

Entomological Society of America

Minutes of the Governing Board Meeting Orlando, Florida September 24th, 2016

Participants

May Berenbaum, President
Susan Weller, Vice President
Phil Mulder, Past President
Michael Parrella, Vice President-Elect
Mark Boetel, Treasurer
Gary Brewer, North Central Branch Representative
Timothy Schowalter, Southeastern Branch Representative
David Ragsdale, Southwestern Branch Representative
Livy Williams, International Branch Representative
John Oswald, Systematics, Evolution & Biodiversity Section Representative
Paula Shrewsbury, Eastern Branch Representative
Douglas Walsh, Pacific Branch Representative
Carol Anelli, Physiology, Biochemistry & Toxicology Section Representative
Sujaya Rao, Plant-Insect Ecosystems Section Representative
Christopher Geden, Medical, Urban & Veterinary Entomology Section Representative
Tamra Reall Lincoln, Student Representative to the Governing Board

Staff

C. David Gammel, Executive Director
Rosina Romano, Director of Meetings
Debi Sutton, Director of Membership and Marketing
Neil Willoughby, Director of Finance
Lisa Junker, Director of Publications
Chris Stelzig, Director of Strategic Initiatives
Nikki Olin, Executive Assistant

Guests

Alvin Simmons, ICE Co-Chair
Walter Leal, ICE Co-Chair
Katherine Matthews, ESA
Meghan McCabe, Lewis-Burke & Associates
Erin Cadwalader, Lewis-Burke & Associates

1. **Welcome and Agenda Review** – President May Berenbaum convened the meeting at 8:27am. The agenda was reviewed and left unchanged.
2. **Governing Board June Minutes** – A motion to approve the June 2016 meeting minutes was passed.
3. **Executive Committee August Minutes** – A motion to ratify the August Executive Committee minutes was passed.

4. **Emeritus Request**– A motion to approve the Emeritus Request for Dr. Charles E. Mason was passed.
5. **International Congress of Entomology Update** – Alvin Simmons and Walter Leal, ICE Co-chairs, provided an update on ICE. Alvin and Walter thanked the Governing Board, ESA staff, and the ICE committee for their continued support. There are currently 6,358 registrants from over 102 countries with more expected to register onsite. This is considered a more student friendly meeting with over 14% of the presentations and meetings being held by students. Simmons and Leal gave an overview of the events that will be happening during the Congress such as welcome receptions, dinners, and receptions. The ICE schedule is online and the ICE mobile app has been successful since its launch in August 2016.
6. **President's Update** – Berenbaum gave an overview of her presentations that will be given during the ICE and ESA Opening Plenaries. Berenbaum discussed the importance of science communication advocacy, the initiatives and membership of the Society, and grand challenges.
7. **Executive Director Update** – Executive Director David Gammel, gave an overview of the agenda and issues that the Society is facing at this time. Gammel reviewed the strategy visualization of operations and strategic principles that the Society has been using for the last several years. Gammel also spoke briefly about ESA's current strategic initiatives/priorities. Gammel discussed that ICE is performing to budget in terms of revenue and expenses. There was a brief overview of the Grand Challenges and the Summit held in Brazil. Gammel spoke on the success of the website redesign and the general feedback has been positive so far as it helps our members stay connected with the Society. He reviewed plans for 2017 that include a review volunteer culture and governance structure to position the Society for success in the future. Lastly, Gammel discussed the 2017 Strategy Day in Denver, CO and the structure of the ESA staff. General discussion ensued.
8. **Consent Agenda** – Berenbaum started the review of the consent agenda that contained reports from the International Branch, Common Names Committee, and the Career Center. Gammel stated that the International Branch report was the same from the summer meeting and the motion has been forward to the Diversity & Inclusion Committee for review. Berenbaum then asked if the Board needed anything to be pulled out for discussion. Hearing none, a motion to approve the consent agenda was passed.
9. **ESA Publications Update** – Lisa Junker, Director of Publications & Communications, spoke with the Board regarding ESA's publishing program. Junker discussed the terms for Dr. Sydney Cameron and Dr. Jim Whitfield, the co-editors-in-chief for the new title *Insect Systematics and Diversity* (ISD). The terms will be three years per the preference of the editors. The first issue of ISD will be primarily invited content and there's a high expectation for the launch of this new journal. There is a temporary website for ISD www.insectscience.org and a more permanent website will be launched by Oxford in November.
10. **Website Redesign Update**– Junker gave an update on the new website redesign for ESA. Member response has been positive so far. Future plans involve setting metrics against original goals starting from 2 months and 6 month milestones. The Marketing &

