

**Entomological Society of America Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**February 10, 2022, 1:00 p.m. ET**

**Members present:** Jessica Ware, Michelle Smith, Marianne Alleyne, Jennifer Henke, Faith Oi, Melissa Willrich Siebert, Andrew Short, Chris Stelzig

**Welcome and Agenda Review** – President Ware convened the meeting at 1:00 p.m., welcomed the attendees, and immediately called the first item of business.

**Headquarters Updates** – Stelzig reviewed several topics with the committee, including results of recent Branch elections, fulfillment of a CDC Cooperative Agreement, and planned travel to attend the July 2022 International Congress of Entomology in Helsinki. The following motion to more fully support staff and volunteer travel this summer was approved: *Move to reallocate up to \$10,000 as needed from the previously approved 2022 strategic budget from database analysis to represent ESA at the International Congress of Entomology in July 2022.*

**Board Service** – Representatives from two boards of directors have approached Stelzig to ask about his potentially joining as a new member. Contractually, the Executive Director needs to seek permission from the volunteer leadership to serve on other boards. The committee discussed the matter and agreed that since both organizations serve the Society's interests, there was no reason to not support the request, agreeing that, were he asked to serve, Stelzig should be permitted to accept a nomination to join the boards of Lil' Dudes Insect Academy and the Council for Engineering and Scientific Society Executives (CESSE).

**Florida Entomological Society** – The committee discussed the society and other, similar, regionally-focused societies in the context of ongoing strategic planning and the Branch Evolution Project.

**Equity Initiative** – Ware reintroduced the topic of ESA launching an initiative to support historically under-represented groups in entomology - a topic which had been on the agenda during the January Executive Committee meeting. A proposal jointly developed by staff and Henke seeks to create an initiative that will result in a Society where membership, programming, and services are equally accessible to all who wish to study insects and participate in what the Society offers. After a long discussion, the committee agreed to make some additional changes to the draft document and then present it to the Governing Board for the March meeting.

**Board Communication** – Discussion continued from a prior meeting on developing proper communication channels for the committee and the Governing Board. The committee agreed that the principle of trying to replicate in-person board meetings in an online setting is challenging, but that the ideal of open communication—which all members can join and review—is desired. They however also acknowledged that at times a private conversation between board or committee members may prove to be overall more efficient. A goal was established that would have private conversations which are germane to board discussion items reported back in summary form to the larger body.

**Prior Meeting Minutes** – A small correction was received to the January 13, 2022, Executive Committee meeting minutes, after which a motion to approve the draft minutes from that meeting and the January 28, 2022, meeting was approved.

**New Business and Adjournment** – Ware called for new business. Hearing none, the meeting adjourned at 2:41 p.m.