

Minutes from the ESA Plant- Insect Ecosystem Governing Board Meeting

February 14, 2023

In attendance:

- Surendra Dara, President; Whitney Crow, Secretary; Nicole Quinn, Early Career Professional Representative; Anjel M. Helms, Vice President Elect; Cesar Rodriguez-Saona, Vice President; Rebecca Schmidt, PIE Past President; Laura Anne Weiser Erlandson, Treasurer; Gwen Pearson, PIE Representative for Outreach and Education Committee; Rob Morrison, PIE Representative for Awards and Honors Committee; and Monica Farfan, PIE Representative for Science Policy Representative.

Introductions

Newsletter Content

- Updates from the committee representative to for the next newsletter. Important to express how members can contribute to these various tasks.

Updates from Representative to ESA Committees

- Science Policy: General job is to select policy fellows, updates of positions statements that are expiring (five for this year), writing statement of feedback for the national nature assessment, and keep up to date with things going on in congress. Also, putting together a policy session for the ESA national annual meeting. It will be on a mix of policy, collections, and biodiversity.
- Awards and Honors Committee: Fair representation of membership on judging panels. Progress coaching for award selection. Recommended to governing board to have a regular review of awards. Need to put together a review progress. Research based award was the suggested. Open a line of communication with student affairs and early professionals to make sure their needs are met. First meeting on March 1st.
- Education and Outreach Committee: teaching for informal science education symposium, coordinate large events, branch events, and FIT. Recognizing informal teaching and science communication. More cross talk to connect all individuals involved. 250 insect lessons that have been inventoried, still tagging all of them, goal by the end of May to have this database up and running.
- DEI: They had their first meeting in January and are scheduled to meet for the second time by the end of February for the charges with each subcommittee. Navneet serves on the communications subcommittee. These comments were sent electronically.

FIT Section-Related

- The goal is support and serve all individuals within PIE.
- There is need for extension related talks.
- What can PIE do to contribute to FIT?
 - Use one of the PIE awards to recognize a rising star in teaching and outreach.

- Great idea.
- There is a role for PIE to contribute to FIT. PIE should create an award for teaching and outreach or create an award at the national level that PIE contributes to. The current awards aren't in a position to be reworked to serve the need. We can do something to contribute to recognizing these individuals.
- Awards for outreach tend to be less competitive than other awards. Just need to make sure the wording is appropriate for the award.
- Many be challenging to develop new awards with a push to decrease the total number of national awards.
- PIE specific award would be added to the PIE awards committee.
- Awards rubric may have requirements for research, extension, outreach, etc. Make some of these categories either or versus all of the above.
- There is a lot of discussion for D & I committee on how to help unrepresented members to facilitate award nominations.
- Look at the current awards and come up suggestions for changes in how these awards are written.
- Need to have what awards we currently have that serve members better versus creating any new awards. Maybe we need to increase the PR.
- Having a symposium- open to these types of submissions even if they aren't section specific.

Other Business

- Motion for the PIE section to endorse Melissa Siebert for ESA Vice President elect. Rebecca Schmidt seconds. All in favor.
- P-IE undergraduate student award should be rewritten to include all students doing undergraduate work in entomology. The award language is currently somewhat geared towards undergraduates at R1/R2 universities and could be altered to be more inclusive without actually changing the criteria much.
- Are there ways to make the current PIE awards more prestigious to increase applicants? How do we get members more excited about these awards?