

# Entomological Society of America

## Governing Board Meeting Minutes November 9 and 13, 2013 Austin, TX

### PARTICIPANTS

Robert Wiedenmann, President  
Frank Zalom, Vice President  
Phil Mulder, Vice President-Elect  
Grayson Brown, Past-President  
Ricardo Bessin, Treasurer  
Douglas Pfeiffer, Eastern Branch Representative  
Carol Anelli, Physiology, Biochemistry and Toxicology Section Representative  
Stormy Sparks, Plant-Insect Ecosystems Section Representative  
Michelle Smith, Medical, Urban and Veterinary Entomology Section Representative  
John Obrycki, North Central Branch Representative  
Michael Parrella, Pacific Branch Representative  
Nancy Hinkle, Southeastern Branch Representative  
David Ragsdale, Southwestern Branch Representative  
John Oswald, Systematics, Evolution and Biodiversity Section Representative  
Livy Williams, International Branch  
Travis Prochaska, Student Representative

### Staff:

C. David Gammel, Executive Director  
Neil Willoughby, Director of Finance  
Debi Sutton, Director of Membership and Marketing  
Rosina Romano, Director of Meetings  
Alan Kahan, Director of Publications and Communication  
Chris Stelzig, Director of Certification and Data Management

### Guests:

Walter Leal, ICE Organizing Co-Chair  
Alvin Simmons, ICE Organizing Co-Chair  
Marianne Alleyne, Annual Meeting Program Committee Co-Chair

1. **Call to Order** -- The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. by President Rob Wiedenmann, who welcomed participants. The agenda was reviewed and left unchanged. Wiedenmann reviewed the overall agenda and how it relates to the decisions the Governing Board is about to consider today.
2. **Strategic Review of ESA's Journal Program** -- Joseph Esposito and Karen Barch, consultants working with ESA, presented their strategic review of ESA's publishing program. They discussed the recent evolution of the journal market and ESA's position

within it. They discussed the publishing options ESA is facing and ramifications of each. Board members then discussed the report with the consultants.

General discussion of the pursuing a publishing partnership versus continuing to self-publish was then held.

At the conclusion of the discussion a motion was made for the Society to explore entering a publishing partnership. An amendment to the motion was proposed to require having at least one non-profit institution as a finalist in the partnership evaluation process. After discussion, this amendment failed to pass. The following motion, as initially made, was unanimously approved:

*Move that the Governing Board authorize the Executive Director to enter into negotiations with a publishing partner, in consultation with President and Executive Committee, and submit a contract for approval early next year by the Governing Board.*

3. **Extended Consulting Agreement** – Gammel requested approval to extend the consulting contract for Esposito and Barch in order to have access to their advice during the negotiation process. A motion to extend contract with journal consultants was made and seconded. After brief discussion the motion passed unanimously.
4. **Break** – The meeting recessed for a 10 minute break.
5. **Science Policy** – Wiedenmann and Gammel provided an overview of current activities related to science policy and what is planned for next year if the budget is passed to support it. The update included a proposal to establish an ESA Science Policy Fellowship program based on mostly virtual events plus in person activities at the Annual Meeting and in Washington DC. General discussion ensued, discussing who should be eligible to participate and coordination with ESA's EPA liaison. The following motion was then made, seconded and passed unanimously:

*Move to approve the creation of a Science Policy Fellowship program for members, to be designed by a Presidential committee, and be reviewed for effectiveness after five years.*

6. **Grand Challenge Agenda for Entomology** – Vice President Frank Zalom discussed a proposal to establish a grand challenge agenda for the discipline of entomology globally, with ESA serving as a convener and coordinator and participant in the formulation process. The project will be supported by his theme for next year, "Grand Challenges Beyond our Horizons." He discussed long-term impact of an agenda focusing the efforts of entomology on the most pressing global issues. General discussion ensued. The following motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously:

*Move that the Entomological Society of America develop a Grand Challenge Agenda for Entomology in collaboration with the global community of entomologists, with the goal of launching a finalized Agenda during the International Congress of Entomology in 2016.*

7. **Report from Presidential Awards Review Committee** – Wiedenmann and Gammel reviewed a report from the committee charged with reviewing ESA and Entomological

Foundation awards programs in terms of diversity and if aligned well with the future of entomology. Gammel and Foundation President Tom Green will work to finalize recommendations on which awards ESA should take over from the Foundation. Brief general discussion ensued. The report was then unanimously accepted.

