

**SEERS Secretary Report—SEERS Business Meeting**

April 18, 2013

Spring 2013 Meeting, Charleston, SC

*David B. Eggleston*  
Outgoing SEERS  
Secretary  
4/24/13

Submitted by: David B. Eggleston, [eggleston@ncsu.edu](mailto:eggleston@ncsu.edu), 252-222-6301

The duties of the SEERS Secretary are to maintain the membership records, meeting minutes, and email ListServe for the Society.

1. Call to order by Bob Virnstein, SEERS President at 4:25PM
2. David Eggleston read the minutes from the Fall 2012 SEERS Business Meeting (Jacksonville, FL).
  - i. The meeting minutes were discussed and a motion to approve was made by Denise Sanger, and seconded by Geno Olmi, and the audience voted to unanimously to approve.
3. Treasurer's report was given by Joan Sheldon
  - i. Budget has had a positive balance since the Spring '12 Meeting in Beaufort, NC
  - ii. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report made by C. Curran, seconded by D. Eggleston, and approved.
4. Changes to SEERS Board
  - (i) Acknowledgement of outgoing SEERS Board Members (Joan Sheldon (Treasurer), David Eggleston (Secretary) and Sylvia Schaefer (Student Rep)) was made by Bob Virnstein, and certificates of appreciation presented.
  - (ii) Acknowledgement of incoming SEERS Board Members (Amanda Kahn (Treasurer), Virginia Shervette (Secretary) and Mary Grace Lemon (Student Rep)) was made by Bob Virnstein.
5. Bob Virnstein congratulated the SEERS Student Travel Award Winners—they were:
  - i. Full Award: Charles Best, GA Regents University; Breanna Korsman, Univ. North FL; Natalie McLenaghan, Univ GA; Ben Toscano, Univ South Carolina; Chanel Young, GA Regents University
  - ii. Partial Award: Melissa Giesking, GA Regents University; Zach Hedley, Univ South Carolina Beaufort; Sierra Mannix, GA Regents University; Loren Matthews, Univ FL; Michelle Zimmerman, University of South Carolina
  - iii. Student Representative Travel Awards: Mary Grace Lemon, UNC-Wilmington; Sylvia Schaefer, Univ GA
  - iv. Bob emphasized the strong student participation in this meeting: 33 student presentations, including 10 by undergraduates, and 28 students participated in judging for the 3-3 poster award.
6. Bob Virnstein solicited feedback from the audience on:
  - (i) How to increase membership?
  - (ii) How to grow the student base?
  - (iii) What special sessions might be most attractive?
  - (iv) Should we have more meetings with affiliates?
  - (v) How best to rank applicants for travel awards?

The ensuing discussion supported the idea of holding joint meetings with affiliates, and how to rank applicants for student awards. Suggestions for the latter included: (i) students should present a budget in their application and make the case for where the SEERS \$ would be needed

in their budget. (ii) both distance and whether or not the student had received a SEERS award in the past, or if it was their first SEERS Meeting, should also be factored into the award process. Lastly, the group suggested that students provide feedback to Mary Grace Lemon for ideas for upcoming workshops and special sessions. Related discussions suggested a "Student-to-Student" gathering at an upcoming SEERS Meeting, and Rick DeVoe of SC Sea Grant suggested that the Sea Grant network can be used to network students with faculty. Bob Virnstein closed this specific discussion reiterating the need for all to complete the meeting questionnaire.

7. Walter Boynton re-iterated that the CERF Meeting will be held in San Diego during Nov 3-7, 2013, and that CERF had allocated \$10k to making student travel awards.

8. Amanda Kahn, Bob Virnstein and Carla Curran re-iterated that students need to provide input to their student rep.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM