

15 December 2020, 1.00pm
NAPB EC Meeting + Committee Chairs

Attendees

Hannah Senior, Dave Bubeck, Zachary Jones, Benjamin Trampe, David Fang, Don Jones, Jim McFerson, Ksenija Gasic, Neha Kothari, Peggy Ozias-Akins, Rich Pratt, Zara York.

Minutes from November Meeting

Minutes Approved – Moved Rich Pratt, Seconded Ben

Financials

The accounts to 30th November were reviewed. The Annual Meeting is not on the books; from this a small profit is anticipated (usually about \$15,000) and the financials are looking strong. The balance is slightly higher than end of year 2019.

Standing Committee Reports:

Membership – D Fang

Membership normally increases in anticipation of the annual meeting. There was a question about a theme for the 2021 Cornell meeting so it can be used to target breeders working in relevant areas? There was discussion about whether a theme is a help (attracts those working on otherwise underrepresented crops / specific interests) or a hindrance (puts others to whom this is irrelevant off).

ACTION – Dave propose to the Cornell Team to consider a theme and bring back to EC for review and approval.

Website improvement needed - when joining it's unclear whether you're joining NAPB or TriSocieties: can we change the language to remove a barrier to subscription?

ACTION – David and Ben get a quote, bring to EC for approval, but predisposed to approve.

Advocacy – B Tracy

Bill was not present.

Still seeking a secretary for this committee

Education – N Kothari

Interactive workshops have started, two further events in next month. Workshops are more work to organise and run than webinars so the committee is aiming to balance between the two formats

Awards – J McFerson

New committee member- Stephanie Sjoberg, Bayer Crop Science sweet pepper breeder from CA.

Communications – Zach Jones

The high fiber wheat that Sean Finnie spoke 2020 Meeting was featured in the [New York Times](#). He asked whether NAPB could share the article via the website and the Communications Committee sought clarification on EC's position. There was a discussion, and the risks of featuring a private company's proprietary brand considered. On balance it was felt to be OK to run – it follows on from the meeting, it's not marketing per se, and it is rare for plant breeding to get NYT coverage!

Any announcements for the newsletter and nominations for the Graduate Student Spotlight to be sent to Zach.

Commercial Plant Breeding – JD Rossouw

There has been a suggestion that NAPB focus on “the role plant breeding plays in sustainability” as one theme / session in the annual meeting.

ACTION – Dave B bring proposal to Cornell planning meeting

Borlaug Scholars – D Jones

The self-made videos of Borlaug Scholars are attracting a lot of interest.

Work to change the website for the nomination process is under way.

Consideration will be given in the next couple of Borlaug Scholars Committee meetings to the strategic role of Borlaug Scholars for NAPB.

PBCC – R Pratt

Some activities the PBCC are working on were outlined

- appealed to grad students for videos on use of genetic resources – deadline coming up. Hoping the quality is as good as the Borlaug scholars' videos.
- Working on finding ways to support smaller plant breeding departments in universities.
- How to quantify private sector plant breeders? Could we get a handle on this by assessing how many graduates go into the private sector? Zara suggested the GSWG's new LinkedIn group might be useful for this purpose?

New committee members – Martin Bohn (U. Illinois) and Thomas Lubberstedt (ISU)

Dave mentioned that the NAPB videos were well received & positioned to be easily accessible at ASTA meeting.

Graduate Student Working Group – Z York

11 participants at first social of the year. Aiming for a monthly highlight of social media. Starting work on spring webinar series.

Two questions raised as outstanding from previous meeting

1. Will there be a diversity travel enhancement committee
 - The EC felt a separate committee may overstretch the all-volunteer capacity of the NAPB but agree it needs a permanent home, the Borlaug Scholars Committee had been suggested, but the Borlaug Scholars Committee felt that it was not the right time for this move.

- It was reiterated that a permanent “home” was needed and options were discussed. GSWG expressed willingness but prefer to co-own with another committee. Could ECWG help with this?

ACTION – Ben to discuss with ECWG.

2. Has the EC given approval for the “3 minute thesis” competition funding (\$650)?
FUNDING APPROVED - Rich Moved to approve, Ben Seconded

Early Career Working Group – B Trampe

Some activities the ECWG are working on were outlined

- Cross cultural mentoring initiative
- 3 proposed webinars
- Discussion / sharing experiences regarding working from home

2021 Meeting Update – Dave B

First formal meeting yesterday including representatives from 2020 and 2022 meetings for continuity. Cornell are pushing ahead for a virtual meeting. There was a discussion about whether this was the right course of action, since after this date it’s unlikely that changes could be made. Dave shared that Corteva are setting expectations that people will be working from home through July.

ACTION – EC to confirm for Cornell Committee that 2021 Meeting is to be virtual;

ACTION – Zach to confirm in the newsletter that the Cornell meeting will be virtual.

ACSESS Meeting

Meeting with ACSESS to be held on 11.17.20. Dave B asked for any agenda items beyond those discussed previously eg Website refresh, Meeting enrolment.

ACTION – all to send agenda items for discussion with ACSESS to Dave

Seed Central Proposal

NAPB have been invited to collaborate with Seed Central to create the ASTA Student Forum. In particular they are hoping NAPB can help with promotion as it is student focused. Outline circulated by Dave B immediately after the meeting.

Forward notification – a review of the Strategic Plan will be on the agenda for February (next EC and CC meeting)

Meeting closed 14.06