

July 20, 2020

## 2020 MSA Council Meeting Minutes

### The Cloud (Virtual via Zoom)

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#### Call to Order, Introductions, and Approval of Minutes

The 2020 MSA Council meeting was called to order at 11:05 am EDT on Monday, July 20, by President Anne Pringle. Attending were President Pringle, President-Elect Marc Cubeta, Vice President Betsy Arnold, Treasurer Jessie Glaeser, Executive Vice President Marin Brewer, Councilors Jason Stajich, Nhu Nguyen, Brandon Matheny, Meritxell Riquelme, Alisha Quandt, Kathryn Bushley, Julia Kerrigan and Greg Bonito. Unable to attend was Past Past President Tom Volk. Invited guests included *Mycologia* Reviews Editor and *Inoculum* Editor Chris Schardl, Finance Committee Chair and Past President Jean Lodge, Program Chair Lisa Grubisha, Electronic Communications Chair and Webmaster Todd Osmundson, and incoming Councilors Romina Gazis, Sara Branco, Allison Walker, Sydney Glassman, and Matt Kasson. Also attending were Rebecca Shay and Robert Powers from the MSA Student Section. Executive Vice President Brewer had distributed electronic copies of the Council meeting packet by email on Monday, July 13, 2020. The Council meeting packet included the meeting agenda, the 2020 annual reports, minutes of the 2020 Executive Council meeting held by teleconference on February 8, 2020, minutes of the Council meeting held on August 10, 2019 in Minneapolis, MN, the 2019-2020 Official MSA Roster, the revised MSA Constitution and Bylaws and the MSA Investment Report compiled by David Middleton.

President Pringle began the meeting with an overview of the 2020 virtual meeting. She announced that many international attendees would be present including large groups from both South Africa and the Philippines. She stated that virtual meetings allowing more international and other attendees who could not make it in person could change the dynamics of MSA meetings in the future. There was general discussion about the benefits of virtual meetings especially with concurrent symposia and sessions, since we could post content for later and gain a greater attendance.

**Motion:** Executive Vice President Brewer referred to the 2019 MSA Council Meeting minutes in the Council packet and asked if there were any corrections. A motion was made to approve the 2019 Council meeting minutes. *Motion approved by unanimous vote.*

#### Officers' Reports

**President's Report:** President Pringle announced that she really wanted to get a lot accomplished this year, but many things were set aside due to the pandemic, virtual meeting planning and the ongoing social unrest and injustice. She stated that there were amendments to the MSA Constitution and By-Lawson on two ballots to change committee structures. These were all approved by MSA membership. Pringle announced that we want the councilors to have more responsibilities. They could do more organizing of areas in mycology similar to what the special expertise committees used to do. Pringle

suggested councilors nominate diverse candidates for awards since the diversity in awards issue has come up repeatedly.

**ACTION ITEM:** EVP Brewer will contact the Awards Coordinator and Cori Van Galder to make sure a brief 2-3 sentence entry on how the applicant aligns with the MSA Diversity Statement is added to the awards submission form.

Pringle reported we are working on restructuring membership categories. She stated that although it is better than it was, the website still needs to be improved. She stated that the Manual of Operations (MOP) needs to be updated and the outdated logo needs to be redesigned. Pringle brought up open access issues and Plan S. This could potentially hurt MSA since we get income from *Mycologia* and it also costs authors a lot of money. Everyone is approaching open access very differently, but open access seems to be the future. We need to be mindful of this as a society. We should aim to be open access to make research widely available to everyone.

There was some discussion that focused on preprints as a solution. However, the final version still exists behind a paywall, so that does not satisfy some open access mandates. Open access is underutilized in *Mycologia*. The journal currently brings in approximately \$60,000 in revenue for the society.

