

Entomological Society of America

Minutes of the Governing Board Meeting October 30, 2021 (8:40 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. MT)

Participants,

Michelle Smith, BCE, President

Jessica Ware, Vice President

Alvin Simmons, Past President

Marianne Alleyne, Vice President Elect

Faith Oi, Treasurer

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

Stacie East, Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Guests

Don Weber, Incoming Eastern Branch Representative

Todd Murray, Incoming Pacific Branch Representative

Chris Geden, Program Co-Chair Entomology 2021

Rebecca Adler Miserendino, Lewis-Burke Associates

1. **Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review** – President Smith convened the meeting at 8:38 a.m. and welcomed the attendees, some of whom were joining remotely via a videoconference link. Quorum was established and 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. Two items were pulled for later consideration: the Diversity and Inclusion Committee report and the agenda item related to the Career Center. Following that, the board approved the remaining items of the consent agenda via the following motion: Move that we adopt the October 2021 consent agenda as modified.

As such, the following reports were approved:

Agenda Item	Motion?
Eastern Branch	
International Branch	
North Central Branch	
Pacific Branch	
Southeastern Branch	
Southwestern Branch	
SysEB Section	Yes
PBT Section	
MUVE Section	
P-IE Section	
Committee on Awards and Honors	
Committee on Awards and Honors Canvassing	
Committee on Early Career Professionals	
Committee on Education and Outreach	
Committee on the Insect Calendar	
Committee on Leadership Development	
Committee on Student Affairs	
Presidential Committee on Entomology Games	
May Governing Board Minutes	
June Executive Committee Minutes	
September 23 Governing Board Minutes	
September 23 Executive Committee Minutes	

3. **Branch Strategy Update** – The board continued the discussion about the ESA branches and reviewed a proposal from the presidential line on how to advance the discussion to better include member perspectives. The board discussed the report and the recommendations contained therein. Following discussion, the motion from the report (*Move to accept the attached plan for engaging in dialogue with the ESA membership about the Branches*) was made, seconded, and approved.

4. **Honorary Member Task Force** – The board discussed a report from the Honorary Member Task Force, which had been convened to review the work of the prior Honorary Member Program Review Task Force as well as the programmatic review and recommendations provided by the Honorary Member Judging Panel. The discussion was wide-ranging and included some recommended edits to the task force’s report. As the discussion concluded, the provided motion (*Move to adopt the changes to the ESA Honorary Member Program as recommended by the Honorary Member Task Force, including the adoption of the proposed rubric for use by the Honorary Member Judging Panel, and make the required updates to the ESA Policies and Procedures Manual*) was approved. Some elements of the program’s implementation were tasked to staff.

5. **Break** – The board took a 5-minute break

6. **Science Policy** – Miserendino and Cadwalader presented reports that detailed the Society’s advocacy in Washington, D.C., and throughout the federal government, highlighting several bright spots in the year, including a 1-on-1 interview with Senator Angus King (I-ME), the inclusion of ESA’s language in the NSF Reauthorization Act, and a meeting with Dr. Carrie Castile – the new director of USDA-NIFA. Two position statements supplied by the ESA Science Policy Committee were reviewed and the following motions were approved:
 - Move to approve the revised *Arthropod Biodiversity Position Statement* as presented.
 - Move to approve the revised *Endangered Insect Species Position Statement* as presented.

7. **Strategic Initiatives Department Updates** – The new mentorship program has been launched and has generated approximately \$34,000 in revenue. It was noted that the Grand Challenges Agenda for Entomology initiative continues to operate virtually this year but is expected to return to in-person events as part of the 2023 ESA Annual Meeting in Maryland.

