

## Entomological Society of America

### **Minutes of the Governing Board Meeting – Zoom teleconference**

**June 23-24, 2021 (11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. ET)**

#### **Participants,**

Michelle Smith, BCE, President

Jessica Ware, Vice President

Faith Oi, Treasurer

Alvin Simmons, Past President

Marianne Alleyne, Vice President Elect

John Ruberson, North Central Branch Representative

Karla Adesso, Southeastern Branch Representative

Jesus Esquivel, Southwestern Branch Representative

Tracy Leskey, Eastern Branch Representative

Jennifer Henke, Pacific Branch Representative

Julien Saguez, International Branch Representative

Mustapha Debboun, BCE, Medical, Urban & Veterinary Entomology Section Representative

Richard Mankin, Physiology, Biochemistry & Toxicology Section Representative

Andrew Short, Systematics, Evolution & Biodiversity Section Representative

Melissa Willrich Siebert, Plant-Insect Ecosystems Section Representative

Sallqa-Tuwa Stephanita BondocGawa Mafla-Mills, 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

Matt Hudson, Director of Publications, Communications, and Marketing

Josh Lancette, Managing Editor

1. **Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review** – President Smith convened the meeting at 11:27 a.m. and welcomed the attendees. Quorum was established and housekeeping announcements were made. Following these actions, the agenda was reviewed and approved.
2. **Consent Agenda** – The Consent Agenda may contain minutes, motions, and other reports that the Governing Board can approve as a single agenda. Smith reviewed the

Consent Agenda and asked if members would like to pull any items for discussion. The following five reports were pulled for later consideration: (a) Early Career Professionals Committee Report, (b) Ethics and Rules Committee Report, (c) Leadership Development Committee Report, (d) Eastern Branch Report, and (e) Dues Adjustment for 2022. Following that, the board approved the remaining items of the consent agenda. The following reports were approved:

Consent Agenda Item	Motion?
Annual Meeting Program Committee	No
Awards and Honors Committee	No
Awards and Honors Canvassing Committee	No
Common Names Committee	Yes
Diversity and Inclusion Committee	No
Entomology Games Committee	No
Committee on the Insect Calendar	No
Science Communication Committee	No
Student Affairs Committee	No
Medical, Urban, and Veterinary Entomology	No
Physiology, Biochemistry, and Toxicology	No
Plant-Insect Ecosystems	No
Systematics, Evolution, and Biodiversity	No
International Branch	No
North Central Branch	No
Pacific Branch	No
Southeastern Branch	No
Southwestern Branch	No
March Governing Board meeting	No
April Executive Committee meeting	No
May Governing Board meeting	No
June Executive Committee meeting	No

3. **Summer Strategy Day Update** – Stelzig presented an update on the work of the Presidential Task Force on ESA Regional Needs Assessment. Preparations continue to hold a strategy session later this summer to examine and discuss the ESA organizational structures and processes which require a regional presence. After discussion, the board continued with the next agenda item.
4. **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)** – The Board continued the discussion which was held at the May board meeting focused on determining ways to address systemic inequities in the science of entomology. After discussion, the board agreed to commit to pursue a DEI strategic planning process before undertaking an overall ESA strategic

planning process.

5. **Honorary Membership (HM) Task Force Recommendations** – During the May meeting of the board, a task force was formed to review the current ESA HM program. The task force reviewed the program's history, recent trends, and several recommendations to the program which would clarify the intent of the award and ensure that the honor aligns with ESA's commitment to a diverse and inclusive society. Discussion ensued. After that conversation, the board approved a motion to ask the Awards and Honors Committee to review the award and the recommendations from the task force before coming back to the governing board with recommendations to strengthen the award and better align it with ESA's strategic priorities.
6. **Pay Per View Discussion** – Continuing a conversation which had begun electronically among board members, the ESA governing board discussed the society's policies regarding the ability of customers to purchase articles on a pay-per-view basis rather than through a traditional subscription. After consideration, the board agreed that the topic was important enough to ask staff to continue to engage in conversations with the Society's publishing partner.
7. **Executive Director Report** – Stelzig presented several topics of importance to the board, including trends affecting societal operations, an update on headquarters, and an assessment of the future directions for the Society. Discussion ensued.
8. **Break** – The board recessed for approximately 1 hour. As it reconvened, the traditional annual photograph of the board was taken.
9. **Audit Committee Report** – Vice President-Elect Alleyne presented the committee's report which reviewed the work of ESA's financial auditors. The society's finances performed well in 2020 and posted a net gain. For the first time in many years, no management letter accompanied the auditor's report, which was a sign of their overall confidence in how ESA's finances were being managed internally.
10. **Finance Committee Report** – Treasurer Oi presented the mid-year review of the ESA's financial performance. The pandemic continues to have a negative impact on some aspects of ESA's programs and operations. However, the investment portfolio continues to post strong gains and several revenue areas are expected to exceed budget projections.
11. **Annual Meeting Updates** – Director of Meetings and Membership Romano provided an update on the plans to host ESA's first-ever hybrid annual meeting in Denver and online

later this fall. Virtual submissions were very close to budgeted totals, but in-person submissions were lower than budget assumptions. This is an early indicator that overall registration and budget goals may not be met; staff has begun to make adjustments to manage expenses accordingly. Extra attention is being paid to ensure that the Society is providing a meeting environment that is as safe as possible with respect to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

