

## Entomological Society of America

### **Minutes of the Governing Board Second Quarter Meeting – Zoom teleconference July 29-30, 2020**

#### **Participants,**

Alvin Simmons, President  
Michelle Smith, BCE, Vice President  
Faith Oi, Treasurer  
Bob Peterson, Past President  
Jessica Ware, Vice President Elect  
Julien Saguez, International Branch Representative  
Gary Brewer, North Central Branch Representative  
Karla Adesso, Southeastern Branch Representative  
Jesus Esquivel, Southwestern Branch Representative  
Tracy Leskey, Eastern Branch Representative  
Jennifer Henke, Pacific Branch Representative  
Mustapha Debboun, BCE, Medical, Urban & Veterinary Entomology Section Representative  
Marianne Alleyne, Physiology, Biochemistry & Toxicology Section Representative  
Andrew Short, Systematics, Evolution & Biodiversity Section Representative  
Melissa Siebert, Plant-Insect Ecosystems Section Representative  
Lina Bernaola, Student Representative  
Chris Stelzig, Executive Director

#### **Staff**

Rosina Romano, Director of Meetings and Membership  
Erin Cadwalader, Director of Strategic Initiatives  
Neil Willoughby, Director of Finance  
Lisa Junker, Director of Publications, Communications, and Marketing

1. **Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review** – President Alvin Simmons convened the meeting at 11:05 a.m. and welcomed the attendees. After quorum was established and minor housekeeping announcements were made, the agenda was reviewed. A minor update to the agenda was received, after which point it was approved.
2. **Consent Agenda** – The Consent Agenda may contain minutes, motions, and other reports that the Governing Board can approve as a single agenda. Simmons reviewed

the Consent Agenda and asked if members would like to pull any items for additional consideration. After brief discussion, the following items were pulled from the Consent Agenda for later consideration:

- Task Force on Innovation Final Report
- International Branch Report
- Southeastern Branch Report
- Southwestern Branch Report

A motion was then received, seconded, and approved to approve the remaining items on the Consent Agenda:

- a. Common Names Committee Report and supporting documentation
- b. Systematics, Evolution, and Biodiversity Section Report
- c. Physiology, Biochemistry, and Toxicology Report
- d. Plant-Insect Ecosystems Report
- e. Eastern Branch Report
- f. North Central Branch Report
- g. Pacific Branch Report
- h. Leadership Development Committee Report
- i. Awards and Honors Canvassing Committee Report
- j. Student Affairs Committee Report
- k. Awards and Honors Committee Report
- l. Publications Council Report
- m. Early Career Professionals Committee Report
- n. Education and Outreach Committee Report
- o. Cyber Motions since the last Governing Board meeting
- p. Draft minutes from the April 9, 2020 and July 3, 2020 Governing Board meetings
- q. Ratification of the May 14, 2020 and July 8, 2020 Executive Committee meetings

3. **Headquarters Updates** – Stelzig made a brief presentation and updated the Board on various topics of operational importance, including recent personnel changes and continuing impacts from the coronavirus on the Society and office's operations. The Board acknowledged the work of Lisa Junker–ESA's retiring Director of Communications, Publications, and Marketing–and thanked her for her years of excellent service and hard work.

4. **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion** – Revisiting a topic from the July 3, 2020 board meeting, the board considered a wide array of issues relating to diversity, equity, and

inclusion. The discussion was initiated with a presentation from Director of Meetings and Membership, Rosina Romano. Discussion ensued and there was general agreement among Board members that the Society must do more to live up to its published Statement on Diversity and Inclusion and to find ways to better address the continuing challenges related to providing a welcoming environment to all current and potential members. As part of the discussion, a number of committee reports and recommendations were received and discussed as they were approved.

*Diversity and Inclusion Committee:*

The board received the committee's report, a statement regarding the name of the Society's student quiz game, and two proposals regarding proposed awards. In this part of the discussion, the following actions were taken as the Board received and reviewed the agenda items:

- Indefinitely tabled a motion from the committee which proposed changing the name of the quiz game since it had been acted upon in the previous meeting of the Board.
- Moved to approve a new annual ESA award, recognizing a member's distinguished achievement in the promotion of diversity and inclusion in the field of entomology. The Board tasked the committee and staff with finalizing any implementation details.
- Received a motion from the committee to create a new student award, but requested further information from the committee in order to fully discuss and debate the proposal.

