



Science Policy Committee (SPC) American Society of Plant Biologists

Committee meeting, March 22, 2022 at 3:00 PM ET

Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://lewis-burke.zoom.us/j/84267449312?pwd=b1pLaFU5enk3cWY4bTE1QXIDK1FZz09>

Meeting ID: 842 6744 9312

Passcode: 205790

Invited Participants:

SPC Chair: Tessa Burch-Smith

ASPB Staff: Crispin Taylor

SPC Members: Becky Bart, Scott Jackson, Ka Man Jasmine Yu, Erin Doody, Simon Gilroy, Carolyn Lawrence-Dill, Rod Wing, Maureen McCann

ASPB President: Katayoon (Katie) Dehesh

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC: Bridget Krieger, Eve Granatosky, Victoria Haber, Elizabeth Stulberg

Attendees

Chair: Tessa Burch-Smith

Simon Gilroy

Maureen McCann

Erin Doody

Jasmine Yu

LBA:

Bridget Krieger

Eve Granatosky

Elizabeth Stulberg

Agenda

1. Welcome from Tessa
2. DC State of Play
 - a. FY 2022 Appropriations are passed. Overall, there were across the board increases, but those increases were not at the level that the broader research community had anticipated.
 - i. This is, first, because the bills that had been proposed originally had been made with no overarching budget agreement.
 - ii. The emergency funding designating for supporting Ukraine also took some funding from domestic priorities, like research.
 - iii. NSF had been proposed with a \$1 billion increase, but it ended up getting only \$350 million. This is the largest increase NSF has seen in more than a decade, but it still seemed like a disappointment compared to what had been anticipated.
 - b. Launch of NSF TIP
 - i. Erwin Gianchandani was selected as the assistant director for the TIP program.

- c. PBR/Planning for FY 2023
 - i. All of the issues limiting funding in FY 2022 will be in play in the FY 2023 negotiations.
 - ii. The President's Budget Request for FY 2023 is slated to be released on March 28,
 - iii. NSF TIP still should have our support, and we need to decide what the ASPB NSF ask will be. LBA recommendation is to follow the broader NSF community ask of \$11 billion. It is unlikely that NSF will receive this level of funding.
 - iv. AFRI is authorized at \$700. Some stakeholders want to increase its authorization in the Farm Bill, while others think this is unreasonable since appropriations have not reached this level.
 - v. ARS has a lot of "soft" funding directed towards it that adds up.
 - d. USICA/Competitiveness
 - i. USICA is the Senate version of the America COMPETES bill passed by the House. The Senate has moved forward procedurally so that they can negotiate with House on a final version that can be passed by both Houses.
 - This legislation is a big priority for Congress and a personally important priority for Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer.
 - We are likely to see things come together within the next couple of months.
 - e. Farm Bill
 - i. The House has started a formal process of considering the Farm Bill, but there are no firm dates on when a Research Title hearing may be held.
 - ii. The Senate has not officially started its Farm Bill process.
 - iii. The current Farm Bill expires at the end of September 2023.
 - iv. Currently the ag committee staffs have no appetite for big changes, so the process will likely be more straightforward
 - v. Priorities for ASPB will include continued support for current programs with tweaks (e.g., Genome to Phenome, AGARDA).
 - vi. NC-FAR and SoAR are two coalitions ASPB participates with that are working together to create a community ask for the Farm Bill. They will set up a list of priorities, and then we can get more specific based on ASPB's needs.
3. Meeting with OSTP/Pandemic Preparedness
- a. Crispin attended a meeting with OSTP staff that considered pandemic preparedness in relation to agriculture; OSTP staff asked to meet with ASPB members to discuss the topic further.
 - b. ASPB needs to put forward suggestions for members to attend this meeting.
 - i. Becky Bart, who works with virus-resistant cassava in Africa.
 - ii. Barbara Valent.
 - iii. Nina Federoff.
 - iv. Anjali Iyer-Pascuzzi at Purdue – disease responses in tomato and an early career member.
 - c. Need to confirm that OSTP is looking for experts on possible agricultural pandemics in crops, as opposed to the effects of human pandemics on agriculture.
4. Spring SPC Meeting
- a. April 29, 2022 – save this date, targeting the afternoon.

- b. Invited Speakers
 - i. Reaching out to contacts at NSF, DOE, USDA-NIFA.
 - ii. Additional speakers at OSTP, NASA, and other non-traditional agencies may be tapped if the above are unavailable, and these may also be tapped for the summer SPC meeting.
 - c. Virtual Hill Meetings
 - i. These are currently being scheduled.
 - ii. LBA staff will work with ASPB representatives to prepare for these meetings, and the idea is to build relationships because progress is slow and takes time.
- 5. Plant Biology 2022
 - a. SPC Workshop
 - i. Bridget has a suggestion for a staffer who could talk at this workshop and will follow up with Jasmine and Erin.
 - ii. Tessa proposes that they will have a meeting later with Jasmine and Erin for planning.
 - b. **ACTION:** Mary Clutter Public Service Award Nominees
 - i. This is the SPC's award.
 - ii. Nominate a person or organization.
 - iii. It can be political – a member of congress who has been a champion.
 - iv. It can be someone who has selflessly promoted plant science.
- 6. SPC Newsletter
 - a. Tessa wants to thank Erin and Elizabeth for help with the SPC newsletter and thanks to Victoria for all the updates.
 - b. Tessa included a crossword puzzle.
 - c. SPC's involvement has led to a follow-up request for more content from the SPC.
- 7. **REMINDER:** Federal Engagement/Visibility Opportunities
 - a. Still need suggestions for nominees for USDA NAREEAB:
<https://nareeeab.ree.usda.gov/>. Feel free to nominate yourself.
 - b. Also need nomination suggestions for the NSF Medal of Science:
<https://www.nsf.gov/od/nms/medal.jsp>.
- 8. Next Meeting: April 26, 2022
 - a. This meeting will likely include some prep for the upcoming Hill meetings that will have been scheduled by that time.
- 9. Adjournment