

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>President's report</b> <b>July 2010</b></p>
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It's a little over a year now since I was persuaded to become president of AMS, and although I was somewhat reluctant to take on this role it has been an enjoyable challenge and I look forward to the rest of my tenure.

Along with me, most of the council members were also new to their jobs in 2009. Diana Leemon took up the position of Vice President, Anthony Francis became treasurer, and Anna Hopkins and Sandra Abell accepted the councilor roles. The only person to continue in his position was Eric Mckenzie, who continues as secretary. With this new council, and following discussions with outgoing President Teresa Lebel, it was decided that an important first step in establishing direction for the society would be to hold a face-to-face council meeting, which we did in September 2009. From this we decided on a number of high priority actions to be undertaken over the following year:

1. Update the website and appoint a webmaster who would be capable of making changes as the need arose;
2. Bring our finances into line and ensure that the auditing was correct to enable our ongoing incorporation as a society;
3. Decide on where, when and how we would hold our next scientific meeting;
4. Ensure that we had not been in breach of any aspects of our constitution;
5. Make changes to the constitution in areas that were clearly out of date, cumbersome or no longer relevant;
6. Begin work on a 5-year strategic plan that would determine the future direction of the society.

I am pleased to report that we have successfully achieved the first 4 of these points.

1. The website has been completely redesigned, and Nai Tran-Dinh has been appointed as webmaster. I am very happy with the look and functionality of the new site, and welcome any feedback on the user experience and any areas for improvement.
2. Anthony worked extremely hard to review the financial situation of AMS, and where necessary has followed up on late fees and any other outstanding items. He has been in regular correspondence with Ken Thomas, our Public Officer in Canberra, over the issues surrounding our ongoing incorporation. At this point we feel confident that AMS is a solvent society and that it will continue to be incorporated.
3. After some discussions it was decided to hold the 2010 AMS meeting in conjunction with the ASM meeting at Sydney. Diana Leemon took on the role of coordinating the meeting along with Wieland Meyer and John Pitt.
4. Breaches to the constitution were noted and rectified: 1) membership fees had been changed without ratification at an AGM, and it was necessary to change these back to their original levels; 2) the new council members had not been nominated prior to the AGM, however it was determined that this was not in breach as the

constitution allows for nominations to be taken from the floor, which was effectively the case; 3) the specified 4 months notification of the 2009 AGM had not been given, and we will be requesting at this meeting that the membership agree that the notice for this meeting had been sufficient.

For point 5, we will be moving to change aspects of the constitution at this meeting and asking the membership to vote on these.

Point 6 is ongoing and may develop in line with the strategic plan already underway with the Fungal Initiative.

There are other areas that we would also like to work toward over the coming year or two; specifically the creation of awards and prizes for members, particularly students; the establishment of education resources and student networks within the Society; development of sponsorship; increasing recruitment of members into the Society; and an ongoing plan for scientific meetings so that these can be done on a regular basis. The council welcomes any feedback on these and any other issues from the AMS membership.

Finally, it remains for me to thank the council members for their enthusiasm and hard work during 2009-10, with particular thanks to Anthony who took on the onerous and thankless job of retrieving some sense out of our financial situation. I also thank Ken Thomas for his help with the legal affairs of the Society, Nai for his support of the website, and Diana, Wieland and John for putting together what promises to be a fabulous 2 day meeting.

We look forward to your continued support of AMS.

Dee Carter  
5 July 2010