



Minutes from Executive Committee Conference Calls

This meeting of the Executive Committee was held over a conference call and was called to order by Chair Chris Bannochie at 3:00 PM. In attendance were Dr. Bannochie, Terry Say, Tad Whiteside, Stuart Burris, Ann Sullivan, Dennis Merat, and Tim Hanks. This represents a quorum of the Executive Committee, with only Secretary Keith Hollis not attending. Chair Bannochie asked Tim Hanks to record the minutes of the meeting.

The first item of business was a proposed Code of Conduct for ACS Volunteers and meeting attendees. This document is based upon the Code of Conduct for National Meetings that was recently adopted by the ACS. The document had been circulated to the Committee prior to the phone meetings and there was little discussion as to its contents. One major question was why such a document was necessary and the Committee learned that the ACS felt this was necessary due to a negative event at a recent National Meeting. After some more discussion Stuart moved that we adopt the Code as written. This was seconded by Ann and approved unanimously (7:0). The Code will be posted on the SERMACS website and placed in the program book at each SERMACS.

The next topic was a draft policy for the Regional Awards program. The Region currently gives out up to four awards at each SERMACS meeting including: (1) ACS Division of Chemical Education Southeastern Region Award for Excellence in High School Teaching (2) E. Ann Nalley Regional Award for Volunteer Service to the American Chemical Society, (3) the Regional Industrial Innovation Award, and (4) Stanley C. Israel Regional Award for Advancing Diversity in the Chemical Sciences. A fifth award, the "Partners for Progress and Prosperity Regional Award" may begin as early as 2015, depending on funding from the ACS. This draft policy outlines the responsibilities of the Region Board and the Awards Committee to solicit nominations, to select award winners and to administer the awards each year. Some points of the policy were clarified, including the cash award levels: 1) Teacher award will be \$1000 plus travel expenses of up to \$1000, except for years when the meeting is held jointly with the Southwest. In those years, the cash award will be \$2000 as is the Southwest award. 2) The Volunteer Service Award will now include both a plaque and a check for \$1000 to keep it in line with the other awards. In addition to these changes, some refinements were made to the nomination forms to make them more informative and easier to use. The revisions to the document were approved unanimously (Dennis moved,

Terry seconded) and will be presented to the full Board in November. Ann agreed to make the corrections to the document.

The third topic for the meeting was a discussion of the SERMACS Bylaws. A draft of a revision of the Bylaws was passed around for comment. Many of the changes were simple wording updates, but there were some substantive changes regarding finances and the bid process. These proposed changes will be consolidated and circulated among the Executive Committee for approval before sending them out for approval by the Local Sections. Chris will assemble the revised document and then request comment from Michelle. The goal is to have the changes ready for a vote by the Board in August so that it can go out to the local sections for ratification in September.

The final topic was the Memphis meeting (2015) preliminary budget. This has been revised significantly from the document presented to the Board in Atlanta. After some additional comment, Tim moved for approval and Terry seconded. The budget was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Hanks