

Minutes of the 2017 MSA Business Meeting

Empire 1 & 2, Classic Center, Athens, Georgia

Wednesday, July 19, 2017

1. The 2017 Business Meeting was called to order by *President Georgiana May* at 9:05 am. *President May* thanked members for attending the meeting and providing a quorum, acknowledged Program Chair Clark Ovrebo and Local Arrangements Coordinator Marin Brewer and introduced MSA officers.
2. *President May* called for the approval of the minutes of the 2016 MSA Business Meeting held in Berkeley, CA. Paper copies of the minutes were provided at the Business Meeting by *Executive VP Sarah Bergemann*, and have been posted to the MSA website [<https://msafungi.org/Portals/0/2016%20MSA%20Business%20Meeting%20Minutes.pdf>]. The minutes were approved by member vote.
3. *President May* summarized the highlights of the President's annual report. The completion of the move to Taylor & Francis as the publisher of *Mycologia* was a major initiative; *President May* thanked Keith Seifert, Brian Shaw, and Cathie Aime for their efforts. Many of *President May's* activities focused on MSA's diversity initiatives, including formation of a standing committee and development of additions to the MSA By-laws. *President May* worked on developing a contract for acquiring submission/management software. MSA owns rights to the website, which can therefore be used for future MSA meetings. *President May* acknowledged Local Arrangements Coordinator Marin Brewer, and Program Chair Clark Ovrebo, for their hard work on these improvements. *President May* has also attempted to find an editor for *Inoculum* and led efforts to publish *Inoculum* in an online-only format. *President May* stated that *Inoculum* is important to MSA in providing a forum for information than can be provided through the MSA social media (Facebook and Twitter) accounts, but that the publication needs a more flexible online format. *President May* expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve MSA as President.
4. *Vice President Sharon Cantrell* reported on the results of the 2017 Spring Ballot. All proposed changes to the MSA By-laws were approved. *Vice President Cantrell* expressed appreciation to all those who stood for election and emphasized the importance of member participation, noting that the results of at least one election were very close. *Vice President Cantrell* welcomed newly elected Vice President, Anne Pringle, and Councilors Don Natvig (Genetics/Molecular Biology), Robby Roberson (Cell Biology/Physiology), Conrad Schoch (Systematics/Evolution) and Sara Branco (Ecology/Pathology), who will be starting their terms at the conclusion of the Business Meeting. *Vice President Cantrell* clarified the process for nominations: one candidate in each race is nominated by the MSA membership [the other is selected by the Nominations Committee]; the candidate that receives the most member nominations is placed on the ballot. Members may have the misconception that a single nomination is enough to place a candidate on the ballot. *Vice President Cantrell* explained that, instead, successful nomination efforts are generally conducted by forming "coalitions" to obtain multiple nominations for a candidate.
5. *President May* introduced Executive Vice President Sarah Bergemann and thanked her for her many efforts on behalf of the Society. *Executive Vice President Bergemann* referred to her 2016 annual report, posted to the MSA website [<https://msafungi.org/Portals/0/2016%20MSA%20Annual%20Reports.pdf>] that summarized Council

activities from July 2015 to August 2016. The 2017 mid-year Executive Council Meeting was held by phone conference on Saturday, February 4. Highlights of that meeting included discussion of three amendments to the MSA bylaws including a statement of diversity, amendment to prohibit discrimination and harassment, and an amendment to grant permanent status of the ad-hoc diversity committee. These amendments were subsequently approved by the full council for placement on the spring 2017 ballot, and approved by members in that election. Four email polls were sent out since the mid-year Executive Council Meeting pertaining to requests for discounted memberships or emeritus status, and approval of the Karling Lecture Committee's ranking and recommendation and to invite Dr. Matthew Fisher as the 2018 Karling annual lecturer. Highlights of the annual Council Meeting, held Saturday, July 15 from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm in the Willow Room of the Classic Center, were summarized. Attending the Council Meeting were all members of the Executive Council and General Council, with the exception of two councilors that were unable to attend. Several newly elected Council members participated, including incoming Councilors Robby Roberson, Conrad Schoch, and Don Natvig. Council Meeting guests included *Mycologia* Managing Editor Brian Shaw, Executive Editor Keith Seifert, Student Section representative Chris Smyth, and Local Arrangements Coordinator Marin Brewer, Program Chair Clark Ovrebo, and Foray Chair Tony Glenn. The Council Meeting booklet included annual reports from officers and committees, and those reports will be published on the MSA website. The Council Meeting included 16 action items and 4 motions. The meeting also included a report on the IMC11 tentative program from Sharon Cantrell IMA Local Organizing Committee Chair and IMC11 Program Committee Chair Chris Schardl. A motion was made and approved to provide \$20,000 for MSA-sponsored symposia at IMC. Minutes from the Annual Council Meeting will be published on the MSA website. Executive Vice President Bergemann expressed gratitude to MSA members for their correspondence and their dedication to the Society.

