

Minutes from the ESA Plant- Insect Ecosystem Governing Board Meeting

December 18, 2023

In attendance:

- Cesar Rodriguez-Saona, President; Surendra Dara, Past President; Tim Nowatzki, Treasurer; Whitney Crow, Secretary; Nicole Quinn, Early Career Professional Representative; Rosina Romano, ESA Liaison; Anjel M Helms, Vice President and Hailey Shanovich, Student Representative.

Business:

- Updates from Entomology 2023:
 - Awards
 - Opportunities for updating/changing current awards. A lot of the awards aren't getting nominations or being given on an annual basis. Modifications could include changing the frequency of awards to every other year.
 - Peat Management Team awards may have an increase in applicants by switching to every other year or every three since team building takes time. Funding may also be changing to every other year, and it would be PIE responsibility to cover cost in off year if we decide to not change the award frequency.
 - ESA would do their part to make it clear when the award is being offered and would encourage nominations during those years assuming the switch was made to offer the award every two or three years. Also need to work on marketing award nominations.
 - Anjel moved to make to offer the IPM team award during odd years. Surendra seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was approved.
 - Considerations of opportunities other ESA sections are currently implementing.
 - Graduate student travel award opportunity.
 - Most sections are currently providing travel grants for graduate students. This tends to have strong application numbers. Need to find a balance between unrepresented group and others in need.
 - Applicants can be low in some years so awards aren't given annually depending on the applicant pool. Should PI and departments be involved in the applicant process.
 - Dollar amount varies between sections. Only out of pocket expenses for reimbursement are food and beverage.
 - In addition to covering travel expenses, consideration of adding a monetary award to encourage applicants.
 - Increasing applicants before adding additional awards should be the top priority.
 - Ways for promotion: increase announcements at branch meetings or sending personal emails vs newsletter. ESA can work with us

on branding to have emails look more personal. Message from the PIE President with a picture. Can also target new student message that have a high open rate.

- Topic was tabled for future discussion.

- Camp Sketchapod:
 - This workshop has been very well received, and they are requesting a \$1000 to do another camp in 2024. A formal request has been submitted for review. A decision will be made at the January 2024 meeting.

- Open positions 2024:
 - Potential open positions: ECP Representative/ VP elect/ PIE awards committee (government, academia, industry)/ nominations committee (Southwest, North Central, International).
 - Education and outreach representative has been filled.
 - Please reach out to Anjel with any individuals who may want to get involved in the PIE section.

- Plans for 2024 – new WIG proposals:
 - Revision of Surendra’s proposal for resubmission in 2024.
 - Promoting IPM and sustainability.
 - Deadlines for proposals need to be made by the PIE GB.
 - Send another call for submissions to be due by March.

- Newsletter:
 - In 2023, there was an issue sent as needed throughout the year. Roughly six were sent.
 - A January newsletter would be beneficial to provide the latest information.
 - Anything can be featured in newsletters. Encourage members to send updates.

Other business:

- Updates to the ECP committee are currently being made. If you have any ideas on needs or opportunities for the ECP committee, let Nicole know.