

February 9, 2019  
**2019 MSA Executive Council Meeting Minutes**

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**Call to Order and Approval of Minutes**

The 2019 MSA Executive Council meeting by video conference (Zoom) was called to order at 9:15 AM EST on Saturday, February 9, by President Sharon Cantrell. Attending were President Sharon Cantrell, President-Elect Anne Pringle, Vice President Marc Cubeta, Treasurer Chris Schardl, and Executive Vice President Marin Brewer. Invited guests included Executive Editor Keith Seifert, Managing Editor Brian Shaw, Finance Committee Chair Jean Lodge, and Local Arrangements Chair for the 2019 Annual Meeting Georgiana May. Executive Vice President Brewer had distributed electronic copies of the midyear Executive Council meeting packet by email on Monday, February 4, 2019. The midyear executive council meeting packet included the meeting agenda, the 2019 midyear reports, minutes of the 2018 Executive Council meeting held by teleconference, the 2018-2019 Official MSA Roster and copies of the MSA Constitution and Bylaws. The Appendices included proposed Diversity and Inclusion Committee 2019 meeting recommendations and code of conduct, investment performance report, investment policy statement, and Plan S paper from *Science* (Brainard 2019).

Executive Vice President Brewer referred to the 2018 MSA Executive Council Meeting minutes in the Council packet and asked if there were any corrections. *Motion to approve the 2018 minutes was made and unanimously approved.*

**Officers' Reports**

**President's Report:** President Cantrell thanked members of the MSA committees and officers for their efforts. Her main focus as president since the IMC meeting has been on deciding on the best association management agency for the society. After meetings with three potential groups and several discussions and additional meetings with Executive Council throughout the fall, we decided to transition to The Rees Group. The full transition from Allen Press to The Rees Group should occur in March.

**ACTION ITEM:** Cantrell will prepare a letter to send to MSA members announcing the transition.

As the organizer of IMC in Puerto Rico, Cantrell was worried about losing money with IMC, but it went well and money was made. She was very happy with the turnout and outcome of the IMC meeting. The Sheraton hotel room number was not made, but they sold out, so it was not an issue. All funds earned will go to IMA

**President-Elect's Report:** President-Elect Pringle has been active with the transition to The Rees Group. She is still working on *Inoculum* as Interim Editor with Don Natvig, but wants to find a long-term replacement as Editor after transition to Rees and publication of some *Inoculum* issues with them.

With the Fungal Genetics meeting as the premier North American conference for fungi, Pringle suggested that MSA should be more connected with this meeting. MSA needs to pay more attention to cell biologists and fungal geneticists within the society. Discussion centered on how MSA could get more involved. Shaw reported that *Mycologia* is taking more of a presence at the Asilomar meeting. Taylor & Francis will be there to hand out information and increase the visibility of the journal. MSA symposia and the Karling Lecture have focused on bringing in more medical mycologists and cellular and molecular fungal biologists to the MSA and MSA annual meeting to increase participation by those groups. We should continue to have symposia in these areas.

**Vice President's Report:** Vice President Marc Cubeta noted that nominations for the spring ballot were a primary emphasis of his term. Terry Leatherman of Allen Press sent three calls for nominations were to the MSA membership from November 2018 to January 2019. Nominations submitted to Allen Press or directly to Cubeta were tallied. The names of candidates receiving the most votes were sent to the Nominations Committee Chair Joey Spatafora. The Nominations Committee will decide on their slate of candidates by end of February, then Cubeta will contact nominees to see if they are willing to stand for the positions.

Cubeta reported that he is working with Johanne Stogran from the Botanical Society of America (BSA) to organize the meeting in 2021 that will likely take place in Boise, Idaho, which is the city BSA is leaning toward. Merlin White has offered to serve as Local Arrangements Chair. Merlin will attend a meeting with Stogran and representatives from Boise. Cubeta commented that there is a long history of MSA member participation and contribution to organizing the Fungal Genetics Conference in Asilomar. Increased interaction with members the Genetics Society of America could potentially promote MSA member involvement and visibility at future conferences.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Chris Schardl reported that the MSA is in great financial shape. We are very strong financially even though 2018 was a decline year due to the current economy. Over two years, we have had a 13% increase in liabilities and assets. We have \$1.76 million in assets with unrestricted assets of \$810K and restricted assets of \$898K. In 2018, we had \$734K in revenues, and expenses of \$775K. We did well in donations. We broke even with the IMC/MSA meeting.

