American Society of Plant Biologists

Publications Committee
Meeting Minutes

June 19, 2026 | 10:00 pm EST | via Zoom

Attendees
Reuben Peters (Chair), Ivan Baxter, Meng Chen, Hong Qiao

Guests
Pablo Manavella (*The Plant Cell),* Crispin Taylor (CEO), Sarah Black (VP, Content & Communications)

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks
The Chair called the meeting to order and welcomed committee members. The committee reviewed the meeting agenda, which focused on implementation of the editorial board appointment process approved at previous meetings, annual oversight of editorial board composition, and continued discussion of a revised editor honorarium model.

2. Editorial Board Appointment Process
Annual Editorial Board Review
The committee discussed implementation of a more structured process for editorial board oversight. Pablo Manavella, serving as the Editor-in-Chief representative, outlined the challenges associated with recruiting qualified editors, particularly for senior editorial roles and specialized subject areas.

The committee agreed that the Publications Committee's oversight would be most effective through an annual strategic review rather than reviewing appointments solely on an ad hoc basis.

Beginning with the annual in-person committee meeting at Plant Biology meetings, each Editor-in-Chief will present:

- Current editorial board composition.
- Planned editor rotations for the coming year.
- Proposed new appointments.
- Areas where additional expertise is needed.
- Overall board composition and diversity considerations.

This annual review will establish the editorial appointment plan for the coming year and allow the Publications Committee to provide strategic guidance before appointments are finalized.

Quarterly Progress Updates
Following the annual review, Editors-in-Chief will provide quarterly updates summarizing:

- Progress toward filling approved vacancies.
- Remaining recruitment needs.
- Any editorial board appointments requiring committee review.

The committee agreed that this process balances strategic oversight with the flexibility needed to respond to unexpected editorial vacancies.

3. Editorial Board Composition and Recruitment
The committee discussed current challenges in maintaining a balanced and effective editorial board. Topics included:

- Recruiting qualified editors in highly specialized disciplines, including structural biology.
- Ensuring editorial board composition reflects appropriate disciplinary expertise.
- Improving gender balance during future appointments.
- Broadening recruitment beyond existing editorial networks to reduce the potential for networking bias.

Committee members agreed to assist Editors-in-Chief by recommending qualified candidates, particularly in disciplines where recruitment has proven difficult. Combining committee recommendations with Editor-in-Chief nominations was viewed as an effective way to broaden the pool of prospective editors.

4. Editor Honorarium Payment Model Update
Editor Workload Distribution
The committee reviewed editor workload distribution and the challenges associated with evaluating editorial performance. Discussion included:

- Current expectations for senior and reviewing editors.
- Limitations in historical workload data following the transition to Editorial Manager.
- Improvements in reporting now available through Oxford University Press.
- The importance of incorporating workload and performance metrics into future annual editorial board reviews.

Staff will continue compiling editorial composition, workload, and performance data to support informed committee decision-making.

Hybrid Model Evaluation
Members reviewed the concept of a hybrid model that would combine a base honorarium with workload-based compensation while incorporating appropriate caps to ensure equity and budget predictability. The committee agreed that additional refinement is needed before implementation, including consideration of:

- Participation expectations.
- Appropriate workload thresholds.
- Potential unintended incentives.

- Administrative feasibility.

The proposal will continue to be refined in consultation with the Editors-in-Chief and will be discussed further at a future meeting.

5. Other Business

Upcoming Meetings

The committee reviewed plans for upcoming meetings during Plant Biology 2026 in Ottawa, including:

- *Plant Physiology* Editorial Board Meeting.
- *The Plant Cell* Editorial Board Meeting.
- Publications Committee annual in-person meeting.

These meetings will include continued discussion of editorial board composition and the proposed editor compensation framework.

6. Next Steps and Action Items

- Editors-in-Chief will prepare annual reports outlining editorial board composition, planned rotations, proposed appointments, and areas requiring additional expertise.
- Quarterly updates will be provided on editorial appointments and recruitment progress.
- Staff will provide editorial composition, workload, and performance data to support annual committee review.
- Committee members will recommend prospective editorial board candidates to broaden recruitment efforts.
- Staff and committee leadership will continue refining the proposed editor honorarium model for discussion at the in-person meeting.
- Staff will distribute meeting logistics for the Publications Committee meeting in Ottawa.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned following completion of the agenda at 11:00 am Eastern.