*Student Affairs Committee:*

The board received two reports from the committee. After considerable discussion, the board took the following actions:

- Indefinitely tabled a motion from the committee which proposed changing the name of the quiz game played by students at ESA meetings, since that agenda item had been acted upon in the previous meeting of the Board.
- Approved a motion to commit to Territorial Acknowledgements at the onsite ESA Annual Meetings.
- Discussed a motion from the committee to conduct an analysis of the Linnaean Games Task Force process. While the board did not approve the motion as suggested, they did agree that future processes could be made more inclusive and equitable.

*Common Names of Insects and Related Organisms Committee:*

The board discussed an issue raised by the committee whereby they sought guidance on ensuring that insect names selected by the Society are as inclusive as possible. The

board discussed at length and provided feedback to the committee, including guidance related to the development of names based on geographic regions.

The Board took a break at 1:40 p.m. and resumed the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

5. **Fellows Selection in Executive Session** – The Governing Board entered executive session at 2:10 p.m. to select the 2020 Fellows of the Entomological Society of America. The executive session ended at 3:45 p.m.

MOTION: Move to select the 2020 Fellows of the Entomological Society of America: Carol Anelli, Carolina Barillas Mury, David Dame, Richard Hellmich, Philip Koehler, Catherine Loudon, Corrie Moreau, Jay Rosenheim, James Truman, and Susan Weller. Motion carries.

The board recessed for the day at 3:50 p.m.

6. **Introduction and Agenda Review** – At 9:00 a.m. the following morning, the meeting reconvened, quorum was established, and President Simmons reviewed the remaining agenda items and requested a few modifications. No objections were received and the meeting continued.
7. **Recapping Day One** – Stelzig provided a summary of the previous day's conversations. Discussion continued and a motion was received, seconded, and unanimously approved to fund the hiring of a new ESA manager of diversity, equity, and inclusion who will focus on improving the membership experience, with a three-year commitment out of ESA's strategic reserve funds. The new staff member would be tasked with reviewing the Linnaean Games Task Force's work processes and making suggestions for how future Society decision-making processes can be as inclusive as possible.
8. **Role of the Executive Committee** – Stelzig provided a resource to the board which reviewed the purpose, function, and structure of a professional society's executive committee.
9. **Annual Meeting Update** – Romano provided a brief update for the upcoming virtual annual meeting.
10. **Science Policy Committee Report and Update** – Director of Strategic Initiatives, Erin Cadwalader, provided a presentation of the committee's activities, her science advocacy outreach, as well as the work of the Society's advocacy firm. Her presentation reviewed

legislative and coalition activities, actions taken by ESA, as well as updates on various legislative opportunities and bills. Two revised position statements were reviewed and approved with minor edits requested. The statements approved were the ESA Position Statement on Insecticide Resistance Management and the ESA Position Statement on Insecticide Resistance Management in Genetically-Modified Crops.

11. **Non-Academic Career Track Initiative** – Cadwalader presented on her efforts to develop new programming targeted at ensuring that ESA members and potential members are prepared to consider careers outside of academia. The initiative had originally been planned to be in person but had to transition to virtual programming due to the pandemic.
12. **Pulled Items from Consent Agenda** – The board considered the topics which had been previously removed from the Consent Agenda. Following brief discussion, all four reports (Task Force on Innovation Final Report, International Branch Report, Southeastern Branch Report, and Southwestern Branch Report) were approved with no changes.

The Board took a break at 1:20 p.m. and resumed the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

13. **Audit Committee Report** -- Smith and Director of Finance, Neil Willoughby presented the audit of the Society's financial records from 2019. No material questions were raised by the Society's auditors and the board approved the audit report and management letters.
14. **Finance Committee Report** – Oi and Willoughby presented the mid-year financial reports for ESA. The coronavirus has had a negative impact on ESA's operations and financial reserves. However, with widespread cancellations throughout the world, ESA's expenses are also notably lower this year. Headquarters recast the 2020 budget in April and the revised estimates now forecast a net loss of \$625,000 for the year, including an anticipated drop of \$800,000 in ESA's investment account, as compared to a budgeted expectation of a \$240,000 gain. It was noted that the U.S. economy remains in a great deal of flux and much may change by year's end. The financial implications of the cancelled or postponed 2020 Branch meetings were also discussed.
15. **Fellows Nomination Process** – The board discussed the process used to select the 2020 class of ESA Fellows which included a record number of submissions. They agreed that the process is best kept as a function of the Governing Board. Several suggestions for process improvement were discussed. Staff will collate the

recommendations and return to the board with suggestions for process improvement.

- 16. Adjourn** – President Simmons called for any new business to consider. Hearing none, the meeting adjourned at 3:08 p.m.