Cantrell mentioned that she discussed with David Middleton, who is the MSA financial advisor, moving the bank account from US Bank to Park Bank, since this is something Susan Rees suggested we do.

**ACTION ITEM:** Cantrell will work with The Rees Group and Allen Press to move bank accounts for MSA.

**Executive Vice President's Report:** Executive Vice President Brewer summarized her activities for the year and items in her midyear report including nine email polls conducted since the last annual meeting. Brewer also reported that Meredith Blackwell, Chair of the

Memorials Committee, requested that all Memorials in *Mycologia* be made open access and that digital materials and artifacts be sent to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation for preservation.

**ACTION ITEM:** Shaw will get in touch with Taylor & Francis to get open access for all Memorials.

**ACTION ITEM:** Brewer will add “facilitate preservation of artifacts” to the MOP for the Executive Vice President and will get in touch with Blackwell and The Rees Group to facilitate archiving at the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation.

**Editor’s Report:** Managing Editor Brian Shaw reported that the transition to Taylor and Francis was going well. Thanks to Taylor & Francis we will return to on-time publishing this month; issue 111-1 is at the printers. Shaw reported that the Impact Factor for *Mycologia* in 2017 was 2.762, which is the highest in the history of the journal. There were 222 manuscripts submitted in 2018, which was a slight decrease from 2017. The rejection rate was about 60% and this was on par with previous years. The review process is still slow at 56 days from submission to first decision. Keith Seifert has rotated off as an Executive Editor, but will stay on for 5<sup>th</sup> year as a review editor. The new Associate Editors are named in the full report. Priscilla Chaverri is the newest Executive Editor. Seifert will discuss Plan S and the Editorial Advisory Committee when he joins the meeting.

Shaw noted that Allen Press has a large cache of back issues of *Mycologia*. Shaw suggested we keep two copies of each of these in the archives.

**ACTION ITEM:** We need to determine if there will be a storage fee with The Rees Group or if these should go to the Hunt Institute. Brewer will contact The Rees Group and MSA Archivist Meredith Blackwell.

**ACTION ITEM:** Once decided, Shaw will ask AP to transfer two of each issue to The Rees Group or the Hunt Institute.

Taylor & Francis has digitized the entire back catalog. Some back issues have over 300 copies. Anne suggested we give Deep Hypha issue to the students at the meeting.

**ACTION ITEM:** Shaw will contact Georgiana May about sending issues to Minnesota for the meeting.

**ACTION ITEM:** Pringle will provide Shaw with contact for clearing house for charitable donations.

**Finance Report:** Finance Committee Chair Jean Lodge reported that the market has been volatile this year. We lost \$104K in 2018, but we had previously made a lot on investments. We should anticipate a volatile market for the next 2-4 years. We gained \$104K just last week, so it really is bouncing all over the place. Lodge reported that we have a lot of income coming in and are still in pretty good shape, but need to be conservative since we probably

will not be contributing much in interest and dividends. Lodge will be cycling out as chair in August 2019 and Jeff Stone is coming in to replace Brian Shaw. Stone participated in the most recent meeting of the Finance Committee and will take over as chair in August.

## **New Business**

### **Plan S and Editorial Advisory Board (Keith Seifert 10:30 AM EST)**

Seifert joined the meeting to discuss plan S since it could have dramatic effects on *Mycologia*. He reported that Plan S started in Europe and has been signed on to by several EU funding agencies. Results of studies funded by these agencies will have to be published in Open Access journals or as Open Access papers in hybrid journals. It is not clear at this time if hybrid journals will be considered acceptable. US funders are interested in open access but will likely not require fundees to publish in Open Access. However, the initiative seems to be falling apart. Seifert consulted with Taylor & Francis who informed him that MSA does not need to submit an opinion on Plan S at this time. MSA will be renegotiating the *Mycologia* contract in about 2 years, and Plan S may lead to very different landscape, but Taylor & Francis will not be changing the conditions of the contract in the meantime.

Seifert discussed assembling an Editorial Advisory Board for the journal. It was suggested that there be four members the first year with staggering terms and the fifth member added in 2020. Thereafter, one member will rotate off and a new member on every year with a total of five members all with 5-year terms.

**ACTION ITEM:** Pringle will work with Seifert to find members for the Editorial Advisory Board.

Shaw and Seifert discussed a possible resolution to a copyright claim by the NYBG to issues of *Mycologia* housed on JSTOR prior to 1998. MSA had offered an endowed student award in their name with a \$15K endowment if they give up the claim of royalties, which were close to \$15K for the 15-year period under dispute. Shaw and Seifert suggested that the Advisory Board be charged with resolving this.