6. *Executive Vice President Bergemann* announced the deaths of three MSA members: Richard Korf (August 20, 2016); Jim Kimbrough (January 21, 2017); and Martha Christensen (March 19, 2017). A moment of silence was held to honor these members. It was noted that all three are past presidents of MSA. Keith Seifert announced the passing of Prof. Dr. Walter Gams in Italy in April, 2017.
7. *Executive Vice President Bergemann* presented 124 new members from 12 countries for approval. A motion to approve the new members was seconded, and the new members were unanimously approved by a vote of the membership.
8. *Executive Vice President Bergemann* presented the names of two Emeritus candidates for approval by the membership: David Malloch, University of Toronto, member since 1964; and Dennis Margosan, USDA-ARS, member since 1983. The motion to approve the two Emeritus Members was seconded and unanimously approved by a vote of the membership.
9. *Treasurer Chris Schardl* summarized the highlights of his annual report. As of December 31, 2016, MSA had assets of \$195,472 in the primary checking account, \$732,188 in unrestricted endowment funds, and \$778,351 in restricted endowment funds. A total of \$61,950 was given in awards at the 2017 annual meeting. In 2016, the last year of the Society's contract with Allen Press to publish *Mycologia*, publishing income for MSA was \$70, 296. In 2017, MSA began a co-publishing arrangement with Taylor and Francis. Income thus far has included an editorial, administrative, and travel stipend of \$35,000 and a minimum royalty payment of \$45,000. Treasurer Schardl also reported that an anonymous donation of \$5000 was received to support two speakers for the

symposia at the 2017 annual meeting. As of June 1, 2017 there were 1016 MSA members; this amount is slightly below the 10-year average of 1118 members.

10. *President May* awarded the following Distinctions and Honorary awards: MSA Fellow to Louise Glass and Brandon Matheny (accepted by Tom Bruns and Karen Hughes, respectively); MSA Honorary Member to Brenda Wingfield; Alexopoulos Prize to Kabir Peay; Gordon and Tina Wasson Award to Gary Lincoff (accepted by Tom Volk), and the Distinguished Mycologist Award to both Roy Halling and D. Jean Lodge.
11. Final Business—*President May* provided updates on upcoming meetings:
 - 2018, meeting in association with IMC11 in Puerto Rico;
 - 2019, meeting in Minneapolis, MN.
12. *President May* introduced Tom Volk as the 2017-2018 President of the Mycological Society of America and passed over the official MSA gavel.
13. *President Volk*, as his first official act, presented Certificates of Appreciation to Society members in recognition of exceptional service. These included outgoing President Georgiana May for her tireless efforts over the past year, outgoing councilors Andrea Porrás-Alfaro (Ecology/Pathology) and Kathryn Bushley (Genetics/Molecular Biology), Nicole Hynson (Systematics/Evolution), and Terry Hill (Cell Biology/Physiology), outgoing webmaster and chair of the Electronic Communication & Web Page Management Committee Antonio Izzo, outgoing Endowment Committee chair Don Hemmes, outgoing Membership Committee chair Andy Wilson, outgoing Local Arrangements Coordinator Marin Brewer, Program Chair Clark Ovrebo, Foray Coordinator Tony Glenn, and Local Arrangements coordinator Cynthia Chan.
14. *President Volk* officially adjourned the 2017 Business Meeting at 9:11 am.