

Entomological Society of America Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
May 19, 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 – President Ware convened the meeting at 1:00 p.m., welcomed the attendees, and immediately called the first item of business.

President’s Report – Ware updated the committee on several topics, including highlights from the Presidential Retreat, progress on the 2022 Joint Annual Meeting, and other topics. Light discussion ensued.

Headquarters Report – Stelzig informed the committee that a new staff member had been hired and would join soon as ESA’s managing editor. He also provided a financial update which indicates a difficult financial year due to the portfolio valuation drops, due to global geopolitical events. The committee discussed the advice from ESA’s investment broker, which is to avoid selling equities at this point, which would “lock in” losses. In preparation for that, staff continues to look for opportunities to cut expenses where possible. The committee also discussed a proposal from the Education and Outreach Committee which is circulating among the branches. The proposal would seek to add a fifth Section to ESA.

Board Job Descriptions – Stelzig debuted draft job description for board members, which had been a topic of previous discussion by the board. Discussion ensued. Committee members agreed to review in detail and provide edits so that the document could be shared with the full board at the June meeting.

Biodiversity – Ware introduced a plan to potentially start a presidential task force during the June meeting which would explore the topic of insect biodiversity. The goal would be to discern ways for ESA to make a positive impact on the world and potentially serve a leading, global role. The committee expressed support for ESA serving a leading role and noted that the Grand Challenges Agenda for Entomology already focuses on biodiversity.

Honorary Member Judging Panel – The committee reviewed a draft of the judging panel’s report and discussed it. The report makes several recommendations on ways to improve the process of selecting ESA’s Honorary Members. The committee came to no decisions, but expressed at least some support for the views of the committee.

Equity Initiative – Discussion continued for plans to explore ways that ESA can create a more equitable societal framework. Discussion included overall support for principles of equity, but concerns related to too many major initiatives going at the same time. The committee came to no agreements but agreed that more conversation was needed.

Minutes – A motion to approve the minutes from the April meeting was received, seconded and passed.

Adjourn – Having no other business, the meeting adjourned at 2:04 p.m.