

SEERS Spring 2014 Business Meeting
14 February 2014
Georgia Coastal Center, Savannah, GA

Meeting called to order by President Bob Virnstein

Reading of Minutes from previous business meeting

- Previous business meeting was in San Diego, Nov 2013; Mary Grace Lemon (Student Rep) captured notes (in absence of Secretary)
- Read (abbreviated) by Geno Olmi for Virginia Shervette (who was stranded in Aiken by an ice storm)
- Minutes were approved as read

Treasurer's Report (Amanda Kahn)

- \$14,000 in Capital One account
- \$11,896 in Bank of America checking account; this includes tee-shirts purchased in advance of this meeting, but does not include other expenses or revenue from this meeting;
- \$3000 in Sponsorships for this meeting
- Awarding five (\$150) student travel awards for this meeting
- Awarded five student travel awards to CERF 2013 in San Diego
- Also supported travel of one student to Argentine for first international CERF meeting (2012)
- Suggested idea of "building up" reserves during inexpensive meetings to help defray costs of expensive meetings was raised. Some concern expressed by Chandra Franklin that we don't ever want to "take a beating" on meeting costs. **ACTION:** Board will consider this suggestion.
- Students always pay approximately "half price" for meetings – subsidized by regular memberships and sponsorships.
- Account currently "up" – reserves to cover approximately four meetings.
- Suggestion by member Nikki Dix: Consider possibility of an "early professionals" category for registration; she would have liked to bring other young staff biologists but they couldn't afford the travel. **ACTION:** Board will consider this suggestion.
- Treasurer report was approved.

Old Business – Committee Reports

- Local Host – Loren Mathews
 - Banquet at Southbound Brewery; brewery tour, music, and dinner on floor of brewery. Shuttles leave the hotel starting at 6:15 and return to hotel starting at 8:30.
 - Bob thanked Loren for her work as local host and gave to her a letter of accommodation noting her diligence and outstanding performance as local host.
- Program – Carla Curran
 - Program includes the following:
 - 19 posters (6 undergrad student, 7 grad student, and 6 non-student)

- 20 oral presentations (1 undergrad, 8 grad student, 11 non-student)
 - Special session with 5 oral presentations
- Everything going well despite some program changes due to travel interruptions (ice storm)
- Please let Carla know if there are any questions or concerns
- Nominations – Denise Sanger
 - Usually have election in advance of spring meeting, but have not been able to identify a candidate for President elect; working to do so
 - Have a candidate for Program Chair
 - When candidate for Pre-elect is identified, a slate of candidates will be sent to membership for voting.

Special Business

- As noted above, elections on hold for President-elect and Program Chair
- President Bob Virnstein welcomed new President, Geno Olmi, and handed him the SEERS gavel (actually a crab mallet).
- President Geno Olmi acknowledge the dedicated service of outgoing SEERS Board members:
 - Past President Denise Sanger (who finally leaves the Board after a six-year sentence)
 - President Bob Virnstein, who is stuck on the Board for another two years
 - Program Chair Carla Curran
 - Member-at-large Ed Proffitt
 - Local Host Loren Mathews

New Business (Geno Olmi)

- Upcoming Meetings - No decision yet on Fall 2014 or Spring 2015 SEERS meetings. Suggestions for joint meeting with AERS or GERS.
- NC and FL up in rotation schedule.
- **ACTION** – Board will continue to investigate options and notify membership, via list-serve and web site, of location and dates.

Student Travel Awards

- President Geno Olmi honored the SEERS student travel award winners with a check for \$150 each.
 - John Booker, College of Charleston
 - Amanda Croteau, University of Florida
 - Geoffrey Smith, University of Florida
 - Lauren Hehman, University of South Carolina
 - Alexandra Norelli, University of South Carolina

Other Announcements

- None

A motion to adjourn was seconded, and Geno Olmi adjourned the business meeting at 5:07 pm.

Note: business meeting notes were captured by Denise Sanger (Virginia iced-in in Aiken).

Saturday 15 February 2014

Student Presentation Awards

- Geno Olmi presented the presentation awards at the end of the SEERS meeting (not part of the business meeting)
- Presentation award winners were:
 - Undergrad oral: John Brooker, College of Charleston
 - Undergrad poster: Alexandra Norelli, Univ. of SC
 - Graduate oral: Lauren Hehman, Univ. of SC
 - Graduate Poster: Cameron Brinton, Savannah State Univ
 - 3-3 award: Ashton Arnold, Savannah State Univ.