8. **Break** – The board took a 10-minute break
9. **ESA Ethics Statement** – In a report provided by the ESA Committee on Ethics and Rules, which was endorsed by the ESA Diversity and Inclusion Committee, the board reviewed a recommendation to adopt a stronger code of ethics for the Society. The board’s role in protecting the discipline was noted. Minor edits to the policy were made and then the following motion, which had been suggested by the committee in their report, was made and approved: Move to replace (a) the ESA Ethics Statement, (b) the ESA Code of Conduct, (c) the ESA Diversity and Inclusion Statement, and (d) ESA’s Policy Regarding Allegations of Ethical or Personal Misconduct by Honorees and Potential Honorees with the attached document: “ESA Ethics Statement and Policy.”
10. **Financial Review** – Oi and Willoughby reviewed the year-to-date financial reports for the Society and noted that – barring a major economic disruption – ESA should end the year in the black financially. They thanked the Finance Committee for their work on reviewing the documents and preparing the budget. ESA’s budgeting philosophies were discussed. The continued impact of the coronavirus on societal operations was discussed. The continued growth of the reserves fund was noted with an emphasis that ESA remains in a comfortable financial position. A motion from the committee was tabled.
11. **2022 Budget** – Willoughby and Oi reviewed the proposed budget for 2022 with the board. Several items were reviewed and several questions were answered by those department leads. The board was reminded that they had previously been given an overview of the budget several weeks prior. Discussion included that in the future the Finance Committee perhaps should meet more often. The creation of a FAQ page for the budget was also discussed. One minor error was noted and corrected in the narrative portion. The board was reminded that the budget includes the operational budget, the strategic budget, and the capital budget. As the discussion waned, the following motion was made, seconded, and approved: Move to approve the 2022 budget from the ESA Finance Committee.
12. **Revenue Diversification** – Henke left the meeting at the start of this discussion item and rejoined upon its completion. Updates were provided on the revenue diversification opportunity which the society is considering. Discussion ensued.
13. **Executive Director Review** – The board approved a motion to enter into executive session to provide the annual review of the senior staff executive. Following the completion of the discussion, a motion was approved to exit the session.

14. **Break** – At this point the board recessed for approximately 30 minutes. When it reconvened, Weber and Murray joined the meeting and were welcomed by Smith.
15. **Publications Department** - Hudson reviewed the year-to-date progress of the publications program. Discussion and questions for Hudson included topics such as open access policies, book inventories, the improving Impact Factors for ESA's journals, and other issues.
16. **Better Common Names Program** – The board discussed the project, noting that the initiative had served as a model for some other organizations to reconsider some of their own non-inclusive names. Hudson informed the board that they should see a recommendation for a new name for *Lymantria dispar* shortly after the start of the new year.
17. **Program Committee** – Romano and Geden reviewed the committee's report with the board. The decreased attendance was discussed and projections for 2022 and beyond were analyzed. A motion from the committee was discussed, but a motion to postpone it indefinitely was made, seconded, and approved.
18. **Policies and Procedures Manual** – The annual updates to the Society's policy manual were reviewed. Several questions were raised and after considerable discussion, it became apparent that the board wanted more time to consider the changes. Accordingly, a motion to delay the approval of the new Policies and Procedures Manual until a later date was received, seconded, and approved.
19. **Consent Agenda** – The two pulled items from the consent agenda were reviewed. A question about the overall size and constitution of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee was asked and answered. At that point a motion to approve the Diversity and Inclusion Committee report was made, seconded, and approved.

A minor question was asked about the Career Center Update and following the delivery of the response, the motion included in the report was made, seconded, and approved. The motion read "Move to continue to support the ESA Career Center program in the interest of promoting the science of entomology, and to periodically evaluate how the program is succeeding and helping ESA achieve its mission."

20. **New Business** – Smith called for any new business. Hearing none, she thanked the board for the opportunity to serve as president. She further thanked Leskey and Simmons for their service and noted that Henke was transitioning roles into the presidential line. She called for a motion to adjourn and the 2021 board meeting was

concluded at 2:20 p.m.

21. **2022 Board of Directors** – Immediately thereafter, the 2022 board convened and President Ware welcomed the board members and thanked the 2021 board for its service. The outgoing board members remained on the call as guests of the board.

22. **Election of new Executive Committee Members** – Stelzig reminded the board of the role, structure, and purpose of the committee and then asked if any members wished to not be included for consideration. Several names were excluded and then a secret ballot was conducted. Following the recording of votes, a motion to appoint Melissa Willrich-Siebert and Andrew Short to the 2022 Executive Committee was made, seconded, and approved.

23. **2022 Annual Meeting Preview** – Ware presented her vision for the 2022 Annual Meeting to be held jointly with the Canadian and British Columbia Entomological Societies in November 2022. Discussion ensued.

24. **New Business and Adjournment** – Ware called for any new business. Hearing none, a motion to adjourn the meeting was approved.