

**Minutes of the Midyear Meeting of the MSA 2017 Executive Council**  
**Sarah Bergemann, Executive Vice President**  
**February 4, 2017**

**Call to Order and Approval of Minutes**

The 2017 Midyear Executive Council Meeting was called to order on Saturday, February 4 at 0912 CST via conference call, President Georgiana May presiding. In attendance were President Georgiana May, President-Elect Tom Volk, Vice President Sharon Cantrell, Past-President Kerry O'Donnell, Treasurer Chris Schardl and Executive Vice President, Sarah Bergemann. Invited participants were Managing Editor, Brian Shaw, and Finance Committee Chair, Jean Lodge. Executive Vice President, Sarah Bergemann, emailed attendees an Executive Council packet on January 29, 2017 that included the agenda, minutes from the 2016 Midyear Executive Council Meeting and Annual Council Meeting (held in Berkeley, CA), an updated MSA Roster, midyear reports, and copies of the MSA Constitution and By-laws.

**MOTION: (approved unanimously) that the minutes from the 2016 Executive Council Midyear meeting be approved as published in Inoculum 67 (2).**

**Reports**

1. **President's Report** – President Georgiana May referred to her midyear report which included assignments of MSA committees and representatives, the planning, coordination and organization of the annual MSA 2017 meeting Athens, Georgia, with the theme of 'translational mycology', the symposia, two workshops, and the site and details of the foray. President Georgiana May commented that she has made progress with Allen Press at securing a meeting management contract but noted that a multi-year contract was not possible. President May also mentioned that the Inoculum editor position was still vacant and the Executive Council discussed possible editors and a format for the publication. President May also discussed the amendments to the MSA By-laws and Constitution.
  - **Action Item:** Executive Vice President, Sarah Bergemann, to poll MSA Full Council to obtain votes on the proposed amendments to the MSA By-laws: i) statement of diversity to ensure equal opportunities for all MSA members (proposed by ad-hoc Diversity and Inclusion committee); ii) amendment that prohibits discrimination and harassment of any MSA members (proposed by ad-hoc Diversity and Inclusion committee) and; iii) amendment to the MSA By-laws to grant the permanent status of the ad-hoc diversity committee (proposed by President Georgiana May). If approved by MSA Council, the amendments will be placed on the spring ballot for approval by MSA membership.

**2. President-Elect's Report** – President-Elect Tom Volk referred to his midyear report and noted an emphasis on education by working with the Education committee to enhance the website with topics related to the 'Fungus of the Month' and links to research articles and translation for a general audience.

**3. Vice President's Report** – Vice President Sharon Cantrell provided the results of the MSA nominations by membership. Cantrell also discussed the need for an annual meeting venue for 2020 and proposed that the meeting is held at the University of Florida, Gainesville, FL and Matt Smith would be the local organizer.

**4. Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Chris Schardl referred to his report and also referenced the MSA financial statement that was sent in the Council packet; Treasurer Schardl discussed that AP was behind on accounting. Treasurer Chris Schardl also mentioned the MSA memberships to date (currently at 712), which should increase based on the final number from FY2016 (1137 members). Schardl also discussed that the co-publishing agreement with Taylor and Francis will likely lower the MSA operating expenses by increasing income from royalty payments. Vice President Sharon Cantrell also suggested that we obtain the finalized financials for the 2016 MSA annual meeting held in Berkeley, CA.

- **Action Item:** Treasurer Chris Schardl, to request from Association Manager at Allen Press (Terry Leatherman), the final accounting statement from the annual meeting in Berkeley, CA.

**5. Managing Editor Editors Report** – Managing Editor Brian Shaw referred to his report and noted that the transition with Taylor and Francis is going well with only a few manuscripts in the former Allen Track system. Managing Editor Brian Shaw also mentioned that there were still issues to resolve with referencing *Mycologia* articles in PubMed or Google Scholar. Managing Editor Brian Shaw also acknowledged and thanked Cathie Aime for her past service as Managing Editor of *Mycologia*.

