

**October 20<sup>th</sup> 2020, 1.00pm EST**  
**EC Meeting plus Committee Chairs**

**Present:** Dave Bubeck, Peggy Ozias-Akins, Ksenija Gasic, Don Jones, Benjamin Trampe, Hannah Senior, David Fang, Deb Menicos, JD Rossouw, Jim McFerson, Zachary Jones, Neha Kothari, Rich Pratt, Bill Tracy, Zara York.

**Minutes from September Meeting**

Peggy moved, Ksenija seconded, approved.

**Minutes from July & August business session at annual meeting**

Hannah moved, Bill Tracy seconded, approved.

**Finances**

Don presented the financial situation after the virtual meeting. He is content with the overall financial health – net, the position largely similar to this time 2019 (while the income is down as a consequence of lower income from an online annual meeting, expenses were lower too).

Dave B drew attention to a need for financial caution in the current climate of economic uncertainty. He also drew attention to the recently established investment portfolio, as part of planning for NAPB's long term financial health.

**Membership – David Fang**

There is usually a slight decrease in new members after the annual meeting – this year is no exception.

*ACTION – Dave B to prepare and send a message to those whose membership has expired, monthly upon receipt of names from David F.*

**Advocacy – Bill Tracy**

Bill stepped in to cover Emily Zemke's while she is on maternity leave. He is now the chair but last has no vice chair or secretary. There was a discussion about advertising the vacancies to the membership; Ksenija named that some people had demonstrated interest in participation in this committee at the annual meeting.

*ACTION – Bill to draft a message to solicit interest in participating in this committee, and a little description of this committee's goals, aspirations etc, to solicit volunteers for officers / committee members via newsletter etc.*

**Education Committee – Neha Kothari**

The committee has two main roles – running the graduate student poster competition and running webinars. Poster competition: time was invested in developing a scoring system which is less prone to implicit bias but it is still very time consuming so this year the goal is to stream line this further. Webinars: this year, hopefully in spring, the committee will trial an online workshop eg introduction to the basics of statistical software languages.

Other suggestions – can posters be made available online a week before the meeting (requiring early deadlines), allowing participants time to read the work do it more justice? Also, could we have a student poster award for those participating from other regions. Potentially for those who do not speak English as their first language. International judges could be incorporated.

### **Awards – Jim McFerson**

Officially in hibernation for a few months. Would like to get website updated so that awardees are linked to / recognised. 9 committee members, 3 due to roll off, would like to get more volunteers. Ideally speciality crops and gender diversity!

*ACTION – Jim to draft a message to solicit interest in participating in this committee, and a little description of this committee's goals, aspirations etc, to solicit volunteers for officers / committee members via newsletter etc.*

### **Communications Committee - Zachary Jones**

Newsletter was sent today. Social media presence tends to happen in fits and starts so the committee will use the content from the newsletter for this purpose. They have now got all social media channels accessible through one set of username and passwords. Zachary invited other committee chairs to communicate with the Communications Committee if they have messages to disseminate

### **Commercial Plant Breeding – JD Rossouw**

This is the second year for this committee with two new members, and the committee's second meeting imminent. Lots of the participants in this committee are competitors, so the committee has dedicated time to making clear the "ground rules", ensure there is no anti-competitive risk for NAPB. Priorities for 2021 have been circulated.

### **Borlaug Scholars – Don Jones**

At the recent committee meeting the formal relationship between NAPB and new Access leadership was discussed. Friends of Plant Breeders letter which has been circulated, partly for communication, partly to raise awareness and donations. The 2020-21 Scholars themselves have suggested a seminar event and are organising it. A zoom based follow up on the July kick-off meeting will be held by zoom in November.

*ACTION – Dave B – arrange meeting between NAPB leadership and TriSocieties leadership. Shortly after their annual meeting?*

### **PBCC – Rich Pratt**

PBCC annual meeting – held recently - was well attended. Mikey Kantar (outgoing chair) set up some sub-committee meetings which were also well attended. All officers are now in place. A recent idea is to raise awareness of how genetic resources are used in a public-facing way. This will be done with a short- video competition aimed at graduate students.

*ACTION – Rich Pratt send Dave Bubeck the details of subcommittee officers, to be posted on the website.*

### **Graduate Student Working Group – Zara York**

This committee will re? run a professional development webinar series after last year's successes. Sub-committees include liaison, social media, graduate outreach.

Zara requested \$650 to re-run the 3 Minute Thesis competition this year – Zara proposed this because it was well received and some graduate students joined NAPB specifically for the competition.

*ACTION – Zara York send Dave Bubeck the details of committee officers, to be posted on the website. ACTION - EC to discuss request for funding in next meeting.*

### **Early Career Working Group - Deb Menicos**

Objectives for this year include panel-discussion webinars between March and May. They will also experiment with networking / social interactions – this was trialled last year with small groups and the committee will trial expanding it to larger groups with breakout sessions to allow for networking and making personal connections. The committee would like to resurrect the Mentorship programme for early career plant breeders and are putting together proposals.

*ACTION – Deb Menicos send Dave B the details of committee officers, to be posted on the website.*

### **Review of 2020 Meeting & planning for 2021 Meeting**

Responses (98 of them) to the post-meeting-attendee-survey have been collated and circulated. Some key messages from this include:

Positive feedback:

- Timing and format went down well,
- Enthusiasm re being able to see the posters in advance / for longer.
- Overall the event was very well received – 98% would recommend to a colleague

Areas for further consideration:

- Some felt the diversity of crops discussed could have been greater – is this a consequence of the meeting being at Lincoln (more limited to row crops?). A diversity of plants/crops discussed is seen as a strength of NAPB.
- Lots of N/A to virtual tours and coffee sessions – didn't know about? Didn't attend?

*ACTION – All attendees to read the feedback and share thoughts / suggestions / idea with Dave and the EC.*

**Meeting closed at 14.01**