

Entomological Society of America

Minutes of the Governing Board Meeting – Zoom teleconference May 20, 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

Stacie East, Membership and Diversity Program Manager

1. **Welcome (Executive Session)** – President Smith convened the meeting at 2:00 p.m. ET and welcomed the attendees. Quorum was established and housekeeping announcements were made. The meeting began in Executive Session to discuss the nominations and the nomination process for ESA's 2021 class of Honorary Members. Following that discussion, Executive Session ended at 2:23 p.m. ET and the following motions were entertained:

- Move to convene a Task Force from the Governing Board to explore the criteria by which Honorary Members are nominated and selected. This motion passed successfully.
 - Move to accept the recommended nominations from the Honorary Members Committee for the 2021 ballot. This motion passed with three Board members abstaining from the vote.
2. **Discussion about Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion within ESA** – The remainder of the meeting, which included a break of approximately 10 minutes, was facilitated by Stacie East. She led the Board through several discussions and exercises, all of which focused on the successes and challenges ESA has encountered as it strives to live up to its strategic principles of creating and supporting a culture of diversity and inclusion. Topics included addressing both the importance and the difficulty of discussing equity issues, thoughts about how ESA is viewed by others in the scientific realm, considering a desired future state for the Society, and brainstorming ideas about how to make that future, more-inclusive Society a reality.
 3. **Adjourn** – Smith provided a summary of the conversation and acknowledged that more work remained to be done throughout the remainder of the year and beyond. The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.