

54th Annual General Meeting
of the Canadian Botanical Association/L'Association Botanique du Canada
during BOTANY 2018
on Wednesday, July 25, 2018 at 12:00 – 1:30pm
Room 112 Mayo Civic Centre, Rochester, Minnesota, U.S.A.

Minutes -

Recorded by Deborah Metsger at the request of the President

Attendance: The 21 people in attendance constitute a quorum. The attendees are:
Gerry Allen, Steven Anderson, Arjan Banerjee, Thomas Braukmann, Nadia Cavallin, Claudia Ciotir, Art Davis, Georgia Denbigh, Bruce Ford, Sean Graham, Dylan Johnston, Christian Lacroix, Étienne Léveillé-Bourret, Deborah Metsger, Samantha Mulholland, Magdalena Olszewski, Christine Petersen, Tyler Smith, Julian Starr, Sasa Stefanovic, Heather VanVolkenburg.

- 1) While attendees consumed their lunches, the meeting was called to order by President Art Davis at 12:26 pm.
- 2) Art Davis called for a motion *To Approve the Agenda*
Moved by Maggie Olszewski
Seconded by Gerry Allen
Carried Unanimously
- 3) Art Davis called for a motion *To Approve the Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting (W. Laurier Univ., Waterloo)*
Moved by Christian Lacroix
Seconded by Nadia Cavallin
Carried Unanimously
- 4) Written Reports received
 - a. President (A. Davis)
Art summarized his report – there was no discussion.
 - b. Vice-President / Past-President (J. Markham)

A. Davis summarized J. Markham's report and clarified that the \$1500 for six symposia listed by John should actually be \$3000 US (\$3935 Cdn) contributed by CBA-ABC toward speakers for the following 3 symposia;

* Trail Blazing Women as Botanical Artists in the 19th and 20th century;

* The Future of Digital Projects for Research and Teaching in Botany; and,

* Phylogeny and Evolution of Angiosperms in the Era of Next Generation Sequencing. There was no discussion.

c. Treasurer (M. Piercey-Normore)

[A. Davis prefaced the Treasurer's Report by mentioning that phishing attempts by unknown sources have been experienced by Board members that seemed to have originated from his email. He therefore asked the attendees not to leave printed financial reports around this room as there is concern that the culprits may be trying to trick someone with signing authority on the accounts into a fictitious transaction. Sean Graham mentioned that this sort of thing seems to be happening in all Canadian societies.]

1. CBA turned a welcome profit from the 2017 meeting at Laurier; \$4,269 (beyond the \$4,000 "seed money" which was also returned to CBA-ABC).
2. Auction was very successful – the \$1134 raised at the BBQ at Laurier's meeting went directly to student travel bursaries for this BOTANY 2018 conference;
3. Membership has stayed stable for the past several years however we need to continue to attract more membership. There is much competition from other societies – most notably, the six other societies within Plant Canada and others like CSEE, ASPT... CBA/ABC needs to continue to attract new members;
4. This year, CBA-ABC funds for reimbursing symposium speaker expenses for the BOTANY 2018 conference were contributed in advance, allowing BSA conference organizers to handle the actual post-conference reimbursements. In his Vice-President's report, J. Markham raised the issue of how much money CBA-ABC should be contributing to symposia at joint meetings in the U.S.A., based on the moderate attendance to such meetings by CBA-ABC delegates. At some point, CBA-ABC may need to re-evaluate this generous gesture.

A motion was put forward *"To adopt and Approve Items 4a, 4b, 4c."*

Moved by Gerry Allen

Seconded by Julian Starr

Carried unanimously

- d. A. Davis noted that after discussions with M. Piercey-Normore, a motion is required to appoint an accounting firm (Hounjet-Tastad-Harpham) to conduct the corporation's Review Engagement for 2018-19.

Question by C. Lacroix – Are there copies of the Review Engagement report available?

Response by A. Davis – He has an electronic copy received from Vanda (Executive Assistant) in the week before this conference that he can circulate by email but no hard copies at hand to distribute at this meeting. We will make sure that it is available next year for viewing by membership at the AGM.

A motion was put forward “*to appoint the accounting firm (Hounjet-Tastad-Harpham) to conduct the corporation’s Review Engagement for 2018-19*”

Moved by J. Starr

Seconded by B. Ford

Carried Unanimously

5) Verbal Reports

a. Secretary (J. Nowak) No report received.

b. Bulletin Editor (T. Smith)

“Not too much to report” – 3 issues of the Bulletin are produced per year.

- The deadline for the next issue of the Bulletin is September 1st – however if you have an article and are delayed for some reason just let me know and I will adjust my timing to accommodate if I can.
- The cost of printing the Bulletin was raised at the Outgoing Board meeting as a money-sink given that the intake of dues in support of the Bulletin last year was \$42 while the cost for printing was \$900. The issue of how to solve this discrepancy will be discussed at the Incoming Board meeting.
- There is lots of room for articles – especially since Paul Catling has retired and Ernie Small is close to retirement.
 - G. Allen - If there is a demand for new content, can you put a note in the Bulletin of kinds of things that you are looking for.
 - T. Smith noted that he also accepted notifications of new books, and also advertisements for job openings. There may have been costs associated with this kind of advertising in the past, but there are none today.
- Have had a discussion with Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL) to see if they are interested in carrying the CBA-ABC Bulletin. We may be able to have it indexed by them so that a wider audience would be able to access it.
 - S. Graham asked – would that include past content?
 - T. Smith - Yes
 - B. Ford – Is there a cost involved?
 - T. Smith - No. The BHL would probably take the whole run.

c. Webmaster (Z. Panchen) No report received.

