

Entomological Society of America

**Minutes of the Governing Board
Annual Meeting – St. Louis, MO
November 16, 2019**

Participants

Bob Peterson, President
Alvin Simmons, Vice President
Tim Schowalter, Vice President-Elect
Michelle Smith, BCE, Treasurer
Michael Parrella, Past President
Gary Brewer, North Central Branch Representative
Karla Adesso, Southeastern Branch Representative
Jesus Esquivel, Southwestern Branch Representative
Tracy Leskey, Eastern Branch Representative
Douglas Walsh, Pacific Branch Representative
Christopher Geden, Medical, Urban & Veterinary Entomology Section Representative
Marianne Alleyne, Physiology, Biochemistry & Toxicology Section Representative
Jessica Ware, Systematics, Evolution & Biodiversity Section Representative
Melissa Siebert, Plant-Insect Ecosystems Section Representative
Lina Bernaola, Student Representative

Incoming 2020 Governing Board Members

Faith Oi, Treasurer
Jennifer Henke, Pacific Branch Representative
Mustapha Debboun, BCE, Medical, Urban & Veterinary Entomology Section Representative

Staff

C. David Gammel, Executive Director
Rosina Romano, Director of Meetings
Chris Stelzig, Director of Strategic Initiatives
Neil Willoughby, Director of Finance
Lisa Junker, Director of Publications, Communications, and Marketing

Absent

Julien Saguez, International Branch Representative

Guests

Erin Cadwalader, Lewis-Burke Associates
Ben Kallen, Lewis-Burke Associates
Fiona Williams, Oxford University Press

1. **Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review** – President Bob Peterson convened the meeting at 8:37 a.m. and welcomed the attendees. The agenda was reviewed with no changes.

2. **Consent Agenda** – The Consent Agenda may contain minutes, motions, and other reports that the Governing Board can approve as a single agenda. Peterson reviewed the Consent Agenda and asked if members would like to pull any items for discussion. The report from the Committee on Diversity and Inclusion was pulled for later discussion. A motion to approve the remaining items on the consent agenda carried. The approved items and reports were as follows.

a. *Minutes*

- i. August 2019 Executive Committee Minutes
- ii. September 12, 2019 minutes of the ESA Governing Board
- iii. 2019 Cybermotions of the ESA Governing Board as of October 15
- iv. October 2019 Executive Committee Minutes

b. *Reports without Motions*

- i. Eastern Branch Governing Board FINAL Report FALL 2019
- ii. International Branch Report to Governing Board Report - FALL 2019
- iii. North Central Branch Governing Board Report - Fall 2019
- iv. Pacific Branch Governing Board Report - FALL 2019
- v. SE Branch Governing Board Report - FALL 2019
- vi. SW Branch Governing Board Report - FALL 2019
- vii. SysEB Governing Board Report Fall 2019
- viii. PBT Governing Board Report - Fall 2019
- ix. MUVE Section Governing Board - Fall 2019
- x. P-IE Section Governing Board Report - Fall 2019
- xi. Awards and Honors Committee Annual Report November 2019
- xii. Early Career Professional Committee Fall 2019 Report
- xiii. Education and Outreach Fall Report 2019
- xiv. Student Affairs Committee Nov 2019 Report

3. **Strategy Discussion** – Three strategic topics were presented and discussed

Peterson reviewed the outcomes from Innovation Day held during the Summer Strategy Session in June 2019 in St. Louis. Discussion ensued regarding the results from the meeting. A motion to create a Presidential Task Force on Innovation was approved. The Board deferred naming individuals to the Task Force to a later time.

Director of Strategic Initiatives Chris Stelzig presented a summary of a proposed strategy regarding the ESA meetings portfolio which includes more attention to international meetings and seeking out topical areas for expansion beyond the annual meeting. Discussion ensued and the Board expressed support for both meeting development proposals.

Executive Director David Gammel presented an update on the proposal to create programming to support those seeking careers outside of academia. The report included a summary of conversations held so far this year with major corporate recruiters as well as a proposal for continued research on the topic, expected to culminate in a design summit in 2020. The Board expressed support for the proposal.

4. **Executive Director Transition** – Gammel thanked the board for their support during his years as Executive Director. The Board, in turn, thanked Gammel for his years of service. At this point

Gammel departed the room and Stelzig assumed the role of incoming Executive Director for the remainder of the Board meeting.

After a short break, Stelzig briefed the Board with an overview of his management style and important issues that he is considering as he prepares to take over the leadership of the staff and operations on December 1. He thanked the Board for their support and pledged to continue the partnership between staff and the Board.

