

Minutes, C-2 Business Meeting, Wednesday, November 3, 2010, Long Beach, CA
Notes taken by M.B. Kirkham

The meeting was called to order by James (“Jim”) J. Heitholt, Chair of C-2, at 11:00 a.m. (Jim’s e-mail number is Jim_Heitholt@tamu-commerce.edu). He introduced the officers. Maria Balota (mbalota@vt.edu) is the 2011 Chair and Jeffrey (“Jeff”) W. White (Jeffrey.White@ars.usda.gov) will be the 2012 Chair. Jim pointed out that one of our leaders was in the audience—Joseph (“Joe”) G. Lauer of the University of Wisconsin, President of CSSA. Maria Gallo of the University of Florida, President-Elect of CSSA, was not present. Bjorn Martin of Oklahoma State University, past Chair, has taken early retirement, so he was not present.

Dr. Jennifer MacAdam in the Department of Plants, Soils, and Biometeorology at Utah State University then gave a short presentation about a book that she has authored and which Wiley-Blackwell has published. [I found the citation on Amazon.com. It is *Structure and Function of Plants* by Jennifer W. MacAdam, with an ISBN number of 0813-827183 and published in 2009. It has a list price of \$62.99, but a discount was offered to people at the meetings and they could get it for \$50.39.] The book deals with plant physiology and morphology. She said that she found such a book lacking in academia and wrote the book to fill a need in order to teach her class. It is geared toward undergraduates.

Maria Balota talked about the Division reorganization in the American Society of Agronomy and its new Communities. She turned the floor over to Joe Lauer for details. He said that we shall watch ASA and its formation of Communities. CSSA has not followed what they have done yet. CSSA shall keep division structure as it is. He noted the addition of C9, “Biomedical, Health-Beneficial and Nutritionally Enhanced Plants.” The division considers biofortification of plants (e.g., golden rice).

Michael Strauss of the program planning office for CSSA then gave some comments along with Jeffrey (“Jeff”) J. Volenec of Purdue, who is incoming President-Elect of CSSA. Jeff wants to know what worked and what did not with the new meeting structure at Long Beach, CA. Did we like having as speakers Thomas Friedman, Jared Diamond, and Marc Abrahams, the founder of the *Annals of Improbable Research* and The Ig Nobel Prizes, which are awarded after the Nobel Prizes are announced? Jeff wants ideas for next year’s program, and we should channel them through him, Mike Strauss, or Keith Schlesinger. Mike’s e-mail number is Mike.Strauss@ars.usda.gov. Two suggestions for speakers for next year’s meetings were given to Jeff Volenec at the business meeting: Michael Pollan and Raj Patel.

Randy Wells, C-2 Board Representative, then gave the CSSA Board report. He was surprised to see so many people in the audience and said that was a good sign for C-2. There is good news. The membership of CSSA as of August 31, 2010, is 4923, up 240 from the end of 2009. Most of the new members are graduate and undergraduate students. Publishing net revenue is projected to decrease by about 1.2%. The journal, *Crop Science*, remains the largest source of revenue. Mark Westgate is stepping down as Editor of *Crop Science* on December 31, 2010. A new editor will be ratified at the CSSA Board meeting on November 5, 2010. CSSA would like more submissions to *The Plant Genome*. Randy said to encourage people to submit papers to that journal. CSSA also wants more ideas for books, especially children’s books (e.g., with such

titles as “Sunshine Makes Them Grow”). CSSA joined a coalition of plant science societies around the world called the Global Plant Council. It cost \$2000/year to be a member. A Science Policy Committee has been established that works in concert with the Board and the Science Policy Office in identifying issues for position papers based on the Society’s strategic goals and to recruit subject matter experts for development of white papers. David Baltensperger is the committee Chair (dbaltensperger@ag.tamu.edu). Our division needs two candidates for chair-elect and his (Randy’s) replacement on the Board. Randy said serving on the Board is “neat.” One gets to travel to different places and gets ownership of the Society. Joe Lauer said we need younger people on the Board. Joe said that he learned a lot by being on the Board. One meets interesting people.

