

Membership Committee Meeting Notes

August 6, 2023 – At Plant Biology 2023

***the recording of the meeting was faulty, so these notes are a combination of notes and the memory of several of those in attendance.*

1. Introduce Jennifer Covington
2. When around and introduced all those in attendance
3. Discussion of Membership Model
 - a. Discussed results of salary-based membership model survey
 - i. Different scale for industry
 - ii. Maintain emerging nations discounts
 - iii. Need to take into account different cost of living, variances in if institutions provide any funding for, if can use grant money,
 - iv. Some people don't like being asked their income
 - b. Discussed a "Pay what you want/can" model
 - i. We would have information available about what it costs ASPB to have each member
 - ii. What it costs ASPB for each type of activity per person (what it costs per attendee, per journal read, etc)
 - iii. Have a suggested minimum
 - iv. Have a different, higher minimum suggested for the industry people
 - v. Need to consider making minimum enough to make up for credit card fees – ask people to add the amount of the fees to their payment
 - c. Next steps
 - i. Get data, including financial projects for each model and discuss
 - d. Other considerations:
 - i. Need to come up with financial predictions especially as it relates to publication costs, publication access, and meeting discount
 1. Journals going to Open Access – how to make up that revenue; Significant time was spent discussing the possibility of transitioning the society's journals to open access, and how this relates to membership and other financial aspects.
 2. Membership Benefit of reduced author fees and meeting registration – if membership is free or near free, what happens to those benefits
 3. It's hard to estimate some of these factors because it's not clear how much membership would increase if dues were low
 - ii. What changes can we make/add to sections or other local clubs – need to keep in mind legal and liability issues - The president (or possibly a board member) suggested that expanding membership could be achieved by including smaller undergraduate clubs. This proposition was well-received, with many believing that early engagement could foster long-term commitment.
 - iii. People may value more something they have paid something for, even if it is minimal
4. Will discuss PB2024 in early Fall

5. Sections and Ambassador gave updates
6. Thank you to the committee, especially those going off
 - a. Sabrina Gilmour, Grad Student member
 - b. Youngwoo Lee, early career rep
 - c. Clayton Larue
 - d. Judy Brusslan – Western section rep
 - e. Anna Locke, EEPP rep
 - f. Nihal Dharmasiri, Southern Section Rep
 - g. Andrew Foudree – Ambassador Rep
 - h. Al Myers, ECPS rep