EDIC Committee Meeting Minutes 9-24-2026; 4:00 pm-5:00 pm EST – for Public Posting

Attendees: Christos Noutsos (chair), members, Amanda Koenig, Pubudu Handakumbura, Marcela Rojas Pierce, Sannidhi Menon, Rajeev Ranjan, Hua Lua, Kevin Cope, Kevin Cox, staff, Sylvia Lee, guests, Kent Chapman, Tessa Burch-Smith

1. General committee business

- Sannidhi agreed to serve another term as the committee's nominations committee representative.
- Kent reported on the departure of ASPB CEO. The board is identifying interim leadership and will begin a search for a permanent CEO. All operations will continue as normal. The transition may take 3 to 4 months.
- Previous meeting minutes were approved with one correction.

2. Concurrent Symposium, 2027 Meeting

- Proposed title: "Molecules to Plant Eco-Chemo Diversity as a Solution to Global Challenges."
- Three speakers are confirmed and a fourth is pending.
- The proposal is ready for submission through the portal. The deadline is October 31, but early submission would help with advocating for it at the program committee.
- The committee will identify potential backup speakers.

3. Travel Award Application and Rubric

- The committee reviewed and approved the revised application form and rubric.
- The underrepresented minority (URM) question will be removed from the application and rubric, given legal and administrative considerations.
- It was confirmed that the awards are not restricted to underrepresented minorities.
- Scoring criteria for the regular travel award and the RTA application will be kept separate.
- The committee discussed logistics and final review of application system launch.

6. Other Business

- A scheduling conflict between the LGBTQ+ Mixer and the Early Career Trivia Night will be raised with the program committee.
- Bayer's sponsorship of the LGBTQ+ Mixer is to be continued for the coming year.
- Marcela will co-chair the committee starting October 1.
- Thanks to outgoing members Hua, Kevin Cope, and Ranjan who will rotate off.