



Michigan Branch of the American Society for Microbiology

Board meeting (Zoom)

Thursday, November 7, 2024

1:00-2:30 p.m. EST

MINUTES

In Attendance: Sonia Tiquia-Arashiro (President), Chris Waters (President-Elect), Sara Blumer-Schuetz (Secretary), Melene Alakavuklar, Martha Hutchens, Maribel Okiye, Alexander Rickard, Matt Schnizlein, Kevin Theis, Joshua Thompson

1. Call to order and adoption of the agenda

Ten members in attendance at the start of the meeting. No edits were made to the agenda.

2. Approval of minutes of meeting on August 29, 2024

- No corrections were made, and approved by all in attendance

3. Announcements

- Spring meeting at UM-Dearborn

Sonia shared quotes that she received for catering and the venue. Overall, the price of the space is free, with the exception of fees to keep the building open past regular hours. Sonia's department at UM Dearborn has pledged support to cover those costs. Some discussion was held on the catering quote, and whether or not two coffee breaks were required, which would reduce costs.

- Peggy Cotter Awardee Talks

- Martha reported that Matt's presentation over Zoom for LSSU went well
- Sonia reminded the board that the other two Peggy Cotter awardees are available to give talks in person or over Zoom.

- MI-ASM Young Ambassadors Initiatives

Maribel's initiatives including "Michigan Microbiology News" and the "Your Future STEM Career Series" are off the ground. The newsletter was sent out to all ASM members in Michigan, and the career workshop was held this week (11/6). There are plans to expand the newsletter with articles, microbiologist spotlights. A future initiative is a bioinformatics for microbiologists workshop that was announced TBD in the newsletter

4. Discussion items

- Peggy Cotter Nomination/Peggy Cotter Seminar

Chris W. discussed the Peggy Cotter program in more detail. To encourage more awardee presentation requests at universities, he indicated that the presentations can be informal (meeting with someone's lab), and can also be tailored towards lecture material as a guest lecturer. Because we haven't had many Peggy Cotter Awardee seminars yet, discussion was held on how else PC awardees could be involved. Discussion was also held on how to more

broadly advertise our current Peggy Cotter awardees for speaking opportunities. Chris has a document with information on all three awardees that can be shared with interested faculty.

- Suggestions included participation in MI-ASM Young Ambassador initiatives, or coordinating an event during the MI-ASM annual meeting

For this upcoming year, Peggy Cotter application submission is open. Chris has talked with some early career microbiologists about applying. Reviewers will need to meet before Dec 14th to review and select awardees. Dec 12 to review. Include past winners in the selection process.

- How do we want the ASM Young Ambassadors to be involved in MI-ASM?

- Discussion held and the following suggestions were made: continuing the newsletter, continuing to hold STEM career panels, attend ASM meetings, decide their own initiatives, work with the Pres/ Pres-elect?

- Judging student poster and oral presentations

- Discussion was held on revising the current rubric and streamlining criteria. Sara shared one potential streamlined rubric from UW Milwaukee <https://uwm.edu/our/programs/symposium/judging-sign-up/>
- Discussion also included how we should increase the number of judges so each poster is judged multiple times, and selecting judges ahead of the annual meeting

- Should we move the annual meeting in the Fall?

Input from the board was solicited regarding support to move the annual meeting to fall, rather than spring. This would take into weather considerations for members traveling long distances.

- Feedback regarding the change was not favorable. The discussion included:
 - Undergraduate and newer graduate students not having enough data in fall semester for posters or talks
 - Keeping the current consistency of meetings. MI-ASM annual meetings have been increasingly attended after 2020, and MI-ASM members know when to expect the annual meeting. There is worry that switching to fall would hurt that momentum.
 - A spring meeting is easier to advertise, since those emails would be sent out during the school year rather than summer for a Fall meeting.
 - Some discussion was held regarding weather conditions (snow/ ice) in late fall compared to late spring.

5. Schedule next meeting

- Dec 12th for Peggy Cotter awardee selection

6. Meeting adjourned 1:56pm

