

Entomological Society of America

**Minutes of the Governing Board
First Quarter Meeting – Zoom teleconference
April 9, 2020**

Participants,

Alvin Simmons, President

Michelle Smith, BCE, Vice President

Faith Oi, Treasurer

Bob Peterson, Past President

Julien Saguez, International Branch Representative

Gary Brewer, North Central Branch Representative

Karla Adesso, Southeastern Branch Representative

Jesus Esquivel, Southwestern Branch Representative

Tracy Leskey, Eastern Branch Representative

Jennifer Henke, Pacific Branch Representative

Mustapha Debboun, BCE, Medical, Urban & Veterinary Entomology Section Representative

Marianne Alleyne, Physiology, Biochemistry & Toxicology Section Representative

Jessica Ware, Systematics, Evolution & Biodiversity Section Representative

Melissa Siebert, Plant-Insect Ecosystems Section Representative

Lina Bernaola, Student Representative

Staff

Chris Stelzig, Executive Director

Rosina Romano, Director of Meetings and Membership

Erin Cadwalader, Director of Strategic Initiatives

Neil Willoughby, Director of Finance

Lisa Junker, Director of Publications, Communications, and Marketing

1. **Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review** – President Alvin Simmons convened the meeting at 2:00 p.m. and welcomed the attendees. After a few housekeeping announcements, 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. Simmons reviewed the Consent Agenda and asked if members would like to pull any items for additional

consideration. After brief discussion, a motion to approve the consent agenda carried. The approved items and reports were as follows.

- a. Minutes
 - i. November 2019 Governing Board Minutes
 - ii. November 2019 Executive Committee Minutes
 - iii. December 2019 Executive Committee Minutes
 - iv. January 2020 Executive Committee Minutes
 - v. February 2020 Executive Committee Minutes
 - vi. March 2020 Executive Committee Minutes
 - vii. Cyber motions since the November Governing Board Meeting
- b. Reports with Motions
 - i. Expanded conduct disclosure form policy proposal
 - ii. Honorary Members Review committee report
 - iii. Common Names of Insects committee report
 - iv. Recommended updates to the ESA Policies and Procedures Manual
- c. Reports without Motions
 - i. 2019 Annual Meeting Co-Chairs Report
 - ii. Publications Council Report

Strategic Issues

Coronavirus Discussion –

Executive Director Chris Stelzig provided a brief presentation on the impacts of the coronavirus on ESA and its operations. Following that, staff and the board discussed various elements of the global pandemic, including the effects on ESA’s members, investments, staffing and operations, meetings, and other initiatives.

Additional discussion focused on the need to support members at a time when many may be feeling strong financial pressures. The following motion was made, seconded, and supported by the board: “Move to reallocate up to \$10,000 from funds previously designated to support Executive Director travel and other 2020 strategic initiatives to develop and support a temporarily restricted fund which will be used to provide dues and registration payment offsets for members in financial need due to the current public health pandemic.”

Other discussion related to the coronavirus focused on the need to align ESA’s investment policies with our societal values, support for continuation of the existing strategic priorities of meeting expansion and developing non-academic career track programming, and a need to be open to opportunities that may arise as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

ICE Council Representation –

Via a motion to table discussion, a planned conversation regarding a request from the International Council of Entomology Council to name a representative from the U.S.A. will be set aside until a future meeting of the Board.

Science Policy –

Past President Bob Peterson and Director of Strategic Initiatives, Erin Cadwalader provided an overview of the Society's Science Policy and advocacy accomplishments and efforts since the last Governing Board meeting.

Operational Issues

Presidential Leadership Transition –

Simmons briefed the Board on the process to replace prior Vice President Tim Schowalter, who resigned in March 2020 due to a combination of health and family issues. The resignation meant that Michelle Smith immediately transitioned from Vice President Elect to Vice President. A special election is currently underway to name a new Vice President Elect who would start a new term immediately, upon the conclusion of the special election.

2019 Audit Update –

Smith, Acting Chair of the Audit Committee, reported that the audit for fiscal year 2019 concluded in early March with no significant deficiencies identified. Smith thanked Director of Finance, Neil Willoughby and his staff, for his work on preparing for the audit.

Journals Pricing –

Lisa Junker, ESA's Director of Publications, Communications, and Marketing, presented a report from ESA's publishing partner, Oxford University Press which included recommended pricing for subscriptions in 2021. Following a brief discussion, the Board approved the recommended prices as submitted by Oxford University Press (OUP).

Junker also presented a recent request from the Editorial Board of the ESA journal *Insect Systematics and Diversity*, which was also approved by the ESA Publications Council. The *ISD* Editorial Board and the Publications Council requested that *ISD* be exempt from member page charges for two years, as *ISD* is ESA's newest and smallest research journal and does not yet qualify for an impact factor. The board approved the following motion: "The ESA Governing Board moves to waive member page charges for *Insect Systematics and Diversity* from September 1, 2020 to September 1, 2022."

Annual Report –

Stelzig and Simmons reviewed the new annual report with the Board and briefly described the contents. The report is the first created by the Society in more than a decade and follow recommendations from the Board in November 2019 to create a communication tool to keep members better informed on the state of the society's financial health and operations.

Governing Board Liaisons –

Simmons led a discussion that he would like to appoint liaisons from the board to a number of ESA committees which don't currently have one. Several Board members volunteered during the meeting and Simmons pledged to follow up with them later and confirm appointments to committees for the duration of 2020.

Support for Early Career Professionals --

The Early Professional Career (ECP) Committee submitted a report which detailed a proposal to create a new special symposium dedicated to recognizing the contributions of select ECP members from across the breadth of the society. Funding to create a 3-year pilot program was requested. The board discussed the report and the requested motion was approved as submitted.

Adjourn 2020 Governing Board –

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.