**6. Finance Committee Chair's Report** – Finance Committee Chair Jean Lodge referred to the information provided in the Finance Committee's midyear report noting that Middleton Advisory has taken an active role in managing MSA investments with a 4% gain in the MSA investment pool over the past three-fourths of a year. Lodge also mentioned that Middleton Advisory is using one account for pooled investments and that the MSA Endowment committee chair should review the balance on endowment accounts. Lodge also discussed whether the MSA should request a letter of tax-exempt status from the IRS.

- **Action Item:** Jean Lodge to request a copy of letter of tax-exempt status from the IRS.

## Discussion Items

- a. IMC 11 local organizer, Sharon Cantrell, provided a list of plenary speakers for the IMC11 meeting. Cantrell also informed Council of the the large number (over 48) of symposium proposals received. Cantrell also informed the Executive Council that the Karling Annual Lecture committee will need to consider the list of plenary speakers for the annual Karling lecture at IMC11 since the IMA rules specify that only invited symposia speakers are allowed to give presentations. Council discussed the need for the IMC11 program to give consideration to diversity by informing the symposium chairs of this goal.
- **Action Item:** Executive Vice President, Sarah Bergemann, will contact the chair of the Karling Annual Lecture, Betsy Arnold, to provide a list of the plenary speakers for IMC11.
- b. Georgiana May proposed that the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, MN venue of the MSA annual meeting for 2019 is held at the University of Minnesota on the Minneapolis, MN campus.

**MOTION:** Proposed by President Georgiana May (seconded by Vice President Tom Volk and unanimously approved by Executive Council) to hold the annual 2019 meeting in Minneapolis, MN at the University of Minnesota.

- c. President Georgiana May also asked Council to approve funds from the MSA (amount to be determined) if necessary for the annual MSA meeting in Athens, GA to lower registration costs (\$350 for regular MSA members).

**MOTION:** Proposed by President Georgiana May (seconded by Vice President Sharon Cantrell and unanimously approved by Executive Council) to allow President Georgiana May to negotiate the contract for MSA meeting management (Athens, GA).

- d. Proposal to the Mycological Society of America to transfer the MSA Archives to the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation from Meredith Blackwell (Sarah Bergemann) was reviewed by Council.

**MOTION:** Proposed by President-Elect Tom Volk (seconded by Treasurer Chris Schardl and unanimously approved by Executive Council) to support funding (\$1,193) for the transfer of the MSA archives to the Hunt Botanical Institute.

- e. Executive Council discussed whether international travel awards should be given for travel for post-docs and students for the Latin Mycological Congress in Lima, Peru August, 2017.

**MOTION:** Vice President Sharon Cantrell proposed a motion for MSA to support four international travel awards (\$500) to be awarded to post-docs and students to attend the IX Latin American Congress of Mycology (approved by President Georgiana May, seconded by President-Elect Tom Volk and unanimously approved by Executive Council).

- f. Executive Council discussed an anonymous donation of \$35,000 to support Translational Mycology and Forest Fungal Ecology research awards. The Executive Council recommended that each of the top finalists for each award receive \$5000 and the Research Awards committee should fund additional proposals based on merit and the availability of funds.

**Action Item:** Executive Vice President, Sarah Bergemann, will coordinate with the chair of the Research Awards committee the award information for dissemination of funding for Forest Fungal Ecology and Translational Mycology Awards.

- g. Executive Council discussed whether the mentor student travel awards should be increased.

**MOTION:** Treasurer Chris Schardl proposed a motion for MSA to increase award amounts (\$750) for mentor student travel awards (approved by President Georgiana May, seconded by Tom Volk and unanimously approved by Council).

- h. Executive Council discussed whether the MSA should pay for the Council dinner, the volunteer reception, and whether to use funds from anonymous donation to offset the travel expenses for the Executive Council to attend the annual meeting in Athens, GA.

**MOTION:** President Georgiana May proposed a motion for MSA to pay for a council dinner, the volunteer social and airfare for the Executive Council for the annual meeting in Athens, GA (seconded by Sharon Cantrell and unanimously approved by Council).

**President Georgiana May adjourned the meeting at 1146 CST.**