Membership group will now lead the website moving forward. The new community platform, Higher Logic, is planned to launch in March 2017. General discussion ensued.

11. **Career Center:** Chris Stelzig, Director of Strategic Initiatives, briefed the Board on a plan to maximize the number of jobs advertised through the ESA online career center in order to maximize the value of the Career Center for ESA members and other entomologists. A consultant was hired to survey not only the job seeker but also the job provider in the marketplace. Stelzig reviewed the data report that was given to the Board prior to the meeting. General discussion ensued about different options to help promote the online center. Staff will revisit options for the Career Center in 2017.
12. **2016 Finance Update** – Treasurer Mark Boetel and Finance Director Neil Willoughby, provided an update on the Society’s financial performance. We are on target to meet budget goals based on activity to date. The Finance Committee will meet during the first week of November to review the draft 2017 budget.
 - a. **President’s Fund**– Gammel discussed the new proposed policy language in regards to the President’s Fund.
Proposed Policy: Presidential funds are not included with ESA’s operating budget and may be accounted for separately as supplemental expenditures requested by the ESA President to enhance the ESA Annual Meeting or advance other strategic priorities. Expenditures up to a total of \$10,000 must be reviewed by the Executive Committee on a regular basis. Expenditures above \$10,000 may be made by the President with the prior review and approval of the Governing Board. The following motion was made:
Motion: *Move to approve the proposed Presidential Fund policy. Motion passed.*
 - b. **Parental Leave Policy** – Gammel reviewed a proposed parental leave policy for ESA staff. General discussion occurred regarding costs, coverage, and workplace culture. The following motion was made:
Motion: *Move to approve the proposed parental leave policy, and related cost implications, and direct the Executive Director to finalize and implement policy details in conjunction with legal and human resources counsel. Motion passed.*
 - c. **Staffing Plan and Revised Budget Projections** – Gammel gave a brief review of the proposed staffing plan and financials associated with it before going into executive session to discuss further. After working with the staff directors, Gammel has identified one additional staff position to add next year that will help grow the ESA Certification Corporation while freeing up senior staff resources for ESA’s strategic initiatives. The Governing Board entered executive session for 40 minutes to further discuss the plan. After exiting executive session, the following motion was made:
Motion: *Move to support investment in additional staff position as proposed. Motion passed.*
13. **Diversity and Inclusion Committee Activities Update**– Debi Sutton, Director of Membership & Marketing and Katherine Matthews, Database Manager at ESA, presented the Diversity & Inclusion Committee report which included preliminary survey results on members’ perceptions of ESA performance on diversity and inclusion. Final results will be reported in November.
14. **Volunteer Experience/Governance review Update** – Gammel reviewed a proposal to conduct an assessment and review of ESA’s volunteer culture and governance structure.