12. **Science Policy Reports** – Director of Strategic Initiatives Cadwalader and Past President Simmons presented two overlapping reports dealing with the society’s federal advocacy efforts. The first report covered the activities of the Science Policy Committee and the second detailed the activities of Lewis-Burke Associates, ESA’s advocacy contractor in Washington, D.C. Both reports, as well as a presentation provided by Cadwalader, detailed various activities undertaken to advance ESA’s stature in the nation’s capital, as well as anticipated future activities.
13. **Strategic Initiatives Updates** – Cadwalader provided updates on several initiatives that are being led by her team, including the Grand Challenges Agenda for Entomology (GCAFE), the Professional Advancement and Career Training (PACT) Initiative, and a new mentorship program. Board members asked a number of questions regarding each initiative. She also shared updates on two federal grant opportunities.
14. **Publications Council Report** – Director of Publications, Communications, and Marketing Hudson presented an update on the performance of ESA’s journals portfolio as well as progress on several important initiatives. Discussion ensued.
15. **Consent Agenda** – The board tabled the discussion of the pulled Consent Agenda items until the following day.
16. **The Better Names Project** – During the March meeting the governing board approved a process for adopting new names for insects that are more inclusive. As the Common Names of Insects and Related Organisms Committee begins to consider how to adopt these principles for new names, they presented a proposal for how to address problematic extant names and further suggested two initial names for the board to consider changing. After discussion, the board passed a motion to remove “gypsy moth” and “gypsy ant” from ESA’s Common Names of Insects and Related Organisms list. Until such a time as a new name is approved for each insect, the Society will encourage use of the scientific name when referring to them.
17. **Adjourn for Day** – The Board adjourned for the day at 4:05 ET.

18. **Executive Session** – The board reconvened at 11:00 a.m. ET on June 24 with all board members in attendance. They approved a motion to move into executive session to discuss the selection of Fellows for 2021 and one other confidential matter regarding a financial donation. The board left executive session at 2:30 ET.

19. **Fellows Nominations** – The board approved the following motion: Move to accept Jeffrey R. Bloomquist, Galen Dively, Sunday Ekesi, Kelli Hoover, Casey Hoy, Martha Hunter, Conrad Labandeira, Andrew M. Liebhold, Bill Hutchison, and Robert Michael Pyle as Fellows of the Entomological Society of America. Leskey departed the meeting at this point.

20. **Fellows Rubric** – The board considered a report presented by the Presidential Task Force on Fellows Nominations which highlighted the impact of recent changes to the program which were approved by the board. Several improvements were recommended to be implemented for the 2022 awards season. A motion was approved which both approved the recommendations of the task force, and reconvened the task force to further improve the nominee review process, specifically the biosketch and rubrics. Cadwalader and Romano joined the meeting at this point.

21. **Consent Agenda** – The board resumed the discussion of the items that had previously been pulled from the Consent Agenda. Following minor discussion on each topic, the following reports were approved:

- Eastern Branch Report: The discussion involved a concern expressed from the board that they would prefer to see the awards committee and the awards canvassing committee not be compressed into a single committee.
- Ethics and Rules Committee Report: The discussion was regarding the committee's recommendations.
- Leadership Development Committee Report: The discussion involved a concern expressed that self-nominations may run counter to established branch policies regarding nominations committees. The board agreed that open nominations are more inclusive and policies that encourage more nominations should be sought.
- Early Careers Professional (ECP) Committee Report – The discussion focused on seeking to improve the retention of our ECP members.
- Staff memo on dues adjustment for 2022 – The board discussed the proposed membership rates for 2022. Hudson joined the meeting at this point.

22. **New Business** – Smith called for any new business. A report was presented that the Journal of Medical Entomology (JME) editor-in-chief (EIC) search committee had just concluded their search and were ready to make a recommendation. The board

discussed the report and passed two motions. The first appointed Dr. David Taylor as the EIC of JME to begin a new four-year term on January 1, 2022. The second motion formalized a new search process to seek a co-EIC to serve alongside Dr. Taylor.

23. **Adjournment** – President Smith called for any additional new business from the board members. Hearing none, a motion to adjourn the meeting was approved and the meeting concluded at 3:40 p.m. ET.