

April 5, 2002

TO: AAPSE members  
FROM: Amy E. Brown  
RE: Progress report

This memo serves as an update on AAPSE progress since my last report to you in December 2001. We held a very productive Board Meeting, followed by a General Business meeting, on Sunday, March 10. Although minutes will, of course, eventually be posted on the AAPSE web site, I want to give members an overview of what decisions we arrived at, since we really did accomplish quite a lot. I also want to express my appreciation to all the Board members who worked very hard throughout the day to ensure we covered everything on the agenda and actually arrived at decisions, many of which I think will please our members. Only two Board members were unable to attend – one because of a prior commitment and the other, a family emergency. Additionally, I thank the Committee Chairs and Liaisons for doing an excellent job of submitting reports in the format requested, and in time for everyone to have a chance to read the reports before the meeting. Thanks also are due to Wayne Buhler, Chair of our Committee on Committees, who collected all the reports and organized them into a single document for the Board. (A reminder – the reports were posted on the AAPSE web site prior to the Board Meeting; they're available for your review at <http://aapse.ext.vt.edu/htmldocs/2002comreports.html>.)

The following are synopses of our decisions on March 10.

1. The issue of who may serve on AAPSE committees was briefly discussed. In general, the Board agreed that members of official AAPSE Committees should be members of AAPSE itself. The Board does recognize that there will be exceptions wherein a person's expertise cannot be duplicated by anyone who is an active member of the Association, and it is thus to our benefit to maintain such individuals on AAPSE committees. However, when possible, Committee Chairs should initially choose committee members from the list of active AAPSE members and should periodically review their status. If a former member has lapsed, the Committee Chair should encourage the individual to pay his or her dues and continue on the Committee. If an individual is not interested in continuing as an active, paid member of the Association, the Chair should strongly consider replacing the individual.
2. We discussed the inconsistency between AAPSE's Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws with regard to service of retired members as officers. We believe the intent was to allow members who retire **after** they have been elected to finish serving their term (case in point, Win Hock!), but the two documents do not agree, technically, in their wording. We considered this basically an editorial problem with the By-Laws. In the course of our discussion, however, we came to the conclusion that the membership should decide whether they might wish to elect an individual **who is already retired**. Accordingly, I have asked Roger Flashinski and his committee to draft new language for an eventual vote by the membership.
3. AAPSE will establish an E-services Committee to oversee the web site, ListServ, on-line training, etc. The Board agreed that it would be preferable to have some long-term guidance and some breadth on this committee rather than to have the e-services be overseen by the Executive Committee (as is currently the case), which changes every two years. I have

appointed Larry Schulze, who was in attendance at the Board Meeting, as Chair of this committee.

The Board did recommend that the web site be amended to include a section available to members only. Posted in this section would be documents such as the guidelines for committee members as well as other documents that need to be transferred to new committees as they are appointed. Although most Committee Chairs are doing a good job of keeping their successors informed, the Board thinks having a place to archive such valuable information would be a big help to the Association.

Members are encouraged to submit announcements, calendar events, and job opportunities for posting on the AAPSE web site. Please be sure, though, if you do post a meeting announcement, that the meeting is an open one. We were reminded that some meetings are actually open only to specifically invited individuals, and posting notice of such meetings would cause confusion and, perhaps, resentment.

4. Andrew Thostenson's Funding Committee submitted some excellent recommendations on external funding for the Board's consideration, and we accepted the report in its entirety. Carol Ramsay will review the budget structure to determine how best to accommodate the Funding Committee's suggestions. I had established this *ad hoc* Committee in response to concerns raised by myself and others during the 2001 Board meeting in San Antonio that accepting external funds from third parties might taint or cast doubt on the unbiased nature of AAPSE activities and positions, and that we should accept such funds only if a way could be found to address this concern.

Basically, the Funding Committee made 5 recommendations, as follows. (1) Funds should not be used to advance AAPSE regulatory positions or comments. (2) Funds should be targeted for specific activities, such as (but not necessarily limited to) conferences, development of training materials, scholarships for AAPSE members, etc. (3) The AAPSE Board should be made aware of the nature of the funding request before funds are formally solicited, and the Board should have the right of veto or modification of the request. (4) Funds contributed to AAPSE should be accepted without any preconditions concerning the editorial judgment of AAPSE. (5) External funds should be placed in clearly transparent accounts that can be easily reported and identified by members and outside agencies -- thus, these funds will not be mixed with AAPSE's general funds. The report concludes, "In summary, AAPSE should accept funds from advocacy groups and private industry as long as prudence is used in seeking, using, and reporting these funds."

