

Maize Genetics Cooperation Board of Directors May 18 2022 on Zoom Minutes

Meeting convened 3pm ET

Participants:

Jay Hollick (Chair)
Laurie Smith
David Braun
Lisa Harper
James Schnable
Andrea Eveland
John Fowler
Marna Yandean-Nelson
Natalie Nannas
Ruben Rellan-Alvarez
Thelma Madzima
Candace Hirsch

Motions in blue

1. Open Session with the community

Mateus Mondin joined us from PPG Genética e Melhoramento de Plantas ESALQ (Brazil). He is working on identifying and increasing MGC participation of maize scientists in S. America. He relayed feedback on limitations of the virtual Maize Meeting 2022 lacking opportunities for interaction. Upcoming survey of meeting participants will seek broad input on this. The importance of this issue was widely acknowledged.

2. Prior Meeting Minutes: Motion was made and seconded to approve minutes from March 21 and April 1 meetings; unanimously approved.

3. Announcements/updates

a. Update on NSF support for the Maize Meeting in 2023 and beyond. RCN support for Magnet Awards and other types of participation awards has now ended. A conference grant will be submitted to NSF soon seeking continued support for these awards.

b. Treasurer's update. MGC finances are in good shape post-2022 conference after factoring in all expected income and bills yet to be paid. A solid financial foundation is in place for the 2023 conference.

c. MGC committee chairs should now have access now to their committee's folder on the MGC Google Drive.

4 . Maize Genetics Advocacy Committee (MGAC). Seeking to add international reps from Asia and/or Africa; suggestions requested. Annual community survey is being finalized and will be distributed soon.

5. Membership Committee

- a. MGC has 376 members so far (faculty, other research group leaders, and graduate students make up ~3/4 of these)
- b. Career development workshop for MGC members spring 2022; virtual. Day 1 (Apr. 8) focused on academic careers; day 2 (May 4) focused on industry and other non-academic careers. Participants mostly graduate students and postdocs. Around 100 registrants for each day.

6. CODIE (Committee on Outreach, Diversity, Inclusion, and Education)

- a. MGC is participating in “Roots & Shoots” (R&S), an NSF-funded RCN involving seven plant science societies and aiming to promote cultural change in scientific societies to catalyze growth in participation by scientists who are URM and/or belong to other marginalized groups. Expected outputs include guidelines for conference inclusivity and safety, also for codes of conduct and response mechanisms.
- b. Other activities and next steps: Yearly membership call will go out soon. 21 day challenge is coming up summer 2022. Write up of results from January workshop coming soon as well.

7. Maize Genetics Meeting Steering Committee

- a. Meeting survey has been finalized and will be distributed to participants shortly.
- b. Site selection. Next meeting whose location not yet set by contracts is 2026 (2023 and 2025 will be St. Louis and 2024 Raleigh). Must decide soon on site to avoid losing out on opportunities. Various considerations were discussed. A question inviting community members to share their priorities and concerns will be included in the annual MGAC community survey.
- c. Community Session. The BOD discussed feedback regarding lack of opportunities for community input at the community session of the 2022 Maize Meeting. Ways to ensure this opportunity in future were discussed; coordination with steering committee needed.

Committee Chairs left 4:18pm

8. BoD only

- a. New BOD members they need to find out their institutional Title IX reporting requirements.
- b. BOD needs a new Treasurer in 2023, although current Treasurer will continue for one year as ex officio. Replacement of BOD members, including this position, falls under the authority of the MGC Awards and Nominations Committee (ANC) but advance work identifying candidates is warranted.
- c. Document archives. The BOD discussed the need to ensure long-term preservation of MGC documents, also the broader need for preservation of data and resources housed at MaizeGDB.

Meeting adjourned 4:30pm