Joe Lauer then recognized Jim Heitholt for his service and gave him a certificate. Jim said he needs the name of a person to put forward for President-Elect of CSSA and the names of two people to run for Board representative by the end of the day.

Jim said there are program enhancement funds from Headquarters, but they are not a lot. This year Maria Balota worked with Pioneer to get nice contributions to support our program. Maria said that David Warner helped get the funds from Pioneer. He helped organize the symposium “Technological Advances Driving the Next Green Revolution: High Throughput Phenotyping,” which was held Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 2, 2010.

Larry Purcell said that the due dates for the Z-series symposia are coming up soon. These are “wildcard” symposia that transcend the divisions. They are cross disciplinary. He said they are well attended with a breadth of speakers. The goal is to have different points of view expressed on opposite sides of an issue. Joe Lauer said there are funds to support the Z symposia. Larry said these funds brought in two interesting speakers this year. Maria Balota said one needs to submit a one-page abstract to request funds for a Z symposium. It is due December 31, 2010.

David Baltensperger then spoke. He is chair of the Crop Science Policy Committee. It can influence how Washington, D.C. spends money and in determining priorities. The committee is currently developing a white paper on climate change and how it can be mitigated through crop planting and crop breeding. Its title is “Crop Adaptation to Climate Change.” David is also Chair of the Book and Multimedia Publishing Committee. He would like ideas for books and special publications. Our division is not a heavy utilizer of book publications. He said that, as we think of symposia, we also might think of chapters from the symposia or books coming out of them. Publishing by the tri-Societies is now expanded, and they are now publishing textbooks and children’s books. We should consider publishing children’s books that show the importance of crop physiology. He pointed out that Jennifer MacAdam at Utah State University identified a need for a course at the sophomore level and wrote the textbook combining plant physiology and anatomy.

Jennifer MacAdam then spoke again. She said her book was meant to be a fairly easy book to read. She said Dale Blevins of the University of Missouri offered to join her laboratory via the Internet. There are 28 laboratories that supplement the text via the Internet. She said publishing the book was “no way to make a buck.” For all figures in the book, she had to get consent from the author and publisher to publish them. The permissions from the publishers cost a lot of

money. "It's no way to earn money," Jennifer said. David Baltensperger said to submit ideas for crop science books to Terry Cothren.

Jim Heitholt reported that the number of posters and papers is back up after 2009. They are back to the 2008 level. Last year there were too few oral presentations. This year we had more. This year there were 46 posters, 36 oral presentations, and 13 symposia speakers. In the graduate student competition, there were 13 posters and 15 oral presentations. Jim thanked the judges of the committees in charge of the oral and poster presentations. For the oral presentations, they were Bingru Huang, Nacer Bellaloui, John Read, and Chris Boomsma. For the poster presentations, they were Kevin Pixley, Monica Saini, Bill Schapaugh, and me (Mary Beth Kirkham).

Sarah Lingle then spoke and wants a committee formed to develop rules for the graduate student competition. A motion was made and passed for the formation of this committee. Emily Merewitz, a graduate student from Rutgers University, volunteered to be a student member on the committee. Sarah will be on this committee.

Jim Heitholt said he had taken a new job in the past year (he is heading his department), so he appreciated the help of Maria Balota, who came through, when he did not have time to meet deadlines.

Jim then announced the winners of the graduate student competition.

Oral award winners:

First prize, \$300, Sruthi Narayanan

Second prize (tied), Nicholas Boersma and Emily Merewitz

Poster award winners:

First prize, \$300, Raymond Mutava

Second prize, \$200, John Snider

Third prize, \$100, Jason Haegele

Jim then turned the meeting over to Maria Balota, the new Chair. She thanked Jim and others for their service. She adjourned the meeting at noon.

A sheet was passed around at the business meeting for people to sign and give their e-mail numbers, so they could get e-mails about Division C-2.