5. Win Hock reminded the Board that we will continue to be involved in providing drift comments to EPA. Jay Ellenberger has invited Win and myself to be participants in the final version. Also, Win alerted the Board that inerts will likely be discussed on the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee (PPDC), and that AAPSE will want to provide comment. He will keep us informed.
6. We discussed whether IPM in schools should be an Issues and Evaluation Committee item, but instead decided to establish an IPM in Schools Committee *per se*. I am happy to report that Ed Crow, who was in attendance at the Board Meeting, accepted my request (which was heavily seconded by the rest of the Board) to serve as Chair of the new committee. This Committee

will have both fact-finding and recommendations functions. It will survey states to find out what, if anything, they have been doing on IPM in schools, and will identify needs as well as issues to be addressed. The Board suggested we may want to consider a PSEC course on how to do training on this issue, but left it to the Committee to determine.

7. The Membership and Public Relations Committee will be kept busy by the results of discussions in Arlington. Following the Board's recommendation, I have asked Joanne Kick-Raack and Randy Rivera and their Committee to devise a comprehensive plan for a membership drive. We want to target prospective members from nontraditional sources, such as non-Extension individuals from land-grant institutions, faculty and staff from non-land-grant institutions, and individuals from agencies other than state lead agencies. We also want to reach out to more Extension field faculty. In conjunction with the membership drive, we are asking the Committee to try to identify roadblocks and make recommendations about expanding our membership.

The Board also asked for a good public relations document to be developed. We think it would be helpful to distribute the PR document to EPA and USDA offices, industry and environmental groups, new administrators, etc. The PR document would eventually be posted in PDF form on the AAPSE web site for use by all members as needed.

The Board approved the development of an AAPSE lapel pin. The Committee has been asked to proceed with its design and development.

8. Several issues came up during discussion of nominations and elections procedures. The biggest change is that we are calling for a move to electronic elections, and they will no longer be tied to meetings. We are asking the regions to conduct electronic elections of their new regional representatives to the AAPSE Board during the fall. This issue was of such importance that the Board requested I send a separate memo explaining the decision and new procedures in more detail. Accordingly, please watch for more on this issue.
9. Pat O'Connor-Marer's Professional Development Conference Planning Committee made several suggestions for the Board's consideration regarding future conferences. The Board recommended offering a professional development conference during 2004 (the next feasible off-year from the biennial C&T Workshop). The Board will decide on a topic of timely interest and will seek input from EPA as well. The Board noted that AAPSE may want to offer a conference before 2004 if a very hot issue arises and there is enough interest.
10. I will be working with Sandra McDonald to establish a good committee on Recognitions and Resolutions. This Committee needs to develop a list of awards and produce guidelines for them so that AAPSE can begin to fully reward its members not only for service to our Association, but also for excellent programs, projects, and materials related to pesticide training, certification, and education in general. The Committee will also be charged with developing certificates for length-of-service to AAPSE. Our 10-year anniversary is coming up next year, and we would like to be able to acknowledge long-time members.
11. Norm Nesheim submitted a final draft of AAPSE's Strategic Plan, and the Board made additional pertinent suggestions, which are being incorporated. The Board voted to approve the Plan with the amendments made during the Board Meeting. I will contact members when

the final version has been posted on our web site. We also recommended that an assessment of how well AAPSE is meeting the goals of the Plan should be conducted as part of every subsequent Board Meeting. On behalf of the Board, I thank all current and former members who worked on the Plan – it represents a lot of work, and we are indebted to them for their efforts.

12. In response to a query by Jim Criswell (SFIREG Policy, Operations and Management Liaison) on whether AAPSE as a body should support the Chlorine Institute in doing training, the Board concluded that this should be left up to the states.

Jim also raised concerns about poor label wording. The Board suggested two avenues to be proactive on this issue: (1) offer AAPSE's expertise at workshops held in conjunction with Kevin Keaney's office and (2) develop an information packet with examples so that benefit gained through the workshops will not end when the attendees leave.

13. The Board enthusiastically accepted Jeanne Heying's suggestion for a new role for AAPSE in the Partners in Environmental Stewardship Program (PESP). I will be working with Jeanne to change the wording on the PESP document to reflect this role – a focus on providing assistance to OPP in communicating messages of pesticide risk mitigation to the public and to all users.
14. The Board considered and rejected a request by USDA's Recordkeeping Section to have AAPSE develop a national Pesticide Recordkeeping Booklet. The Board reasoned that there would be problems with ensuring that such a document could be used by states with additional requirements (we considered various ways to incorporate or reference such additional requirements), keeping the book updated, and developing a process to request proposals and oversee development of the booklet. In summary, the Board did not see enough benefit to AAPSE to justify the amount of time and effort that would be required to do the job well, considering our most active members are already stretched thin with other AAPSE duties.
15. There was discussion on the need to produce documentation of AAPSE members' accomplishments on programs of interest to EPA and other agencies. Dean Herzfeld and Carol Ramsay will conduct a follow-up on my survey last fall of what AAPSE members are doing with regard to security of pesticides, storage areas, and equipment. They will present a paper during the 2002 National Pesticide Stewardship Alliance Meeting in Seattle, and will submit the paper to JPSE for publication.

In closing, I remind each of you that, if an item listed above sparks your interest, your input would be valued. You can contact your Regional Representative, the appropriate liaison or committee chair, or me to provide feedback. You will see more about many of the items listed above as they actually take form.