The project would be a 2-year process to review and receive recommendations and the implement recommended changes. To start the process, it was proposed to invest in a survey tool called Workplace Genome to assess our volunteer culture and then present the data at the 2017 Summer Meeting. The entire process will give ESA better insight into our volunteers and how we can better integrate them into volunteering with our Society in the context of our own strategic priorities. The following motion was made: ***Motion:*** Move to authorize up to \$40,000 from the 2017 Strategic Investment Budget for the volunteer and governance review project. ***Motion Passed.***

15. **Fellows Process Review Discussion**– President Berenbaum discussed the process for the fellows’ selections stating that the last group only reflected a certain demographic. The overall results were satisfying but the prospect raised a need to review the process in order to increase diversity in the awards possibly by way of presidential committee. General discussion with suggestions and insight about the process was held. The following motion was then made: ***Motion:*** Move to create a 1-year special committee of the Governing Board on the fellows’ process. ***Motion Passed.***

16. **Leadership Development Committee Discussion**–Gammel discussed forming a canvassing committee designed to help source candidates for national office. There have been some challenges in recruiting candidates for national office in recent years. After general discussion, it was suggested to table the proposal for now and make part of the discussion at the 2017 Summer Meeting.

17. **Science Policy Update** – Meghan McCabe and Dr. Erin Cadwalader from Lewis-Burke Associates gave an update on Science Policy and the work ESA has been focused with on Capitol Hill. Ms. McCabe started with reviewing the work they do for ESA and then went over activities since June:
 - a. Development of a the tiered advocacy agenda.
 - b. Submitted comments to the White House Office of Science and Technology policy on an Agricultural Workforce for the 21st Century.
 - c. Developed a quick statement on the aerial spray of pesticides in South Carolina and the effect that had on the immediate population there. Submitted to the SC delegation as well as Capitol Hill.
 - d. Working closely with ESA staff to arrange the Science Policy Fellows November trip to Washington, which will be internationally focused to reflect this meeting.

The Federal Landscape Moving Forward

- The Obama Administration is not drafting an FY 2018 budget request.
- The agencies will provide the transition team a “current services” budget (FY 2017 funding level plus inflation).
- Each agency will also have a list of program and project priorities for the next Administration to consider, assuming higher funding levels (3 to 4 percent growth).
- The new White House will then submit a budget proposal to Congress in April/May (though it is usually not a full budget request).

ESA Influencing the New Administration

- Access to transition team and newly named nominees will be at a premium or completely unavailable.
- However, ESA can still work to influence the new Administration through tactics such as:

- Preparing a transition document that outlines our top priorities for a new Administration.
 - Using your own networks of federal contacts to share these priorities so when opportunities to discuss ideas with the transition team become available.
 - Having Congressional champions know ESA priorities to bring up with nominees as appropriate, ask questions at hearings.
 - Authoring op-eds in regional and national papers encouraging action on ESA priorities.
- Although top Administration officials are likely to turn over, several high level officials are likely to stay because they have a set term or are not appointed, these include:
 - NSF: France Cordova, all Assistant Directors (e.g. Jim Olds at BIO)
 - NIH: All Institute Directors (except NCI)
 - USDA: NIFA Director Sonny Ramaswamy

Past President Phil Mulder, Chair of the Science Policy Committee provided an update on the activities of the committee since June. As this was a new committee, there was a concern about having all members rotate off all at one time, the committee terms of office for this year were randomly assigned as either 1, 2, or 3 year initial terms.

Of committee members who were on one-year appointments, the following rotations are noted:

1. Phil Mulder (currently Chair). Mulder's term is expiring and he would be interested in a new appointment to one of the vacant slots below.
2. Frank Zalom (currently Ad Hoc). Zalom is open to the idea of reappointment, though would be willing to step aside and offer others a chance to serve.
3. Michelle Smith (currently MUVE). Smith is not seeking reappointment and a new appointment is needed for a three-year term. MUVE President Dini Miller is considering options as of this writing.
4. Karen Sime (currently Eastern). Sime is seeking reappointment and is supported in this by Cesar Rodriguez, Eastern Branch President.
5. Scott Geib (currently Pacific). Geib is seeking reappointment and is supported in this by Sanford Eigenbrode, Pacific Branch President.

