

## Minutes of the 2019 MSA Business Meeting

Meridian Ballroom, The Graduate, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Wednesday, August 14, 2019

---

1. President Sharon Cantrell called the 2019 Business Meeting to order at 8:13 am. *President Cantrell* introduced the MSA officers and councilors present, and thanked members for attending the meeting. Local arrangements chair Georgiana May, program chair Tony Glenn, and the University of Minnesota organizers were thanked for their efforts in organizing the meeting.
2. *President Cantrell* thanked the Distinctions and Honorary Awards Committees for their efforts in evaluating and selecting the award winners. The following winners were announced: Distinguished Mycologist - Donald Pfister, Harvard University; Alexopoulos Prize - Greg Bonito, Michigan State University; Weston Award - Meike Piepenbring, University of Tübingen and Iris Chavat, University of Minnesota; MSA Honorary Member - Zhu-Liang Yang, Kunming Institute of Botany of the Chinese Academy of Sciences; MSA Fellows - Anthony Glenn, USDA-ARS, Rosa Mouriño-Perez, Center for Scientific Research and Higher Education of Ensenada (CICESE), Meritxell Riquelme, CICESE. *President Cantrell* summarized biographies and achievements of each award winner and asked previous winners of each award to stand and be recognized.
3. *President Cantrell* called for approval of the minutes of the 2018 MSA Business Meeting held in San Juan, PR. Electronic copies of the minutes were distributed to members via email prior to the Business Meeting by *Executive Vice President Marin Brewer*, and were posted to the MSA website [<http://msafungi2.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/2018-msa-business-meeting-minutes.pdf>]. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of the membership.
4. *President Cantrell* summarized the highlights of the President's annual report. Her main effort as president was to select and transition to a new association management company. She led Executive Council in requesting proposals from three companies, reviewing the proposals, meeting with the different management companies, and making the decision to change management companies to The Rees Group. The transition from Allen Press to The Rees Group took place between mid-January and March 2019. *President Cantrell* encouraged members to visit the new and very much improved website created by The Rees Group. She announced that with The Rees Group as our association management company, the MSA now has autorenewal and multi-year membership renewal. Additionally, *President Cantrell* is working with *President-Elect Anne Pringle* to develop a code of ethics for the society. She will be chairing a committee to work on these policies. *President Cantrell* announced that MSA Council will be working with the guidance of The Rees Group toward simplifying the MSA By-laws since those of MSA are much more detailed than most other societies. Lastly, she reported on MSA Council's proposal to change the MSA By-laws to realign the subject areas of the MSA councilors and place the responsibilities of the seven special expertise committees under the areas of the councilors and membership networks.
5. *Vice President Marc Cubeta* reported on the results of the 2019 spring election. *Vice President Cubeta* expressed appreciation to all those who stood for election. For a society election, voter turnout was considered fairly high since 60% of the members who opened the email ballot voted. *Vice President Cubeta* welcomed newly elected Vice President Betsy Arnold, Treasurer Jessie Glaeser and new councilors Kathryn Bushley (Genetics/Molecular Biology), Meritxell Riquelme (Cell Biology/Physiology), Julia Kerrigan (Ecology/Pathology), and Greg Bonito (Systematics/Evolution).

6. *Executive Vice President Marin Brewer* summarized the Executive Vice President's annual report and reported on the MSA Council's annual meeting. Council activity included 19 email polls since the 2018 annual meeting, including proposals to fund awards, requests for discounted memberships for members in developing countries, nominations for MSA Fellows and Honorary Members, and requests for emeritus member status. The annual meeting of the MSA Council was held on Saturday, August 10, 2019 at the Graduate Minneapolis. Attendees included members of the executive council and a majority of members from the general council and the incoming councilors and newly elected officers, the program chair, the webmaster, student section representatives, and Susan Rees and Bill Stoeffler of The Rees Group. One of the major issues approved by the council was a proposal to allow self-nominations for the Alexopoulos Prize and to grant extensions beyond 10 years after the PhD for family or medical leave.
7. *Executive Vice President Brewer* announced the deaths of five MSA members in the past year: Hope Miller, Donald Marx, Donald J.S. Barr, John Rippon, and Charles "Bud" Kramer. A moment of silence was held to honor these members.
8. *Executive Vice President Brewer* presented 142 new members from 17 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.
9. *Executive Vice President Brewer* presented the names of six Emeritus candidates for approval by the membership: Richard Humber, James Anderson, Linda Kohn, Bitty Roy, Salomon Bartnicki-Garcia, and Rick Kerrigan. The motion to approve the Emeritus Members was seconded and unanimously approved by a vote of the membership.
10. *Treasurer Chris Schardl* summarized the highlights of his annual report. As of December 31, 2018, MSA had net assets of \$1,708,227.82, a decrease of \$75,490.88 compared to the 2017 year-end total. However, over the two-year period from Dec. 31, 2016, MSA experienced a \$198,876.48 increase (12.74% over two years), which is good for the unstable market we are experiencing. The restricted assets of \$810,679.96 include \$463,326.51 permanently restricted and \$434,221.41 temporarily and board restricted funds. MSA has done very well for donations (\$186,064.86) and publication income (netted \$66,591.08) for this past year. The administrative and editorial stipend from Taylor and Francis has been approved by MSA Council to support reimbursement for *Mycologia* managing, executive, and associate editors to attend the MSA annual meeting in amounts up to \$600 for registration and up to \$1000 for travel. In the event that an editor cannot attend the MSA annual meeting, that editor can receive up to \$800 in expenses for attending an alternative meeting, with approval by the MSA President.
11. Final Business—*President Cantrell* provided updates on upcoming meetings:
  - 2020, meeting in Gainesville, FL, July 20-24. Matthew Smith will be the local organizer.
  - 2021, joint meeting with Botanical Society of America, Boise, ID, July 17-21. Merlin White will be the local organizer.
12. *President Cantrell* introduced Anne Pringle as the 2019-2020 President of the Mycological Society of America, thanked her for her many previous acts of service to the Society, and passed on the official MSA gavel.
13. *President Pringle*, as her first official act, presented Certificates of Appreciation to Society members in recognition of exceptional service. These included current and outgoing officers and councilors, outgoing committee chairs, annual meeting organizers, webmaster, *Mycologia* Editors, and members of The Rees Group.
14. *President Pringle* officially adjourned the 2019 Business Meeting at 9:29 am.