**President-Elect's Report:** President-Elect Cubeta summarized his annual report. He and others selected a new design for the awards plaques that were sent out to the awardees this year. He stated that he plans to begin a new MSA logo campaign soon. Cubeta stated that he agrees with Pringle that there will likely be a virtual component of the meeting every year moving forward since it increases visibility and diversity. Cubeta reported he is working with the Botanical Society of America (BSA) for the 2021 meeting in Boise, Idaho. At this point everyone is assuming it will be a face-to-face meeting with a virtual component but we will not know until spring. He reported he is working with Treasurer Glaeser to help the Student Section to see what they need from MSA and that their financial needs are met. He facilitated MSA joining the Societies Consortium of Sexual Harassment, Diversity and Inclusion in STEM – a collective voice for more than 120 scientific societies for addressing sexual harassment issues. Cubeta reported that he participated in the International Year of Plant Health with the American Phytopathological Society (APS) and interacted with students, postdocs and legislators to communicate the importance of fungi to plant health. He thanked Romina Gazis for help reviewing proposals. He is planning to fill more MSA committees and will send out a call for those willing to serve.

Since several public statements had been made recently by scientific societies, including MSA, there was some discussion about MSA statements and who has the authority to make them. The authority is with the Executive Council.

**Vice President's Report:** Vice President Arnold reiterated the importance of conversation. Sometimes it takes time to formulate a good statement, sometimes we need to pause rather than have immediate response. VP Arnold reported that most of her activities have been to coordinate the election and 2022 meeting. Most MSA members who received a ballot, opened the ballot and voted. She reported the results were published in *Inoculum*. VP Arnold welcomed newly elected Vice President Julia Kerrigan, and new councilors Sydney Glassman (Ecology & Conservation), Sara Branco (Genetics & Cell Biology),

Romina Gazis (Symbiosis & Pathology), and Allison Walker (Systematics & Evolution), and welcomed Matt Kasson, who was nominated to fill the council position vacated by Julia Kerrigan (Ecology/Pathology). Arnold announced that the 2022 MSA meeting will be rescheduled in Gainesville, Florida to avoid cancellation penalties and to continue on the hard work already accomplished by the organizers. The meeting, "Mycology in the Swamp," will take place July 10-14, 2022.

Discussion centered on increasing diversity in the society and at meetings. Funding for the Diversity award funding and funds to attend conferences such as SACNAS were discussed.

There was also discussion on crowdsourcing a field identification of mushrooms course and how mushroom observer, the Education Committee and the Councilors could all be very helpful on this.

**Past President's report:** Sharon Cantrell presented the draft Code of Conduct for the society that she had developed. She will review the draft with her committee. She thanked Bill Stoeffler for help with the revision.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Glaeser summarized her financial report of the MSA. She reported that, in general, MSA is in very good financial health. There was an increase to investments of \$265,000 from December 2018 to December 2019, so MSA went from \$1.46 million to \$1.73 million in our combined investment accounts. On July 4, 2020, the total investment funds were \$1,704,084 and total assets, when combined with operating funds, were \$2,084,715. Treasurer Glaeser announced that there was a slight deficit of \$5,700 for the 2019 meeting in Minneapolis, but that the auction brought in \$11,260 to the endowment and that T-shirt sales earned \$700 for the Student Section and Diversity and Inclusion Committee. The virtual meeting this year is costing \$13,000. Glaeser stated that MSA gave \$43,000 in awards in 2019 and \$41,000 for research proposals funded by an anonymous donor. MSA gave \$25,000 in awards in 2020. The travel awards are being deferred toward attendance at either the 2021 or 2022 meeting. Donations were down this year, but it could be because members were not shuttled through donations page during membership renewal. Glaeser reported that our tax-free status has been renewed.

Past President Cantrell announced that there is \$87,000 owed to the International Mycological Association from MSA for the 2018 meeting in Puerto Rico. President Pringle stated that we would look into the accounting on this after the meeting.

