



Crop Science Society of America Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Thursday, Sept. 28, 1:45-3:00pm (Central)

CSSA President Seth Murray called the meeting to order.

Board members present:

President: Seth Murray, Texas A&M (2023)
Past President: Marilyn Warburton, USDA-ARS (2023)
President-Elect: Kim Garland-Campbell, USDA-ARS (2023)
C-1: Melanie Bayles, Oklahoma State Univ. (2025)
C-2: Felix Fritschi, Univ. of Missouri (2023)
C-4: Nicole Anderson, Oregon State Univ. (2025)
C-3: Ignacio Ciampitti, Kansas State Univ. (2024)
C-5: Cale Bigelow, Purdue (2023)
DEI Member-at-Large: Geoffrey Koch, UC-Davis (2023)
Grad Student Rep.: Karl Kunze, Cornell (2023)
Editor-in-Chief: Bingru Huang, Rutgers (2024)
ASF Chair Samantha Miller, Corteva Agriscience (2023)
C-6: John Guretzky, Univ. of Nebraska (2024)

C-7: Jianming Yu, Iowa State Univ. (2024)
C-9: Mary Guttieri, USDA-ARS (2025)
Industry Rep.: Leah Brilman, DLF Pickseed (2025)
Ex-officio: CEO Jim Cudahy; Incoming President-Elect Mark Sorrells, Cornell (2023); B&F Chair: Steve Malone, USDA-AMS-S&T-SRTD (2025)
Unable to attend:
C-8: Dipak Santra, Univ. of Nebraska (2025)
Program Planning Officer Nithya Rajan, Texas A&M (2023)
Also participating:
Sara Uttech, Governance Director
Matt Wascavage, Membership Director
Susan Varghese, People & Culture Director

C003 CSSA Board of Directors

1. President Seth Murray led a discussion on the Artificial Intelligence article from *CSA News*:
<https://acsess.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/csan.21045>
2. ACTION: The following Consent Agenda items were approved:
 - Sept. 28, 2023 CSSA Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
 - Aug. 30, 2023 CSSA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
3. CEO Jim Cudahy reported on the Next Steps in the 2024-2028 CSSA Strategic Plan:
 - CSSA Vision: A global community of crop scientists, educators, and practitioners with a common bond of improving plants and their production in a scientifically sound and environmentally responsible manner
 - Cross-Society Objectives:
 - Innovate our stakeholder experiences
 - Diversify our memberships
 - Raise the visibility of our disciplines and our members
 - CSSA Objectives:
 1. Increase science policy programming for members, and increase advocacy to expand our value to external stakeholders by being the first stop for evidence-based science
 2. Make our journals and meetings the first place people want to share their research to increase impact and visibility
 3. Innovate to ensure long-term financial sustainability
 4. Enhance national and international recognition of our society and its members
 5. Strengthen internal and external communication at all levels to increase engagement, create a sense of community, leverage interactions w/ allied societies to improve member recruitment and retention
 6. Set our members up for advantages throughout their careers w/ ongoing professional development
 - Next Steps:
 1. Aug-Sept: Follow-up discussion and Strategic Plans drafted
 2. October: Annual Meeting Board Meeting Board for approval of Strategic Plan
 3. December: Department Directors to operationalize Strategic Plans
 4. January (with sneak peek in St. Louis): Strategic Plan presented to members

4. Updates from Task Forces & Committees:

- Curriculum/Education Certification: Past President Marilyn Warburton reported that the task force conducted a survey on this topic and she will share the results with the board.
- Leadership Pathways: President Seth Murray reported that the task force is waiting on the second draft of an infographic from Melanie Bayles.
- Organization, Policy & Bylaws Committee: Governance Director Sara Uttech reported that the revised policy will be sent for approval to the committee so it can go before the Board for final approval at the Annual Meeting.

5. CSSA Monthly Membership Dashboard CSSA (left), all Societies (right):



6. The next CSSA Board Meeting will be held in-person and virtual on Thursday Nov. 2, 9:30-11:30am Central, 9:15am breakfast buffet available, Room 240, St. Louis America's Center. Note: Watch for a Doodle to be sent for rescheduling the November, December Board Meeting Dates due to the holidays.

C211 Budget & Finance Committee

CEO Jim Cudahy and Budget & Finance Chair Steve Malone reported that there is a slight delay in the 2024 CSSA Budget process. The committee will hold online meetings to review the budgets with the Department Directors. The budgets are expected to be finalized and ready for approval at the Annual Meeting Board Meeting. Budget & Finance Committee: Chair Steve Malone, Editor-in-Chief Bingru Huang, President-Elect Kim Garland-Campbell, CEO Jim Cudahy, Nicole Anderson, Felix Fritschi, John Guretzky. CEO Jim Cudahy reported on plans to conduct an IT assessment.

ACS321 Editorial Affairs, Policies & Practices Committee

1. Publications Director Matt Wascavage and Editor-in-Chief Bingru Huang provided an update on the post-2024 publishing program and Journal editors appointments and reappointments.
2. ACTION: Motion by Melanie Bayles, seconded by Karl Kunze, to approve unlimited online access to the full collection of ASA, CSSA, and SSSA journals, books, magazines, and archives to all current Society members through their membership term through an increase in membership dues. Unanimous approval.

C101 Nominations for President-Elect Committee

2024 CSSA Election Candidates for President, Board Reps, Division Chairs are due **Nov. 30** - encourage women, minorities, others to run for office.

C011.06 CSSA Division C-6, Forage and Grazinglands Officers

Following discussion, the CSSA Board declined to support the request for the 2026 International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists documentary film as it seems too far outside the scope of CSSA disciplines.

ACS732 Program Planning Committee

- Annual Meeting, Oct. 29-Nov. 1, 2023 St. Louis: 3,203 registrations vs. 2022 Baltimore 1,566/2019 San Antonio 2,471
- 2022 Baltimore: 3,555 total in-person /2019 San Antonio: 3,945 total in-person. Projection ~4,400 due to record abstract submissions
 - Online Program: <https://scisoc.confex.com/scisoc/2023am/meetingapp.cgi> | App: [SciSoc Mtg](#):

<p>Sunday Oct. 29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agronomic Science Foundation (ASF) VIP Reception • New Board Member Orientation • Publications Session on Open Science with Wiley 	<p>Monday Oct. 30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSSA Continental Breakfast & Klepper Lecture (ticket) • ASA-CSSA-SSSA Awards & Networking Lunch (ticket) • Publications Session on Open Science with Wiley
<p>Tuesday Oct. 31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSSA Coffee with the Presidents & CEO • Golden Opportunity/Greenfield Scholar Luncheon (ticket) 	<p>Thursday Nov. 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSSA Board Meeting
<p>All Week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSSA Division Business Meetings (Board Reps. contact Division Chairs to ensure time on agenda, CSSA Exec/CEO to attend as able); discussion items sent in advance: https://scisoc.confex.com/scisoc/2023am/meetingapp.cgi/Program/2108 • Society Center (Exhibit Hall): Demo Stage, Society info, Career Center, etc. 	

Consensus to Adjourn.