

Entomological Society of America

**Minutes of the Governing Board Meeting – Zoom teleconference
March 25, 2021 (1:00 p.m. Eastern)**

Participants,

Michelle Smith, BCE, President

Jessica Ware, Vice President

Faith Oi, Treasurer

Alvin Simmons, Past President

Marianne Alleyne, Vice President Elect

John Ruberson, North Central Branch Representative

Karla Adesso, Southeastern Branch Representative

Jesus Esquivel, Southwestern Branch Representative

Tracy Leskey, Eastern Branch Representative

Jennifer Henke, Pacific Branch Representative

Julien Saguez, International Branch Representative

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

Richard Mankin, Physiology, Biochemistry & Toxicology Section Representative

Andrew Short, Systematics, Evolution & Biodiversity Section Representative

Melissa Willrich Siebert, Plant-Insect Ecosystems Section Representative

Sallqa-Tuwa Stephanita BondocGawa Mafla-Mills, Student Representative

Chris Stelzig, Executive Director

Staff

Rosina Romano, Director of Meetings and Membership

Erin Cadwalader, Director of Strategic Initiatives

Neil Willoughby, Director of Finance

Matt Hudson, Director of Publications, Communications, and Marketing

Josh Lancette, Managing Editor

Stacie East, Membership and Diversity Program Manager

Cindy Myers, Senior Manager of Meetings and Exhibits

1. **Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review** – President Smith convened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed the attendees and guests. Quorum was established and housekeeping announcements were made. Following these actions, 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. Smith reviewed the

Consent Agenda and asked if members would like to pull any items for discussion. One item was pulled. The board opted to table the consent agenda until later in the meeting.

3. **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Presentation** – East presented an overview of many of the recent DEI initiatives undertaken by the Society and outlined a recommended approach to tackling the many initiatives that remain undone and need attention as we seek a more inclusive Society. Discussion included pursuing a strategy day focused on DEI, a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant opportunity that ESA is pursuing, and the broader issue of structural issues in the sciences that are keeping all ESA members from rising to their full potential. The Board thanked East for her presentation and agreed that there is more work to be done.
4. **Common Names of Insects Naming Protocols** – The Board discussed a recommendation from the Committee on Common Names of Insects and Related Organisms (CNI) to change the rules for the Society to use when approving new common insect names. The recommendation, which is a response to a Presidential Charge letter issued earlier this year, would better align the Society with recent modifications made by the World Health Organization and result in a more inclusive approach to approving new insect names. It was shared that a task force between the ESA Diversity and Inclusion Committee and the CNI Committee had been formed and was actively discussing this and other topics. After the discussion, the recommended committee motion passed. East left the meeting.
5. **Publications Update** – Hudson and Lancette provided a presentation on the status of ESA's publications portfolio with a special emphasis on the impacts of the recent structural change, which the Board was implemented in 2020. Discussion included reviewing a recent agreement signed by the University of California and Elsevier that would provide both open access to many of the Elsevier publications but also provide a discounted fee for author page charges to those journals. A recommendation to investigate a cascade or tiered model for the ESA portfolio of journals to determine if that would be a good option for the Society was agreed to by the board. Staff will report back with findings later this year. Lancette left the meeting.
6. **Break** – The board recessed for approximately 10 minutes. At its conclusion, Myers joined the meeting.
7. **Fellows Nomination Review Process** – Continuing a discussion from the previous meeting, the board reviewed a series of recommendations related to the Fellows nomination and review process, as proposed by the task force convened by the Governing Board. Following discussion, two motions were received, seconded, and

approved: (a) a motion to approve the new scoring rubrics, and (b) a motion to approve new rules on renominations. There was also discussion and agreement on the recommended new rules for recusals due to conflicts of interest. The board agreed that the process was likely to require further iterations. They thanked the task force for their work thus far: The task force agreed to reconsider additional changes that may be needed after the review process later this summer. Myers left the meeting.

8. **Early Career Professionals Committee Request** – In a memo to the board, the Early Career Professionals (ECP) Committee renewed their request for a dedicated seat on the Governing Board. As the board discussed the memo, they focused on overall board size, leadership strategies, and representational governance models versus other options. After considerable discussion, the board approved the committee's motion to begin the process of seeking to add a new position for ECPs on the ESA Governing Board. The board also supported the idea of starting to explore overall board strategies.
9. **Science Communication Committee Report** – In response to the 2021 Presidential Charge letter, the committee proposed a new science communication award to replace the Stinger Award, which was sunset this year. After discussion, the board approved the motion recommended by the committee. The board also suggested a few additional questions for the committee to consider.
10. **Executive Director Report** – Stelzig presented a brief overview on various topics, including summarizing some recent societal developments, an update personnel at ESA HQ, alerting the board of some upcoming dates, and providing a status check on two main projects; the Summer Strategy Day and the new Certification program. Discussion ensued. President Smith opted to organize a task force to support the summer strategy day. Board members interested in serving on the Presidential Task Force on ESA Regional Needs Assessment were asked to contact Stelzig.
11. **2021 Annual Meeting** – Smith and Romano discussed preparations for the year's annual conference. Highlights included planning updates related to the coronavirus and the selection of Dr. Joseph Graves, an evolutionary biologist, to be the keynote speaker.
12. **Consent Agenda** – The Consent Agenda was once again addressed and a question regarding the minutes from the February 2021 Executive Committee was answered. At that point, a motion to approve the Consent Agenda passed.
13. **New Business and Adjournment** – Smith called for any new business. Hearing none, she adjourned the meeting at 3:58 p.m.