessie Uehling to discuss the process for establishing an endowment to support the Postdoctoral travel award.

- i. Executive Vice President Sarah Bergemann discussed an increase for funding symposia at MSA annual meetings. The current limit (\$5500) is to support all the symposia and this level of funding was insufficient. Bergemann also noted that the MSA was fortunate that Rachel Adams secured a grant from the Sloan Foundation to fund most of the symposia for 2016 and all of the symposia for the 2017 annual meeting. Past-President Georgiana May noted that funding to support symposia was needed before symposia could be planned and support by the MSA would enhance the ability of symposium chairs to secure speakers. Vice President Anne Pringle (and former Program chair for the 2016 annual MSA meeting) noted that the current limit (\$5500) was also insufficient and MSA should increase their support.

Motion: Georgiana May motioned to approve an increase in support (5K per symposium for three symposia) by the MSA (seconded by Tom Volk). *Motion unanimously approved*

Action Item: Executive Vice President Sarah Bergemann to edit the MSA Manual of Operations to reflect the increased level of support for symposia.

- j. President Tom Volk presented a proposal to sunset or align the special expertise committees. Executive Council discussed alternative realignment proposals of the special expertise committees with MSA councilors serving as chair. This would also require that the Councilor topical areas are modified as follows: Pathology, Ecology, Systematics/Evolution, and Cell Biology. Executive council discussed the need to review this proposal and provide suggestions for review at the MSA council meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- k. Council discussed inquiries by the MSA Student Section including a request to provide matching funds for supporting students affected by Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico.

Motion: Tom Volk motioned to approve an increase in support (up to 2K) in matching funds to support students affected by Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico (seconded by Anne Pringle). *Motion unanimously approved*

Action Item: Executive Vice President Sarah Bergemann will communicate with the MSA Student Section regarding inquiries and the support by the MSA to provide matching funds for students affected by Hurricane Maria.

President Volk adjourned the Executive Council meeting at 11:52 a.m. CST