

**American Phytopathological Society
Pacific Division Councilor's Report
Gary Grove, Washington State University, Councilor
1 December 2004**

Council had a productive series of meetings in Anaheim. Councilor's Forum was held on Friday morning immediately prior to the daylong Leadership Forum. At the forum division counselors provided feedback regarding presidential travel, the DeBary Bowl and membership-related issues.

1. Journal issues. Because the majority of APS income is derived from our print journals, the long-term profitability of APS Journals remains an essential component of our future. Our society and council continues to grapple with issues surrounding the movement from print to electronic journal distribution. Of particular challenge is how to best maintain our subscription relationships with major university and agricultural libraries.
2. Presidential travel. A changing world has placed many additional demands on the APS President's time. A "lowering of expectations" was discussed at the midyear meeting. The issue was then taken to the divisional memberships in the interim period between then and the Anaheim meeting. In response to input from the presidential lineage and divisional membership, council recommended at Anaheim that the expectations of travel on the part of APS President be lowered. The president will make every attempt to attend divisional meetings, but the visit will probably be limited to one day and they will present a short address on "The State of APS" (or something related to it). It was deemed unreasonable to expect an hour-long research seminar from the President.
3. Awards and honors. Council received recommendations from the Ad Hoc Committee on APS Awards and Honors. The most notable recommendations included moving the deadline for nominations from early January to November 1 and 2) establishing the eligibility of APS Fellows for awards of excellence. Fellows were previously ineligible for awards of excellence. The caveats provide for a five-year grace period between the receiving of the Fellow award and the receiving of an award of excellence. In addition, a person awarded APS Fellow cannot be honored for the same body of work twice. In other words, an award of excellence can be conferred on an APS Fellow only for work apart from that for which the candidate was previously recognized.
4. DeBary Bowl. Council continues to address issues surrounding the DeBary Bowl. Council adopted a more abbreviated format at the 2004 Annual Meeting, but the competition still took over 3 hours. As the competition was held during the graduate student social, many complaints were received from students indicating that the cacophony surrounding the competition precluded socialization with other graduate students. Attendance at the 2004 Bowl was mediocre. Council decided to solicit input from the graduate student committee before future bowls.

5. Leadership Forum. The APS Leadership Forum was held on Friday, July 31. This forum was well attended and useful. Council addressed three focus topic areas. Documents related to these Focus Groups will be made available on the Division Web Site.
- a. **The Ad Hoc Committee on Plant Pathology Priorities** submitted a draft document of council's perusal. Five priority areas were identified:
- 1) Research to develop knowledge-based disease management strategies
 - 2) Research to build knowledge of the biology of plant-microbe interactions
 - 3) Promote the practice of plant pathology
 - 4) Education
 - 5) Communication and cooperation

Priorities 1, 2, and 3 were fairly well defined but much additional input is needed on priorities 4 and 5. Please forward your input to Gary Grove (grove@wsu.edu) or Joyce Loper.

b. Realizing the Potential of APS Committees. Committee structure and function was extensively discussed. Many points of view were offered, among them the need to more activity from some committees and an expanded role (beyond sponsoring symposia, etc., for the annual meeting). One suggested area for further committee activity is inclusion in the APS Awards nomination process.