8. **Awards Breakfast Proposal** – Gammel reviewed a proposal to establish an award ceremony as a breakfast event at future Annual Meeting. General discussion ensued of the likely awards changes and possibility of a crowded plenary. Concerns about costs were shared, although staff pointed out they may be offset in part by sponsorships. The finance committee suggested delaying until we are in a surplus budget. A motion to establish an awards breakfast was unanimously defeated.
9. **Executive Director Report** -- Gammel provided a report on activities of the headquarters over the past year and achievements of the Society as a whole. The items in the report included:
  - a. Move to new headquarters office space;
  - b. New initiatives supported during 2013;
  - c. Improved financial forecasting and planning;
  - d. Significant meeting and membership growth in 2013;
  - e. Staff operating a very high-level, achieving more over the last several years with essentially the same number of total staff;
  - f. Upcoming initiatives for 2014, reflected in the agenda for the meeting today.
10. **Student Participation** – Gammel and Treasurer Ric Bessin reviewed a report showing the increased levels of student participation in the Society. The issue was raised to let the board know that past efforts to increase student participation have been successful. If the growth continues, it may create some structural challenges for the Society since student activities are heavily subsidized by fees charges to regular members and other stakeholders. General discussion ensued without motions.
11. **Executive Session** -- The Governing Board entered Executive Session to conduct the annual performance review for the Executive Director.
12. **Lunch** – The meeting broke for lunch and reconvened at 12:35 p.m.
13. **President's Report** – President Wiedenmann gave his report on activities of the year to date. The items in the report included:
  - a. 2736 submissions for meeting, likely to be over 3,400 attendees.
  - b. Publishing partnership the ESA is exploring will keep the science and Society strong.
  - c. Many efforts have been taken to improve the impact of the discipline, including leadership development, creation of the STEP committee, science policy fellowship program, and student development.
  - d. AIBS training is being conducted at the meeting on science policy issues, 30 members registered to conduct district visits, published 9 policy newsletters, and 39 press releases.
  - e. International outreach has continued as we build toward the ICE meeting in 2016.

- f. Each One, Reach One very successful. 130 members brought in 184 new members.
  - g. ESA conducted 9 webinars with over 1400 participants.
  - h. International membership pilot programs were launched, continuing the efforts begun by Past President Grayson Brown.
  - i. Reaching out to non-land grant university groups
    - i. NSTA President coming to our meeting.
    - ii. Invited non-traditional LGU schools to send students here.
  - j. ESA continues to develop international partnerships, such as two joint meetings with the Entomology Society of Canada in Vancouver, attending the Brazilian Congress of Entomology in 2014, outreach planned for the European Congress of Entomology, and others.
14. **2013 Year-to-date Financial Reports** -- Treasurer Ric Bessin reviewed budget performance as of end of September 30, 2013. The Society has already realized 108.4% of budgeted annual revenue as of September 30. ESA is doing very well this year by performing better than planned both in terms of revenue and expenses.
  15. **Investment Report** - Director of Finance Neil Willoughby reviewed the status of ESA's investments, which have experienced a positive gain of \$626,541 as of October 31 for total investments of \$5.3 million. Brief discussion ensued.
  16. **2014 Proposed Budget** - Bessin reviewed finance committee findings and recommendations on the proposed budget for 2014. After general discussion, a motion was made for staff and the Treasurer to work on revising the budget to be as close to the Finance Committee recommendations as possible. The motion passed unanimously.
  17. **Break** - The meeting recessed for 30 minutes, reconvening at 2:01 p.m.
  18. **Member Late Fees** - Gammel presented a proposal to eliminate the late fee currently assessed to members renewing after February 1 and replace it with an optional 'back issues shipping fee' of \$25.00 (U.S.) effective January 1, 2014. The change was unanimously approved.
  19. **Approval of September Minutes** - Wiedenmann reviewed the minutes from the September Governing Board conference call. The minutes were unanimously approved.
  20. **Ratify Executive Committee Minutes** - Minutes from the August 13 and October 8 Executive Committee minutes were unanimously ratified.
  21. **Consent Agenda** - Wiedenmann reviewed the consent agenda with the Governing Board. Two reports were added to the agenda: Education and Outreach Committee and International Branch report. No reports were pulled from Consent Agenda.

A motion to approve Branch and Section Reports passed unanimously.

A motion to approve Committee and Other Reports passed unanimously.

