

NAPB Exec Meeting 11.14.2016

In attendance: Jim McFerson, Jane Dever, Kate Evans, Don Jones, Todd Campbell, Wayne Smith, Alex Lipka, Dave Bubeck, Barry Lawrence, Klaus Koehler, Allan Van Deynze, Anna Levina

Review of October action items and prior meeting minutes

Dave B made a motion to approve the minutes, Wayne S seconded. Approved.

Guelph confirmed interest in hosting the meeting in 2018. 2020 and 2021...Univ Nebraska-Steve Baenziger might be retired by then so someone else there. Tabare with Dupont/Pioneer is an important contact.

Review of committee reports

NAPB Communications Committee November Report

November, 2016 NAPB Communications Committee Activity Report

- #NAPlantBreeders is up on Twitter, with password shared to each committee.
- Marc Zienkiewicz contacted JD October 19 about doing an article on the annual meeting in Seed World. He was referred to Don Jones (1) and Klaus Koehler (2) and Barry Tillman (3).
- The 2017 annual meeting dates are up on the website, and the leadership tab has been updated. Alex Lipka is very responsive to requests regarding the website, and he is much appreciated by the communications committee (and everyone else posting content on the website).
- Plant breeding success story (Don Labonte) and graduate student spotlight (Hannah Swegarden) requests have been sent. Please send any ideas and content for the December/January newsletter to Jane Dever.

Subject: Nov Membership report

Todd, 90% off this months meeting and actions have been devoted to our Goal # 1, refining and updating the recruitment list. We feel this if foremost in our efforts for the remains goals, and are tackling it first. I am copying the minutes and pix that we used just in case anyone needs more information.

1. Get updated membership list from Tri-Societies (Barry)
2. Decided the right time to start recruiting for the meeting in CA would be around the spring
3. Hannah asked how to get lists of smaller companies in CA area
 - a. She will e-mail Allen to get some ideas
 - b. Hannah will also ask Allen if membership committee can get involved in the planning committee
 - c. Hannah will ask Allen what kinds of travel funds are available for this meeting
4. At next executive meeting, ask if Klaus has been able to get an answer about the website/server from Tri-Societies (All)
5. We need to maintain a master member list and be intentional about curating it on a bi-annual basis (Jennifer)

6. Jennifer reach out to Steve Knapp and see if engaged Monsanto/Seminis with UCD for this meeting
7. Barry to think of contacts for Syngenta for us to reach out to them
8. Jennifer think about reach out to industry and seeing about travel funding for students
9. Idea of if you go to more events, you meet more people, and you have an incentive to keep going (All)
 - a. How to incentivize this more? Special gifts if have attended 3 or more meetings?
 - b. Decided to keep brainstorming about this in future meetings

Discussion

Still a need to reach out and get the tri-society list. Barry Lawrence noted the membership committee wants to get a handle on university and private sector membership opportunity. Identify primary contacts. Major institutions need to have a sponsorship person pushing NAPB. Wayne Smith offered to provide list of Texas A&M plant breeding contacts. Have we contacted CIMMYT about membership? Wayne Smith also offered to make the contact at CIMMYT.

Graduate Student working Group November report

Just a few updates from the GSWG:

- We are working on recruiting new members and filling gaps for committee liaisons. It could be helpful if committees recruit graduate students that may be interested.
- The communication committee has asked us to write a small piece on a public interest topic for the January newsletter. We are currently brainstorming ideas.
- There was a suggestion of hosting a short course prior to the 2017 meeting, topics we are interested in included public policy, soft skills, and professional development.
- We are soliciting feedback on how to increase webinar promotion via social media.

Education Committee Report November 2016

We had a good meeting with the committee in October. We reviewed our committee goals and assigned out members of the committees to begin working on the specific goals. Everyone seem excited to contribute and we are hoping to make good progress. I have already seen feedback from members on specific areas, so they are starting to work.

