**Science Policy Committee**

**American Society of Plant Biologists**

Minutes of Committee meeting, January 28, 2021 at 3:00 PM ET

Via RingCentral (Password: 010165):

<https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1481997507?pwd=a1FrTWl3NnZwYlE3dFErSVIwMWs3QT09>

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

*SPC Chair:* Tessa Burch-Smith

*ASPB Staff:* Crispin Taylor

*SPC Members:* Judy Callis, Jeff Chen, Erin Doody, Carolyn Lawrence-Dill, Gustavo MacIntosh, Shandrea Stallworth, Scott Jackson, Becky Bart

*ASPB President:* Maureen McCann (not here)

*Lewis-Burke Associates LLC:* Bridget Krieger, Eve Granatosky, Christina Laridaen, Victoria Haber

**(GUESTS):**

**Minutes**

1. Last meeting held on December 4, 2020.
2. Agenda Item 1 -- Welcome from Tessa
3. Agenda Item 2 -- UPDATE: Recap of FY 2021 Approps/COVID Package—See page 2 for supplemental information
   1. No questions
4. Agenda Item 3 --UPDATE: Biden Administration: What we know so far…
5. OSTP Leadership and top priorities
   * 1. Eric Lander, first life sciences person to fill this role. Position was elevated to a cabinet level position.
6. Other agency leadership (DOE, USDA)
   1. USDA – Tom Vilsack
   2. DOE – Jennifer Granholm
   3. NIH – Francis Collins (staying)
   4. PCAST – co-chaired by Dr. Francis Arnold and Dr. Maria Zuber
7. The year ahead: confirmation hearings, budget request, pandemic relief funding/infrastructure/stimulus
8. Agenda Item 4 -- 117th Congress
   1. UPDATE: Leadership changes in House and Senate
   2. DISCUSSION: Opportunities for the SPC to reintroduce ASPB—How can we best leverage SPC’s expertise?
      1. Testimony—CJS (NSF), EW (DOE), Ag (USDA), LHHS (NIH)
         1. **Action Item:** Crispin, Tessa, Bridget will divide up groups and send testimony assignments.
         2. Becky can do DOE.
      2. SPC Spring Hill Meetings—Virtual and YOU pick the dates.
         1. **Action Item:** Will follow-up in coming weeks with additional information, survey of dates.
   3. DISCUSSION: Advocacy
      1. TBD: Infrastructure, Stimulus, Pandemic Relief
      2. Go Big in FY 2022: No budget caps, no budget request, and clear need for increased funding (see: <https://www.aaas.org/news/budget-control-act-may-have-cost-over-200-billion-federal-rd>).
9. Agenda Item 5 -- DISCUSSION: ASPB Participation in CAST—See page 3 for supplementary information
   1. Would like feedback on Amit’s ideas.
   2. Is it worth making the investment?
   3. Tessa: more education is needed. Amit’s recommendations were reasonable, and we should pursue and then decide on CAST participation next year.
   4. Might include Amit in future SPC conversations.
   5. **Action Item**: Crispin to ask for cheat sheet for what CAST is from Amit.
10. Agenda Item 6 -- Spring Meeting
    1. UPDATE: Week of March 22 was deemed most favorable for spring meeting
       1. Aim to have most speakers on Tuesday March 23, debrief session on March 25 when regularly scheduled SPC meeting takes place.
          1. **Action Item:** Reach out to speakers at each agency.
       2. DISCUSSION: Priority to invite NSF BIO, NIFA Director, DOE BER…who else would the SPC like to hear from?
          1. In addition to NSF, NIFA, DOE
          2. Maybe NIH re: Nutrition
          3. OSTP—seeing how things shape up
          4. DARPA

1. Agenda Item 7 -- DISCUSSION: Additional planning and engagement with SPC
   1. Deeper dive on opportunities at NIH, other agencies
   2. Next steps for PGRP and NSF generally
      1. Strategic plan opportunity
      2. **Action Item:** Crispin and Victoria coordinate on understanding funding from 2016 on.
   3. Cultivation of SPC working groups.
2. Any Other Business
   1. **Action Item:** Brainstorm recipients for the ASPB Leadership Award
      1. Crispin will circulate Google form.
3. Adjournment 4:04 PM