



**Crop Science Society of America Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Aug. 1-2, 2024, Hybrid & In-Person at Headquarters Office Madison, WI**

President Kim Garland-Campbell called the meeting to order.

Board members present:

- President Kim Garland-Campbell, USDA-ARS
  - Past President Seth Murray, Texas A&M
  - President-Elect Mark Sorrells, Cornell
  - C-1 Melanie Bayles, Oklahoma State Univ.
  - C-2 John Snider, University of Georgia-Tifton
  - C-3 Ignacio Ciampitti, Kansas State Univ.
  - C-4 Nicole Anderson, Oregon State Univ.
  - C-6 John Guretzky, Univ. of Nebraska
  - C-7 John Fellers, USDA-ARS (for Jianming Yu, Iowa State Univ.)
  - C-8 Dipak Santra, Univ. of Nebraska
  - C-9 Mary Guttieri, USDA-ARS
  - Industry Leah Brilman, DLF
  - Grad Student Tina Sullivan, Kansas State Univ.
  - B&F Chair Stephen Malone, USDA-AMS-S&T-SRTD
- Ex-Officio Board Members without Vote:  
CEO Jim Cudahy; Program Planning Officer: Nithya

- Rajan, Texas A&M; ASF Chair Stella Salvo, Bayer CropScience; Editor-in-Chief Bingru Huang, Rutgers;
- Incoming President-Elect Felix Fritschi, Univ of Missouri

Unable to attend:

- DEI-At-Large Geoffrey Koch, Petrichor Consulting
- C-5 Cale Bigelow, Purdue

Also attending:

- Rachel Best, Meetings Director
- Susan Chapman, Special Projects Director
- Susan Dearing-Bond, Development Director
- Linda Dolezalek, Interim Finance Director
- Hanna Jeske, Brand & Marketing Associate Director
- Ian Popkewitz, IT & Operations Director
- Luther Smith, Chief Administrative Officer
- Sara Uttech, Governance Director
- Susan Varghese, People & Culture Director
- Matt Wascavage, Publications Director

C003 CSSA Board of Directors

1. Special welcome: John Fellers, USDA-ARS, Incoming C-7 Board Rep. serving on behalf of Jianming Yu.
2. C-4 Leadership Change: Grace Fleming resigned her position as C-4 Division Chair and Chair-Elect Karen Cichy has agreed to serve in her place.
3. The following Consent Agenda items were approved:
  - Aug. 1-2, 2024 CSSA Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
  - June 18, 2024 CSSA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
4. Melanie Bayles led a discussion on articles highlighting the need for training on soft skills:
  - From Academia to the Workforce, Soft Skills Curriculum Flyer & Top In-Demand Soft Skills
  - Comparative Analysis of Soft Skills-What is Important for New Graduates
  - Additional Reading available on aplu.org website:
    - From academic to the workforce – critical growth areas for students today
    - From academia to the workforce – navigating persistence, ambiguity, change and conflict in the workplace

Facilitators to Lead Topic/Article Selection & Discussion	
February Early Career Members: Kim Garland-Campbell	July Soft Skills Training: Melanie Bayles
March Science Communications: Geoffrey Koch	August: Tina Sullivan
April Social Media Misinformation: Jim Cudahy	September: John Snider
May Happiness/Gratitude/Mental Health: John Guretzky	October: Cale Bigelow
June A.I.: Seth Murray	December: Mary Guttieri

5. CEO Jim Cudahy provided a headquarters update and progress on the CSSA Strategic Plan:
  - Introduced Sanford Moore, new Finance & Accounting Director
  - Outreach PowerPoint Presentation, Feedback, Next Steps
  - CSSA Strategic Plan Exercise #1 Telling Your Story, enter responses on Google Doc

6. In-person board members traveled to [Olbrich Botanical Gardens](#) in Madison for a tour of the grounds and production greenhouses.
7. Feedback from the board included: need for mentoring and need for marketing our journals especially transformational agreements
8. CSSA Strategic Plan Exercise #2 New Webinars/Podcast Topics and audiences (Research Scientists, Practicing Professionals, Grad Students/Early Career Members, etc.), enter responses on Google Doc
9. [CSSA Membership Dashboard through June 2024](#) (click on CSSA logo)

#### S211 Budget & Finance Committee

Interim Director of Finance Linda Dolezalek, presented on "Finance 1010: How Nonprofit Boards Should Review Financial Statements" including:

- Four financial statements required under Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP): the statement of financial position, the statement of activities, the statement of cash flows, and the statement of functional expense
- Board members obligations as fiduciaries
- Definitions of financial terms

#### ACS090 Agronomic Science Foundation (ASF) Board of Trustees

Development Director Susan Dearing-Bond presented "Foundation/Fundraising 101," which included fundraising strategies for the Agronomic Science Foundation (ASF), including:

- Importance of segmenting donors and prospects, focusing on major gifts, planned giving programs, and donor retention
- Need to improve ASF's online experience and donor stewardship efforts
- Suggested ways to increase donations: matching gift programs, grant development plans, and collaborative partnerships

#### ACS321 Editorial Policy Coordination Committee

Publications Director Matt Wascavage provided an update, including Wiley Transformational Agreements that meets the Strategic Objective to make our journals & meetings the first place people want to share their research to increase impact & visibility.

#### ACS732 Program Planning Committee

Annual Meeting Nov. 10-13 San Antonio | [www.acsmeetings.org](http://www.acsmeetings.org)

- CSSA Klepper Plenary Lecture & Breakfast, Author Daniel Stone: Tuesday Nov. 12, 7:45-9:30am
- ASA-CSSA-SSSA Awards & Networking Lunch: Tuesday Nov. 13, Noon-1:30pm
- 2024 CSSA Presidential Award: Jim Anderson, University of Minnesota
- CSSA Coffee with the Presidents: Wednesday Nov. 13, 9:00-10:30am
- Golden Opportunity Scholars Lunch: Wednesday Nov. 13
- CSSA Board Meeting: Thursday Nov. 14, 9:45-11:30am (breakfast buffet at 9:15am)
  
- Annual Meeting Promotional Toolkit: share images and text on social media: [www.acsmeetings.org/promotionaltoolkit](http://www.acsmeetings.org/promotionaltoolkit)

Consensus to Adjourn.