The biggest goal is to find a venue to host the 2017 webinar series. We have a couple of options, and are trying to find the best one with no costs associated with it, but that also does not require a lot of time from the committee to interact with the system. There should be more information to update with in the December meeting.

Other than that, there is not much more to report or update at this time.

Advocacy Committee, Meeting Committee:

FOR DISTRIBUTION TO GRADUATE STUDENT MEMBERS OF NAPB

2017 Congressional Visits Day – Call for Applications

The NAPB invites graduate students to apply for participation in the upcoming Congressional Visits Day sponsored by the Tri-Societies (CSSA, ASA, and SSSA). The event will take place in Washington, D.C. during March 13-14 (arrival prior day). Travel and per diem expenses of the NAPB graduate student representative(s) will be covered by NAPB. NAPB will partner with the Tri-Societies and we seek applications by 6th January. The Tri-Societies Science Policy Office hosts this activity, and previous participants have found it to be a very stimulating and educational experience.

A training session will be followed by visits to congressional legislative offices. You will be accompanied by a senior “guide” and another graduate student. Visits are usually with congressional office staff and occasionally a legislator may participate in the visit, or stop by for a quick hello and possible photo opportunity.

The congressional visits are an important way of extending the message of what we do and why it is important to legislators who control the authorization and appropriations process. Important pieces of legislation such as the Farm Bill provide direction and funding support for agricultural research and the USDA/ARS. You will gain valuable understanding of this process and learn effective ways to communicate with policy-makers.

Interested parties should submit a short CV, a letter of interest (not more than one page single spaced), and a letter of support from their advisor, to Dr. Rich Pratt, Chair of the NAPB Advocacy Committee at ricpratt@nmsu.edu. An additional letter of support may be submitted if desired. We request that only U.S. citizens apply for the simple reason that legislative offices are motivated to interact (especially) with their voting constituents.

International graduate students who find policy and/or advocacy issues of interest are invited to send an e-mail indicating their interest Dr. Pratt.

PBCC report:

Klaus:

1. Weblink

At the NAPB meeting we talked about the possibility of a PBCC link hosted at the NAPB web-site. I mentioned this to PBCC leadership, and all were in favor. This would allow a more permanent representation, as compared to having the respective chair putting up a web-site at their respective universities, as some have done in the past.

Please let me know, whether you and NAPB leadership agree on the general idea, before we go into any details (costs, content, etc).

Independent of the request above, Eric suggested that the SCC80 web-site (<http://www.nimss.org/projects/view/mrp/outline/17576>) is posted at the “Leadership Structure” page (<https://www.plantbreeding.org/leadership>) of the NAPB web-site:

Klaus Koehler: This has been approved by the NAPB board and was implemented by Alex Lipka.

2. Internship page

NAPB needs to decide if they wish to have a specific page where companies can post Internship opportunities related to plant breeding.

Where is this currently recorded? Klaus will contact Alex about this.

Update from ASA meeting: Tri-societies collaboration—Klaus Kohler

Sunday 11-6-2016

Meeting with Wayne Smith, Todd Campbell, Seth Murray to discuss future Tri-Societies collaboration. Seth Murray is incoming chair for C01. Idea would be to organize a joint colloquium as part of the C01 session with NAPB at the 2017 ASA meeting in Tampa. Seth would be the CSSA lead for this.

Seth would like to focus on a theme of major accomplishments in plant breeding across the various crops, featuring possibly key players that are still alive (example Arnel Hallauer). Would try to cover all crops (beyond row crops). Show what contributed to key innovation and step changes germplasm improvement.

The question was raised if we need to approach the Horticulture society to contribute here as well. We need to better understand the involvement of our non-row crop membership in the Horticulture Science society.

CSSA/NAPB collaboration on plant breeding expert short list for ASTA should be led by ASTA. Klaus/Dave will connect with ASTA.

