



Women in Plant Biology Committee American Society of Plant Biologists

Committee meeting June 27th, 2025

10:00 am Central Time US,

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://unl.zoom.us/j/95565525109?pwd=BJ3zdOaYZi9XNyXcVQA92hnb7B1NNN.1&from=addon>

Meeting ID: 955 6552 5109

Passcode: 596656

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Present: Chin-Mei Lee, Rebecca Roston, Lesley Murphy, Rosana Melo, Azam Noori, Sylvia Lee

Absent: Andrew Foundree, Ruby Tiwari, Balpreet Kaur,

(GUESTS): [RECORD NAMES]

Minutes

1. Welcome: [10:02]
2. Approval of minutes of the previous meeting: (by email) unanimous by responders
3. Voting on new WiPB early career member. We have 4 options (Yebei Li, Panchali Chakraborty, Malini Muthu Karpagam, Deborah Ighalo), and their applications are attached to our email reminder and temporarily in our Teams folder. We will take a preliminary vote, then have a discussion, then a final vote.
 - i) The first vote narrowed the field to two candidates.
 - ii) The final vote was split, but the majority favored Karpagam. We will welcome Malini Karpagam in fall.
4. Plant Biology of the future, childcare options (reminder of strategies, requests for comments).
 - 1) We encouraged attendees expressing an interest to take advantage of the childcare options at Plant Biology 2025. Did they?
Email invitation example provided to committee members.
 - a. Yes! Childcare is now full at Milwaukee. :D

- 2) We provided information regarding making a flyer at Plant Biology 2025. The current version is in our teams folder, "Get involved flyer-CBT.docx"
- 3) Future fundraising for Childcare. Our document was sent to the board of directors (also attached). I have not heard back from Crispin regarding the outcomes, but it will be our fall project to start contacting companies for improving childcare support.

5. Plant Bio 2025 –

- i) Concurrent session update (Lesley & Balpreet)
 - i. Lesley is looking for suggestions for folks (prefer women/non-binary/gender fluid) that would benefit from a free registration for the virtual ASPB sessions (pre- and post-) that Bayer and WiPB are supporting.
 - ii. Bayer program B4U connects Bayer employees to university PhD students to mentor for a year. They had a pre-meeting workshop that was extended to a post-meeting workshop. The B4U students are getting this message first, and it will cover all of the virtual content before and after. They have 500 registrations total. There are ~450 B4U students. Workshop folks will also get a registration. There will be a handful of additional registrations remaining. Maybe we can offer to folks that were interested but on the waitlist for virtual event.
 1. Waitlist childcare folks who can't attend the meeting? Shoshana
 2. Early Career committee members not attending meeting Shoshana
 3. EC applicants.
 4. Applicants for the women's travel grants? Have list with numbers, can cross reference with SylviaRebecca will email and copy Lesley.
- ii) Networking Workshop (Rebecca)
 - i. Thanks to all who volunteered!
 1. Azam Noori is managing the session
 2. Lesley & Burcu are managing the WiPB table
 3. Rebecca & Andrew are managing the "Work life balance" table.

6. Pioneer Awards (updates from Rosana, Lesley, Rebecca)

Everyone was theoretically responsible for contacting their person with an award notification. Updates!

- i) Lesley – Rita Varagona update
 - i. Note: Lesley obtained the 3K mark shortly after the meeting.
- ii) Rosana – update.

- iii) Rebecca – Attending meeting with many colleagues of my nominee soon.

One of the real challenges is that we're not very close to the nominees.
For the future: We should only try to equalize the nominations when we have extra funds to do so. Being close to the nominees is critical for requesting donations.

- 7. Women in History Month planning for the future. Notes regarding the potential for virtual sessions. (Rebecca)

We still agree that this would be a good idea for the future.

Rebecca will talk to Mary Williams about it at the Plant Bio meeting.

Could go cultural & historical.

- 8. Any other Business? Please feel free to add any suggested changes here to the agenda document!

- i) We acknowledge people's hard work, and we're missing a group. Research scientists. Not post-docs, not grad students. But the ones who are not climbing the ladder. Middle authors & acknowledgements.

- ii) Policy folks.

- 9. Adjournment [11:02]