The following motions were made:

Motions:

- a. *Move to reappoint Frank Zalom, Karen Sime, and Scott Geib as representatives to the ESA Science Policy Committee for a 3-year term. **Motion Passed.***
- b. *Move to create a past chair appointee position on the committee for the term of 1-year. **Motion Passed.***

Science Policy Fellows

On July 15 the SPC selected the class of 2016 Science Policy Fellows. As was reported in the previous report, the SPC strongly considered a variety of selection criteria from an excellent pool of candidates, seeking to expand representation across ESA Sections, US geographic regions, and other factors. The 2016 class will commence their service during the ICE meeting in Orlando. The 2014 and 2015 Class will conclude 2016 with their second trip to Washington DC, tentatively scheduled for November 14-16. This trip will mark the end of active service as SPFs for the class of 2014.

EPA Liaison

On July 15, the SPC selected the Society's subject matter expert (SME) to serve as a bridge between ESA and the Environmental Protection Agency Office of Pesticide Programs (EPA-OPP). Dr. Allan Felsot, Professor and Extension Specialist in Entomology and Environmental Toxicology (Washington State University) has been selected as the new SME, serving a term through the November 2019 ESA Annual Meeting. The SME position is a three-year appointment. ESA funds several trips a year to Washington DC to facilitate the relationship. Dr. Felsot will also serve as a member of the SPC and represent ESA on various national committees and boards, such as the National Stakeholder Team for Pesticide Safety Education Program Funding (PSEP). He will provide regular reports to the SPC which will then be shared with the full ESA membership.

Position Statements Update

At the June meeting, the Governing Board approved the request of the SPC to reauthorize (revise with <=20% edits) four existing archaic statements that dated from the early 2000's and two new statements. The following motions were made:

Motions:

- (a) *Move to retire the ESA position statement on Insects and Biodiversity and draft a new statement on the same topic. **Motion Passed.***
- (b) *Move to retire the ESA position statement on Microbial insecticides and draft a new statement on the same topic. **Motion passed.***

CAST Membership

Gammel discussed what/who The Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) is. CAST is a nonprofit organization composed of scientific and professional societies, companies, nonprofits, and individual members. CAST communicates the science behind food and agricultural issues with input from the scientific and legal community, as well as summarize the latest scientific research for leaders in public policy, the private sector, and the media. Gammel believes this will be a valuable membership for ESA to have and be a participating society. This would also alleviate CEDA from having to maintain their membership with CAST. Membership is \$3000 annually with \$1500 for annual meeting travel. The following motion was made:

Motion: *To join CAST as a participating society. **Motion Passed.***

NAS BANR Conference on GMO Foods Report

Gammel discussed the conference that will be hosted by BANR in December discussing the GMO Foods report that came out of the academies earlier this year and was chaired by Fred Gould. They are having a society day to bring together society leadership and related organizations to talk about how to get the information from the report further into the community. Sponsorship and travel would be the only cost factors for this conference. This was already discussed amongst the Executive Committee and it was agreed that ESA's participation is necessary.

18. **2017 Denver Annual Meeting** – President Elect, Susan Weller, reviewed new program ideas for the 2017 Annual Meeting. The theme for 2017 is “Ignite. Inspire. Innovate.” and the main focus will be on science communication. The annual meeting will be held in Denver, Colorado at the Colorado Convention Center November 5th-8th.

19. **Sabbatical Leave for David Gammel** – Gammel gave a brief overview of what he will be doing during his sabbatical. Debi Sutton and Chris Stelzig will be Acting Directors of ESA HQ during this time. The Sabbatical will begin December 1st 2016 and end on January 31st, 2017. Gammel thanked the Board for allowing him this opportunity.
20. **Matching Funds** – Weller proposed providing funds to the Branches for them to hold science communication workshops in 2017. The workshops should be based on science communication to adults and the general population. This \$6,000 would be allocated in the Strategic Initiatives budget. The following motion was made:
Motion: *Motion to approve the allocation of \$6,000 to the branches for science communication. Motion passed.*
21. **Outgoing Members** – Berenbaum thanked the outgoing members of the Governing Board for their service: Phil Mulder, Past President; Mark Boetel, Treasurer; Tamra Reall-Lincoln, Student Representative.
22. **Adjourn** – With no further business to consider, the meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.