Monday 11-7-2016

Meeting with Charles Brummer and David Baltensperger CSSA

Both David and Charlie support the idea of a joint symposium. David felt fairly strong we should extend the subject to also cover the future of plant breeding, so we would cover both past impact stories of plant breeding as well as where we see it going in the future.

David and Charlie also recommended strongly exploring a stronger integration of NAPB with the Tri-Societies: “There was a lot of overlap in membership today, Sections C01 as well as C07 and C08 are already frequented by breeders for the horticultural, vegetable breeding side well beyond row crops”. Both recommended a more regular involvement of NAPB in the CSSA meetings in the fall. They want to see more NAPB presence. Also request to continue support of Grad students for DC “Storm the hill event”. They also offered we could use the C01 list serve to advertise for our webinars.

Asking a few questions I did get the impression that the C01 function was mostly in charge of organizing the meetings in the fall, deciding on themes and speakers to organize the content, without regular meetings throughout the year to work on other subjects as NAPB does.

Tuesday, November 8

Meeting with Ellen Bergfeld, CEO Tri-Societies

Ellen is open to any type of collaboration. Ellen could imagine an integration of NAPB into the Tri-Societies, potentially as an independent additional “society”. She is open to various models in this context, depending on NAPB need for independence. Advantages to NAPB could be full access of NAPB to ACCESS capabilities for advocacy, meeting preparation etc. from within the organization at no charge. Definitely should work on a joint symposium at 2017 ASA meeting. Ellen is highly interested in stronger engagement of NAPB at CSSA annual meetings.

Summary: A joint symposium in the 2017 ASA meeting seems logical. We need to have a more in-depth discussion on the pro’s and con’s of a more close organizational integration of NAPB within the Tri-societies. What might this mean for NAPB in our context as well as compare this to other options we might have long-term such as stronger engagement at PAG or engagement with other organizations. This discussion will take time. Need to engage with NAPB “Past presidents circle” for additional thoughts and organizational memory.

Discussion: Wayne Smith and Klaus Kohler noted the tri-society conversations were all very positive. Klaus spoke about meeting with Ellen Bergfeld. Very supportive of joint C01-NAPB collaboration. She also raised the idea of NAPB becoming one of the organizations under the ACCESS societies. Advantage would be to use resources already available. Could be a cost savings. Wayne noted that Ellen did not have a predetermined model in mind..she was open to ideas. Dave Bubeck noted he was supportive of more collaboration with the tri-societies. Have to be careful and thoughtful. Huge membership segment in industry is underrepresented in tri-societies and NAPB. Tighter alignment with tri-societies should be connected with a membership drive. Kate Evans noted that hort crop breeders were already in the minority within NAPB. Klaus asked how do we engage ASHS? Wayne noted that C-01 is interested in a joint session with NAPB at next year’s ASA meeting. Don Jones noted that we set the joint minute up to make sure we don’t negatively impact separate ASA and NAPB annual meeting attendance. August ASHS annual meeting dates make it difficult for folks to attend NAPB and ASHS.

2017 Annual meeting program: Pre-program on graduate student leadership training, Use of UC Davis system for registration and fee collection

Allen van Deynze--Local committee is in place that includes folks outside UC Davis..private industry. Facility is in place. Will use UC Davis internal website for annual meeting. Theme will be: Breeding diverse crops. Getting speaker lists together. USDA-NIFA will have a joint meeting at NAPB. This will involve PIs giving either a poster or a talk. So, the overall meeting will have a larger number of posters.

Klaus Kohler—pre conference workshop focus on grad student training (Emilio from Monsanto). Companies will financially support the pre conference.

Allen van Deynze—do we want concurrent or independent workshops? Anna Levina said grad students would welcome some soft skill/management sessions. Requested speaker ideas be sent to him.

Donation to Donn Cummings, match?

Can we use these funds and/matching funds for specific purposes? Capitol Hill visit support for graduate students. Another idea is to use these funds in addition to the graduate student travel grant. Klaus will follow up with Donn.

Klaus Koehler adjoins meeting at 2:00PM.