### **2020 MSA annual meeting at the University of Florida, Gainesville, FL**

Cantrell reported that Matt Smith, the Local Arrangements Chair for 2020, suggested the dates of July 20-24, 2020 at the Hilton Conference Center on the west side of campus since the University of Florida will not guarantee rooms on campus this far in advance. There will be dorms available for attendees.

*Motion to approve the 2020 dates and venue was made and unanimously approved.*

**ACTION ITEM:** Cantrell will contact Smith about approval of the dates and venue for the 2020 meeting.

### **2019 MSA annual meeting in Minneapolis, MN (Georgiana May 11:30 AM EST)**

May reported that plans for the meeting are going well. The conference venue is the Graduate Inn, which is close to the campus. It is a nice facility because it is a bit smaller, which will likely encourage informal interactions. Dorm space will be available. May noted that the Program Committee led by Tony Glenn is doing a good job. There will be 6 symposia and 2 workshops. The Foray will be at Cedar Creek LTES. May is excited about the Volunteer Social and Outreach Event at the Bell Museum. Abstract submission is open and registration will be launched soon. They are planning a UMinn alumni event.

### **Joint MSA-BSA meeting in 2021 with Botany**

Cubeta discussed this in his Vice President's report above.

### **Plans for \$100,000 donation to MSA**

Cantrell stated that the donor requested the breakdown of funds as follows: 10% administrative, 10% for an award in outstanding mycology, 40% for applied mycology funding, 40% how board wishes. Executive Council discussed that one possibility would be to move 40% into an endowment for symposia. We could set up an award in the name of the donor for communicating mycology. It is not clear if the money needs to be spent this year or if it would be okay to put it into the endowment to generate funds for ongoing awards and symposia. We need to clarify this with the donor.

**ACTION ITEM:** Pringle will write up a proposal on how the funds will be spent and Cantrell will send it to the donor for approval.

### **Membership structure and new ideas for students**

Pringle noted that with the transition to The Rees Group we can change how we join and rejoin MSA with autorenewal. There are also opportunities for students to possibly receive gift memberships from advisors. She would like to charge the Membership Committee with coming up with ideas about how we ask people to join MSA and with ways to be more creative in membership.

### **Sexual harassment consequences**

Cantrell stated that we need to think about a policy for the consequences of reports and findings of sexual harassment or meeting code of conduct violations by MSA members. We discussed forming an ethics committee to decide on a case by case basis. The committee would be built as issues arise.

**ACTION ITEM:** Cantrell will discuss the legality of a policy with a lawyer before something is formally proposed.

### **Sunset and align Specific Expertise**

This has been an ongoing discussion within MSA Council. After we transition to The Rees Group we will put together a proposal to rename the councilors and realign the committees. This should go out on a ballot for vote by MSA Membership before calls for nominations for the 2020 election of officers.

### **Diversity and Inclusion Committee inquiries**

Brewer informed Executive Council that Adriana Romero, chair of the committee, requested that we address the 2019 meeting recommendations, including the implementation of the Code of Conduct that was sent to meeting organizers and Executive Council members early in December. The local organizing committee and program committee are following the guidelines for an inclusive and diverse meeting. May suggested that meeting registrants will have to acknowledge that they will abide by the meeting code of conduct when they register. Pringle will be the contact person for any complaints at the 2019 meeting.

**ACTION ITEM:** May will have the Code of Conduct linked to the registration page of the website. It will be stated on the registration site that by registering for the meeting attendees will be agreeing to the Code of Conduct.

Additionally, the committee would like a donation of \$1000 USD. The Diversity Committee is hoping to become financially "independent" in the next few years, so they see this donation as an investment from MSA. They will use the money to buy swag to raise funds for the Diversity Award, and a portion of the money will be saved to use for future events.

*Motion to provide the Diversity and Inclusion Committee with a \$1000 donation was made and unanimously approved.*

**ACTION ITEM:** Brewer will notify Romero of the donation.

### **2019 Student Travel Awards**

There are 18 named travel award funds, all of which have generated enough income to provide \$750 each for student travel to the 2019 meeting in Minnesota.

**ACTION ITEM:** Brewer will inform Sara Branco, chair of the Mentor Travel Award committee that there will be 18 awards of \$750 each for the 2019 meeting.

President Cantrell adjourned the Executive Council meeting at 12:32 PM EST