

Minutes of the 2021 MSA Business Meeting

Botany 2021 - Virtual! Joint Societies Meeting

Tuesday, July 20, 2021

1. The minutes of the 2020 MSA Business Meeting held during the 2020 MSA virtual meeting were distributed to members via email prior to the Business Meeting by *Executive Vice President Marin Brewer*, and were posted to the MSA website. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of the membership by email poll.
2. *President Marc Cubeta* called the 2021 Business Meeting to order at 7:00 pm. *President Cubeta* summarized his activities since the midyear executive council meeting. *President Cubeta* announced that he worked with members of MSA, the Botanical Society of America (BSA), and The Rees Group to facilitate the annual meeting. He reported that he worked with the MSA Diversity and Inclusion Committee and MSA Council to renew MSA's membership in the Societies Consortium on Sexual Harassment in STEM, move forward with MSA Ambassador Program Initiative, and join nine other societies on a letter of support for an NSF LEAPS proposal that provides an educational framework for Black students in STEM. MSA participated in an anonymous demographic survey that characterizes how organizations in STEM fields collect, manage, and use demographic information on their affiliates and members. *President Cubeta* reported that he worked with MSA leadership, The Rees Group, and the attorney and trustee of Nancy Smith Weber's estate to provide MSA members with an opportunity to purchase books from the mycological library that she bequeathed to MSA. *President Cubeta* announced that an *ad hoc* committee was formed to streamline and develop a user-friendly donation process coupled with membership renewal and revision of membership categories and dues. He mentioned that MSA leadership is working on contract renewals with Taylor and Francis and The Rees Group. *President Cubeta* announced that a brief biography of John Karling was developed with assistance from Meredith Blackwell and Alisha Quandt that will be read prior to introducing the Annual Karling Lecture at this and future meetings. An article on John Karling is currently being prepared for publication in *Inoculum*. A video conversation with Meredith Blackwell was developed this year and plans are in place to develop additional video conversations with MSA members. *President Cubeta* presented several motions under discussion that were brought forward by committees; these are detailed in his report. *President Cubeta* closed by thanking members of the society, Executive and General MSA Councils and The Rees Group for their valuable input and support.
3. *President-Elect Betsy Arnold* summarized her annual report. Over the past year she worked closely with MSA leadership and The Rees Group to address concerns relevant to the society. She provided support and advice to MSA *Vice President Julia Kerrigan* with regard to MSA elections. *President-Elect Arnold* contributed to revising several sections of the Manual of Operations. She contributed to the planning process for the MSA auction at the 2021 annual meeting. *President-Elect Arnold* engaged in discussions regarding long-term planning, financial and otherwise, for the society. She served on the MSA Education Committee and with colleagues on advancing the new MSA Ambassador Interchange Program. *President-Elect Arnold* announced that she has served as MSA liaison to the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS). She attended their virtual annual meeting and relayed news and action items from AIBS to Executive Council. The latter led to a submission of a public comments opposing the previous federal administration's proposal to restrict

the duration of student visas for graduate students from select countries. In late-June 2021, we were informed that the Department of Homeland Security has withdrawn that proposal. Since the start of 2021, *President-Elect Arnold* has served as review editor for *Mycologia* and has contributed to reviewing the publishing contracts. She recognized and thanked the editors and associate editors of *Mycologia* for their efforts. *President-Elect Arnold* reported she has been in contact with local organizers to assist in planning of the 2020 MSA annual meeting in Gainesville, Florida that will be held July 10th through 14th, 2020.

4. *Vice President Julia Kerrigan* summarized her report. As a member of both MSA Council and Executive Council she has engaged in numerous meetings and discussions on topics including the virtual meeting, diversity initiatives, changing membership categories, and increasing donations. *Vice President Kerrigan* reported that she is working on finding a suitable location and local organizers for the 2023 MSA annual meeting. Conversations are ongoing and the membership will be notified when plans are more concrete. *Vice President Kerrigan* reported on the 2021 election results and thanked everyone who ran and agreed to serve. The new officers are Vice President Cathie Aime, Executive Vice President Emily Cantonwine, Councilor of Ecology & Conservation Tanya Cheeke, Councilor of Systematics & Evolution Jessie Uehling, Councilor of Genetics & Cell Biology Antonis Rokas, and Councilor of Symbiosis & Pathology Marisol Sánchez-García. She concluded her report by thanking Executive Council and The Rees Group.
5. *Executive Vice President Marin Brewer* summarized the Executive Vice President's annual report and announced that MSA Council met via zoom on July 17, 2021. She commented that the minutes of the meeting would soon be posted to the MSA website and that minutes from past Council and Executive Council meetings were available on the MSA website. Additionally, her report and the reports of all officers and committees would be available soon on the MSA website. *Executive Vice President Brewer* announced that all MSA Constitution and By-Laws amendments proposed over the past year by Council were approved by MSA membership. The changes included eliminating redundant language on committees from the By-Laws since this information was contained in the Manual of Operations, and eliminating inactive committees and society representatives from the By-Laws. She announced that the major revision to the Manual of Operations was almost complete. *Executive Vice President Brewer* thanked all MSA volunteers and encouraged members to serve as volunteers for the society.
6. *Executive Vice President Brewer* announced the deaths of two MSA members in the past year: Nancy Smith Weber and Jack Rogers. A moment of silence was held to honor these members and friends. A slide show prepared by Memorials Editor Meredith Blackwell that honored several MSA members who had died over the past few years was presented.
7. *Executive Vice President Brewer* presented 174 new members from 17 countries for approval to members via email prior to the Business Meeting. The new members were unanimously approved by a vote of the membership by email poll.
8. *Executive Vice President Brewer* presented the names of three Emeritus candidates for approval by the membership via email prior to the Business Meeting: Estelle Levetin, Michael Vincent, and Jim Trappe. The Emeritus Members were unanimously approved by a vote of the membership by email poll.
9. *Treasurer Jessie Glaeser* summarized the highlights of her annual report. She announced that MSA is in very good financial health. There is currently a balance of \$250,000 in the MSA checking account and \$2,125,986 in the MSA investment account, which increased 12% over the entire year. There was an increase to investments of \$139,660 from December 2020. *Treasurer Glaeser* announced

that in 2021, \$36,700 worth of awards will be given for the research, student and distinction awards. In addition, \$3,000 in travel awards may be deferred to 2022 for the meeting in Gainesville. In 2020, we gave out \$26,114 in awards, but also deferred \$15,470 in travel awards to the 2022 meeting. *Treasurer Glaeser* reported membership revenue is down a little bit compared to 2020 from \$53,167 to \$41,308 as of the end of May. Publications are doing very well. Publication royalties are higher in 2021, although subscriptions are somewhat lower. *Treasurer Glaeser* commented that donations are alarmingly low this year and MSA has only received \$1589 worth of donations. In 2020, MSA received \$24,902 in donations. In addition, in 2020, the MSA virtual option brought in \$2256 and donations for t-shirts were \$545. This t-shirt money was split between the Student Section and the Diversity Committee. *Treasurer Glaeser* thanked everyone and announced that the full treasurer's report will be posted to the MSA website and that will include the balances in all of our named endowment accounts.

10. *President Cubeta* introduced Betsy Arnold as the 2021-2022 President of the Mycological Society of America, thanked her for her many previous acts of service to the Society, and “virtually” passed on the official MSA gavel.
11. *President Arnold* officially adjourned the 2021 Business Meeting at 7:30 pm.