Minutes from ESA Plant-Insect Ecosystems Governing Board Meeting
Conference Call
November 29, 2016

Present:
Melissa Willrich Siebert, President
Diane Alston, Vice President Elect
Rebecca Schmidt-Jeffris, Secretary
Patrick Moran, Treasurer
Carlos Esquivel, Student Representative
Fred Musser, Past President
Chris Stelzig, ESA

1. Welcome Chris – he is available as needed for GC meetings to serve as a resource/sounding board. Will chime in as needed and otherwise observe GC meetings.

2. Pollinator initiative update (Sujaya via email)
   Answering questions put to GC:
   a. Some members want to know why the video link needs to be ‘private’ until the end of the contest. Becky Anthony also emphasized the need for the videos to be private. Your thoughts?
      The GC is in agreement on keeping video links private until the end of the contest. This will prevent plagiarism.
   b. One member asked if the home institution of the contestants can be included. I see no reason why not. Your thoughts?
      The GC is in agreement that the home institution can be included.
   c. One member listed examples for one of the topics (pollinator decline and protection). If we include examples for one topic then we need to include examples for all. Also, there is merit in keeping things simple. Your thoughts?
      • Patrick noticed that the number of topics differed from the GB report – the PIC should clarify this
      • Preference from GC for the current four topics (keeping it simple is better)
      • However, we need to clarify that this is for all species of bees, not just honey bees
      • There should be a mechanism in place for submitters to clarify if their topic fits within one of the categories, especially for unusual topics (we want to be as inclusive as possible and get many entries)
      • Need language clarifying that people can go beyond these subtopics – not limited to these areas (“other” category)
      • Use subtopics as “for example” list to clarify that these are just “getting started” ideas
   d. When should the competition be made open?
      ASAP
• Melissa would like to include some update on the PIC in the P-IE newsletter – she will request feedback from Sujaya on what this should entail (contest entry information? Update from the summary she gave at the networking meeting?)
• Fred suggested posting final version of Sujaya’s summary document and link to it on the newsletter; only include a simple blurb on the newsletter
• Diane suggested making sure to post information about the contest broadly (in addition to P-IE newsletter) – ESA website/eNews (Chris or the communications dept), CEDA, a specific ESA email to announce the contest, Entomological Foundation (K-12, but would want them to have an entomological professional on their “team”) but keep in mind that submitter must be a P-IE member
• Suggestions to add an extra sentence in the description when contest is launched about being creative, working with people outside of P-IE, K-12, thinking beyond just your lab
• Discussion of “statement of interest” – both for new student member coming on, as well as the one for a person within the committee to take over for Sujaya as committee chair – we were all ok with Carlos’s general idea (below):

For new student member:
1) why the person would like to be part of committee
2) how the candidate would contribute to the committee
3) how the candidate would enhance participation of current members and/or people in from sections (here the candidate could describe personal experiences how she/he has achieved that).

For new committee leadership:
1) why the person would like to lead the committee,
2) how the candidate would contribute to the committee,
3) how the candidate would enhance participation of current members and/or people in from sections (here the candidate could describe personal experiences how she/he has achieved that).

• Upcoming newsletter will include announcement for graduate student opening on the PIC; interested students are to respond to the call by emailing Melissa by Jan 31st

3. Budget updates (Patrick)
   Current balance $23,811
   Spending has been concluded for the year
   No update on GB allocations for FY2017 yet
   $5,000 + $1,500 (need to decide what to spend the $1,500 on – trip or workshop/symposium)
   Suggested not to earmark $1,500 for specific activity yet
   Traditional awards and speaker support still in the budget
   The budget was approved by P-IE GC.

4. Committee Vacancies
   • Fellows judging panel
5. Grand Challenges Symposium Discussion
   - This discussion will be used to draft a response to Faith’s email regarding proposed schedule for symposium
   - Replace Monday afternoon section program? We do need time to do section business. We could give up symposium time, but not awards/business.
   - Also, if there is no symposium associated with P-IE meeting, will people still come? Food/drinks afterward should help this potential issue.
   - Instead, do we break out into sections after this Symposium?
   - This would be a way to save money spent by each section (only 1 speaker funded per section)
   - Melissa will draft a response to Faith and send it to her by Dec 6th
   - There should be continuity between the speakers (not disconnected talks)

6. Discussed a proposed P-IE field tour.

7. P-IE discussed a proposal submitted by a P-IE member to offer some type of opportunity to graduate student similar to what the “Congressional Visit Program through Crop Science Society of America”.
   a. The committee discussed that the CSSA program is very similar to ESA’s Science Policy fellow program.
   b. Melissa to follow-up with the P-IE member to gather additional information to ensure something unique is not beign overlooked.