A motion to approve committee motions and other agenda briefs was made. A brief

discussion was held on the idea of extending the membership pilot to the Egyptian biological control association. The motion was then unanimously approved. The submitted motions approved within these briefs were:

- a. A motion to approve pending emeritus membership requests.
  - b. A motion to approve seven common names recommended by the Common Names Committee.
  - c. A motion to continue to support the ESA Career Center program in the interest of promoting the science of entomology.
  - d. A motion to include the Egyptian Society for Biological Control of Pests in ESA's Developing Countries Reduced Dues Membership Model Pilot as a replacement for another Society that declined to participate.
22. **ICE Organizing Committee Co-chairs Report** -- Alvin Simmons and Walter Leal provided a report on activities conducted by the Organizing Committee for the 2016 International Congress of Entomology. They also reviewed plans for next year.
23. **Adjourn** – The meeting is adjourned for the day at 2:32 p.m.
24. **Reconvene** – The meeting is reconvened at 8:10 a.m. on Wednesday, November 13, 2013. The following Governing Board members were not present: Michelle Smith, Nancy Hinkle.
25. **2013 Program Committee Co-chair Report** – Co-chair Marianne Alleyne gave a report on the meeting on behalf of herself, Co-chair Luis Cañas (not present), and the Program Committee. The meeting had around 3,470 registered attendees. No major problems or issues occurred. The main challenge they encountered this year was a high rate of cancelations after the program book is finalized. Some of this was likely due to the government shutdown and Federal budget challenges but there are others that are likely taking advantage. ESA should consider steps to minimize that abuse. Minor issue, otherwise the meeting has gone very well. A motion to accept the report was unanimously passed.
26. **ESA Annual Meeting Code of Conduct** – Gammel presented a recommended Code of Conduct for ESA's Annual Meeting that would address issues such as safety, harassment, and ethical conduct along with procedures for how to receive and resolve complaints. A motion to approve with minor modifications was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously (2 absent) after a brief discussion.
27. **2014 Budget Approval** -- Bessin reported on adjustments made to the proposed budget based on Governing Board feedback. The revised proposed budget operating loss is \$206,760, compared to the original proposed loss of \$297,185. General discussion then ensued. A motion to approve revised budget as presented by the Treasurer was made and seconded. After brief discussion to clarify the changes the motion passed unanimously (2 absent).
28. **JOLT Act** – Gammel reviewed recent activities related to the JOLT Act, legislation that would improve the visa application process and border entry experience for travelers

coming to the U.S. Congressman Womack signed on as a co-sponsor to the bill after Wiedenmann met with his office and made several follow-up calls and emails.

29. **Motion from Presidential Awards Review Committee** – A motion was presented to from the committee to create an ESA Leadership Development Award for implementation for 2014. General discussion ensued. A suggestion was made to consider this with larger changes of the awards program when that is taken up in the first quarter of 2014. A motion to table the submitted committee motion was made and seconded. The motion to table passed with 13 Yea, 1 Nay, and 2 Absent.
30. **Annual Meeting Sponsorship Discussion** – A discussion was held on the appropriate levels of sponsorships for the Annual Meeting and overall presence in meeting collateral.
31. **Acknowledge Outgoing Governing Board Members** – Wiedenmann recognized the following outgoing members of the Governing Board and thanked them for their service to the Society: Ric Bessin, Michael Parrella, Grayson Brown, Nancy Hinkle, and Michelle Smith.
32. **2013 Governing Board Adjourned** -- The 2013 Governing Board adjourned at 9:03 a.m.
33. **2014 Governing Board Convened** – President Frank Zalom convened the 2014 Governing Board of the Entomological Society of America at 9:18 a.m. New members of the Governing Board were introduced: May Berenbaum, Doug Walsh, Pat Copps (ESACC), and Tim Showalter. New members not present were Mark Boetel and Chris Geddens. Zalom’s opening remarks focused on carrying on initiatives of recent presidents and he thanked the 2013 Governing Board for support of advance work for Grand Challenges, which will be a major initiative beginning in 2014. Zalom noted excitement about the new Presidential Committee on Science Policy Fellows. He asked Grayson Brown to pull together a group of entomology society presidents from around the world to help work on grand challenges and global collaboration.
34. **Science Policy Fellowship Program** – A discussion of committee was held about conflicts of interest that may occur if someone helping to design the program wished to apply.
35. **Election of At Large Executive Committee Members** -- Carol Anelli and John Obrycki were elected as the 2014 At Large members of the Executive Committee.
36. **Committee Liaison Assignments** – Zalom confirmed the committee liaison assignments for Governing Board members.
37. **International Branch Meeting** -- Livy Williams reported on the International Branch business meeting. The Branch will continue to work on improving organizational capacity and long-term planning. Williams will let Gammel know if staff can provide any further assistance.

38. **Adjourn** - There being no further business, the meeting adjourn at 9:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. David Gammel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

C. David Gammel, CAE  
Executive Director