5. **Science Policy** – Past President Michael Parrella and Stelzig provided an overview of the Society’s Science Policy and advocacy accomplishments and efforts in 2019. Following this, Erin Cadwalader and Ben Kallen from Lewis-Burke Associates (LBA)–ESA’s government relations firm–presented an update on LBA’s efforts on behalf of ESA. Highlights included the funding climate, a review of Congressional visits, reviewing the society’s tiered agenda, and the new Vector-Borne Disease Network. Cadwalader, who will be joining ESA’s staff as the incoming Director of Strategic Initiatives, thanked the Board for their support during this transition. Kallen left the meeting and Fiona Williams joined the meeting at this point.
6. **Member Page Charges** – Director of Publications Lisa Junker presented a memo on page charges for publishing in the ESA journals. As had been previously recommended by the Publications Task Force, Junker proposed that the Governing Board consider the reinstatement of member page charges as a means to not only overcome the financial shortfall from Oxford University Press’ revised and lower income projections, but to also better position the society for changes in the publishing industry brought about by transformative agreements. After discussion and a brief break, the following motion was approved unanimously: The Governing Board approves the re-institution of page charges for ESA members publishing in ESA’s subscription journals as of June 30, 2020, and the re-institution of ESA’s previous policy allowing members without institutional support to request a page-charge waiver once per year.
7. **Annual Meeting Site Selection** – Director of Meetings Rosina Romano briefed the Board on proposals from Cleveland, OH and Columbus, OH as potential sites for the 2026 ESA Annual Meeting. Following a presentation and discussion, a motion to authorize staff to finalize the selection of Columbus, OH as the site for the 2026 ESA Annual Meeting was approved. Williams departed the meeting at this point.
8. **Annual Meeting Submission Fees** – As a means to mitigate the programmatic challenges of withdrawn and no-show presentations during the annual meeting, Romano presented data on how many other professional organizations have instituted abstract submission fees. As part of the 2016 International Congress of Entomology meeting, ESA utilized a submission fee structure. The Board discussed the issue and expressed support for staff to investigate the idea further. Staff will present a recommendation during the summer 2020 Governing Board meeting to possibly institute them in 2021.
9. **Financial Update and 2020 Proposed Budget** – Treasurer Michelle Smith and Director of Finance Neil Willoughby reviewed the ESA financial performance year-to-date. Investments continue to perform well and the Society is anticipating surpassing budget expectations for 2019. Smith presented the Finance Committee report which recommends approving the proposed budget. Smith and Willoughby provided a high level overview of the proposed budget for 2020

and reminded the Board that they had received a more in-depth review of the budget during a webinar in late October. Discussion ensued and a motion to approve the proposed 2020 budget successfully passed.

10. **Financial Reporting** – The board discussed a desire to create a new annual report which would provide the society’s membership with high-level data on finances, programs, and budget. Staff will develop a template report and present to the Board at their next meeting.
11. **Committee on Ethics and Rules Updates** – The Governing Board previously had charged to committee on Ethics and Rules to develop proposals for two new committees which would (a) canvas for nominations for the Society’s honors and awards and (b) seek to improve the development of future and current leaders of the Society. Stelzig briefed the board on both proposals. Discussion ensued and then the Board approved the following motion: Move to approve the formation of both the Committee on Canvassing for Awards and Honors and the Committee on Leadership Development, as proposed by the Committee on Ethics and Rules.
12. **Fellows Selection Process** – The Board discussed the process whereby members are selected for the Society’s highest honor – being named as a Fellow of the ESA. Two models were discussed, both of which were prior or current policy for the process; either utilizing a review panel to prioritize the nominations and make recommendations to the Board, or simply having the Board make the selections. After much discussion, the Board approved the following motion: Move to develop and support a process whereby the Society chooses Fellows of the ESA by making the selection process a function of the Governing Board.
13. **Policies and Procedures Updates** – Stelzig presented a few proposed updates to the Society’s new Policies and Procedures Manual, which is intended to be a living document, updated at least annually as needed. The changes included minor copy edits, a change in structure and other revisions for the following committees: Committee on Annual Meeting Program, Committee on Awards and Honors, Committee on Student Affairs, Committee on Common Names of Insects, Committee on Early Career Professionals, Committee on Diversity and Inclusion, Committee on Science Policy, and the Committee on the Insect Calendar. A motion to support these changes was approved.

In order to correct a structural issue with regards to the size of ESA’s editorial boards, Junker presented a recommendation to make another minor correction in the Policies and Procedures Manual. The change, which was approved by the Board, would allow editorial boards to be comprised of between four and six subject editors, depending on the number of subject editors serving that journal.

14. **Items pulled from the Consent Agenda** – Esquivel noted that the report from the Committee on Diversity and Inclusion included a planned end date for the committee. As part of the Inclusion 2.0 approach to D&I, the Board approved the following motion. Move to support the ongoing and continuing work of the ESA Committee on Diversity and Inclusion.
15. **Thank Outgoing Board Members** – Peterson thanked three Board members whose terms have come to conclusion: Chris Geden, Doug Walsh, and Michelle Smith. He thanked them for their service on the Board and also acknowledged Smith’s continued service as she becomes the Vice

President Elect in 2020.

16. **Adjourn 2019 Governing Board** – Having no further business, the final meeting of the 2019 Governing Board was adjourned at 3:01 p.m.
17. **Convene 2020 Governing Board** – President Alvin Simmons convened the 2020 Governing Board at 3:12 p.m. Simmons welcomed the new members Faith Oi, Treasurer; Jennifer Henke, Pacific Branch Representative; and Mustapha Debboun, BCE, Medical, Urban & Veterinary Entomology Section Representative. Simmons gave a brief presentation on his vision of the Society for the year to come and the 2020 Annual Meeting.
18. **At Large Members of the Executive Committee** – The Governing Board elected Jessica Ware and Melissa Siebert as the two 2020 At Large members of the Executive Committee.
19. **Adjourn 2020 Governing Board** – Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:34 p.m.