**Executive Vice President's Report:** Executive Vice President Brewer briefly summarized her report for the year. She announced that all MSA Constitution and By-Laws amendments proposed over the past year by Council were approved by MSA membership. The changes included extending the period of eligibility for the Alexopoulos Prize for family and medical leave, modifying to the councilor names to align better with areas of expertise, and removing inactive special expertise committees and society representatives from the roster. She announced that she would be working with President Pringle on a major revision to the Manual of Operations. Brewer thanked all MSA volunteers and encouraged members to serve as volunteers for the society.

## **Publications Reports**

***Mycologia***: On behalf of Managing Editor Brian Shaw, Chris Schardl summarized the editors' report and provided news that the journal is doing very well. He announced that they are on time with print publication. Schardl reported that a special issue is coming up on animal-associated fungi. He reported submissions are heavy with 179 for 2020 up from last year by 20%. The rejection rate was 68% this year, which is consistent with previous years. He stated that the journal continues to have international appeal with representation by numerous countries. He stated that the average of 40 days from submission to first decision is improving, but the time from submission to final decision has slowed and needs improvement. He reported that the impact factor for *Mycologia* fell to 2.149 when it had ranged from 2.5 to 2.8 over the past five years. This is likely due to a highly cited paper that is no longer considered in the metric. Paper citations have gone up from an average of 1 to 2 citations. Schardl reported that there are several editors stepping down this year that will need to be replaced.

Discussion centered on publishing more review articles or Presidential and Karling Addresses. Additional suggestions for improving the journal included selecting a best paper of the year award and highlighting articles.

***Inoculum***: President Pringle reported that *Inoculum* is fully resurrected and back to 3 issues per year. The issue on Mycology During the Pandemic was very successful. Schardl is planning to ask someone to help out as editor.

## **MSA Annual Meeting Updates**

MSA 2020 – Covered above by President Pringle in her report. She stated that 17 countries will be represented at the MSA from the Cloud meeting.

MSA 2021 – Covered by President Elect Cubeta in his report.

MSA 2022 – Covered by Vice President Arnold in her report.

## **Committee Reports**

EVP Brewer stated that all of the reports are available in the meeting packet and will be posted to the MSA Website.

**Finance Committee**: Finance Committee chair Jean Lodge reported that the market is volatile and will continue to be volatile. The committee still needs committee members and a committee chair. She stated that there is not a lot of work now that we have a financial advisor, so we need to reduce the number of people on the committee. Lodge suggested adding a financial management person from the Rees Group. President Pringle and President-Elect Cubeta Marc both thanked Lodge for her service on the committee.

ACTION ITEM: President-Elect Cubeta will find members and a chair for the Finance Committee.

**Student Section:** Section President Rebecca Shay reported that the Student Section organized a career symposium for the virtual meeting with 6 panelists. The students really wanted this symposium, especially to help prepare them for what they do not learn in the lab. She announced that the Student Section has sorted out their finances with assistance from Treasurer Glaeser. They will continue accounting and budgeting for their Section. Shay thanked council for their support.

### **New Business**

1. MSA Budget and allocation of finances – President Cubeta stated that we want to be more strategic about making financial based decisions. He plans to include information in his upcoming *Inoculum* column about future plans for this. Executive Council had planned to make this a priority for 2020, but had to temporarily put it on hold.
2. Updating the Manual of Operations (MOP) – EVP Brewer reported that she and President Pringle will be working with committee chairs, officers and representatives to revise the MOP.
3. Inclusivity at MSA meetings – President Pringle reported that it is important to consider that drinking culture at some meetings makes some people feel left out. She recommends using language such as “mocktail” and mentioned that the toast at the social will be with tea.
4. Summary of Action Items from 2020 Executive Council – EVP Brewer referred to the action items in the meeting packet. Many of these have been executed but some were sidelined due to the pandemic.

President Pringle made several closing remarks. She stated that we have accomplished a lot this past year and much of that is due to working with The Rees Group. The Covid-19 pandemic is really complicating things. We need to be mindful of that as a society. We need to push for diversity. We should make it less about talking and more about doing. A changing landscape is complicated. We need to think of ways that MSA can work for us.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:46 pm by President Pringle.