1. T. Smith is working with her on a redesign of the website.
 - Don't have a timeline for revamp of the website but everyone wants this to be a priority. If anyone has experience with web design please get in touch with Z. Panchen or the Executive.

A. Davis called for a motion to *accept the verbal reports*

Moved by C. Lacroix

Seconded by C. Petersen

Carried Unanimously

Section Reports

Systematics & Phytogeography Section

Deborah Metsger and Gerry Allen (co-chairs) reported that eleven members met at lunch on Tuesday, July 24th. There was extensive discussion about the need to ramp up efforts to get support for Systematic Collections across the country – in particular digitization and collections storage. The discussion focused in part on the discrepancy between US funding via NSF and NSERC funding. CANADENSYS was credited with having started the ball rolling in terms of resources but recent applications for additional funding had not been successful. The Section has decided that there is a need to become more political. A subgroup was charged with writing a position paper that could then be shared with other associations like Canadian Society of Ecology and Evolution (CSEE) and others that have greater connections in Ottawa and perhaps could help with connecting to NSERC Discovery Grants.

The section would like to propose a joint meeting with CSEE in the coming few years – likely 2021. J. Starr agreed to look into this.

Discussion - It was agreed that we needed to increase CBA membership on NSERC committees. Question – Can Associations nominate people for NSERCC. - Consensus - Yes

Development Section: A. Davis and C. Lacroix met briefly on Tuesday. The Section Chairs were unable to attend BOTANY 2018; nothing to report.

There were no reports from the Mycology, Ecology or Teaching Sections.

A. Davis called for a motion: *To accept the Section Reports*

Moved by N. Cavallin

Seconded by S. Graham

Carried Unanimously

6) Business Items

- a. Equity and Diversity Document by Liette Vasseur – At the 2017 AGM in Waterloo, Tim Dickinson put forward a motion that the CBA-ABC Board work

with Liette to revise the wording of the document. These modifications were made and the new document was circulated to those assembled for approval. Slight problems in grammar were still recognized. The following motion was put forward :

“ The Equity and Diversity document be approved in principle as circulated, subject to minor modifications to wording in the French version and grammar in the English. “

Moved by C. Lacroix

Seconded by S. Stefanovic

Carried Unanimously

b. Future CBA-ABC Meetings

i) Plant Canada (CSPB is host society) – July 7-11, 2019 at the University of Guelph, Ontario
A. Davis reported that he and J. Markham are the CBA representatives for Plant Canada. They have not heard much about the scientific content yet. To date, no CBA member, including from the University of Guelph, has come forward to be the VP for that meeting.

ii) Proposal for Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue (UQAT) by N. Fenton in late May-early June of 2020. The timing of the meeting has been chosen to try and avoid the peak of the blackfly season. There will be lots of spring flowers in bloom. CBA-ABC has not had a meeting in the Boreal for a long time – if ever.

J. Starr reported that he had also been approached by Andrea Wolfe, incoming president of the Botanical Society of America (BSA), to join them for their conference planned for Anchorage, Alaska in 2020. He informed her that we already had a proposal in hand for that year.

A motion was put forward *“To enthusiastically approve Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue (UQAT) for the 2020 meeting. If circumstances at UQAT changed and they could not host the meeting, then CBA-ABC will consider BSA’s offer to join them in Alaska”*

Moved by J. Starr

Seconded by A. Bannerjee

Carried Unanimously

- iii) 2021 Joint meeting with CSEE- location to be determined – possibly Nova Scotia?

7) Any Other Business None

8) Nomination of new Board Members for 2018-19

- Past President Art Davis
- President Julian Starr
- President-Elect Nicole Fenton
- Vice President Desirable to find someone from U of Guelph
- Treasurer Shelley Hepworth
- Secretary Deborah Metsger
- 1 Director-East Nadia Cavallin 2018-2020 (for a second 2-yr term)
- 1 Director-West Bruce Ford 2018-2020
- 1 Student Rep (West) – Dylan Johnston, Univ. Saskatchewan 2018-2020

Nominations Closed

A motion was put forward *“To endorse the slate as proposed, with a TBD for Vice President”*

Moved by C. Petersen

Seconded by G. Allen

Carried Unanimously

The Presidency was ceremoniously transferred from Art Davis to Julian Starr using a picture of the CBA-ABC President’s official seal because it was deemed too risky to carry through customs and transport to Rochester, Minnesota on the plane. The actual transfer of the President’s seal will be conducted at Plant Canada 2019 next July, at the University of Guelph.

Julian Starr put forward a motion *To Thank Art Davis for the energy and skill that he has put into the Presidency of the Association. “You have done a tremendous job and your shoes will be hard to fill”*

Moved by J. Starr

Seconded by D. Metsger

9) Adjournment

Julian called for a motion *To adjourn the 2018 Annual General Meeting of CBA/ABC.*

Moved by C. Petersen

Seconded by B. Ford

Carried Unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 1440 pm.