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**Minutes: EPA Annual Board of Directors Meeting**

**2/26/2026; Boston, MA**

**Attendees:** Jennifer Thompson, Maryellen Hamilton, Fanli Jia, Paul Schnur, Patty Brooks, Jef Lamoureux, Jennifer, Travis Todd, Byron Nelson, Shaun Cook, Ashlee Moore, Tamarah Smith, Catherine Caldwell-Harris, Eric Thrailkill, Justin Bonny

President Jef Lamoureux began the meeting at 12:55pm.

Introductions were made. Thanks were given to outgoing members Lindsey, Fanli, and Shaun.

1. Reports (see linked reports for details):

a. PC Chair

- i. This is a great sized conference. 43% larger than last Boston and more than NY. The program committee was excellent. There are many undergraduate posters.
- ii. We need a new Program Chair and several PC committee members.
- iii. Question/response: Can poster sessions at 8am be avoided? Poster sessions at 8am were because of the number of posters; 8am sessions were needed even after adding space to accommodate more in each session. An evening poster session was mentioned as an alternative to the early time.
- iv. Question/response: Can the same topics not be spread across poster sessions? This was also a consequence of having all sessions be full and not having "perfect" numbers to fill each session. This is avoided when possible.
- v. Comment was made about the conflict with other conferences at the same time (e.g., SPSP).
- vi. Big thanks to Tamarah for coordinating the conference planning this year.

b. EO

i. Bylaws edits were proposed.

1. Article III: Motion made to approve the revisions to Article III. They were seconded and approved unanimously.

- a. Application is not how we accept members, so the first Article III edit was deleted.
- b. Addition 9 is a practical addition—we need to remove members who are not active from the active email list. They will still be in the database and can still renew, but they won't get active emails. We changed to 3 years of not being active before inactive status is marked. This was accepted as a friendly amendment.
- c. Change numbering in Article III.

2. Article VI: Motion made to approve changes to Article VI. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

- a. Change to President-Elect duty to issue annual call for Fellows nominations.
- b. Change "Issuing" to "Initiate" in part a (friendly amendment).
- c. After discussion, we agreed to update a procedures document to set a due date for Fellows nominations 2 weeks prior to conference and to move the date for the call for nominations to be sent out to December 1.

3. Article VIII: Motion made to approve changes to Article VIII. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

- a. Article VIII: Similar to point 2, update wording to "initiate" as a friendly amendment.
- b. Change timeline to December 1 for calls for officers and board members to be sent out.

ii. Sponsorship was higher this year (some were in the hallway for space). We might want to reconsider sponsorship levels (we've never had a Platinum level sponsor) and what we offer them. (These sponsorship levels have been in effect 3 years.)

1. Board members should visit with the sponsors and let them know how much we appreciate them.

iii. A letter was attached at the end of the report from a member (Dr. Specht) about the shift toward undergraduates at the conference. The letter was from last year, but may still be relevant.

