



Minutes of Executive Committee Conference Call of August 28, 2014

This meeting of the Executive Committee was held over a conference call and was called to order by Chair Chris Bannochie at 4:02 PM. In attendance were Chris 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. Ann Sullivan volunteered to take notes of the meeting.

Approval of the minutes from the 16 April 2014 Conference Call was tabled.

Old Business

1. A question was asked by Terry Say about how long the SERMACS 2013 meeting website should be maintained. The general discussion was that the website should be maintained for 1 year after the meeting or until the following meeting begins.
2. A discussion of a motion that was passed at the 2011 Steering committee for Undergraduate Travel Awards in which Student winners from local sections should be encouraged to attend SERMACS. It was proposed that we honor six undergraduates with travel subsidies to attend SERMACS and present their poster at a reception. Six awards @\$500.00 = \$3,000. Discussion of this motion indicated that SERMACS does not have trouble with encouraging student attendance to the meeting. Therefore, a motion was made by Tad Whiteside and seconded by Tim Hanks.

Motion: The motion was to withdraw the Undergraduate Travel Awards as an initiative of the board. No discussion occurred. The motion passed unanimously.

3. A discussion of the proposed changes to the Bylaws occurred with discussion of the amounts of expenditure that needs Board approval. A second discussion occurred about the inclusion of a historical list of all SERMACS meeting since 1949. This was considered a good idea. The Bylaws will be presented at the 2014 SERMACS meeting in Nashville. The work of Chair Bannochie and Treasurer Whiteside was commended. A motion was made by Tim Hanks and seconded by Dennis Merat.

Motion: The motion was to notify and provide each local section, officers and

councilors, in the Southeast Region a copy of the changes to the Bylaws by close of business 2 September 2014 for discussion and comment to be received by close of business 2 October 2014. No discussion occurred. The motion passed unanimously.

4. A discussion of the initiative to increase local section involvement in the SERMACS, Inc. Steering Committee, which was approved at the Atlanta SERMACS Steering Committee meeting in 2013 began. The travel stipend to local section representatives would cost as much as \$5550 to implement (\$150 per section for up to 37 local sections). An email had been sent previous to this conference call to all local section officers and councilors announcing this initiative. Few local sections (approximately five) have taken advantage of this stipend so far. A second email will be sent to the local sections as a reminder of this initiative.
5. Treasurer Whiteside reviewed the balances of the present accounts and the expenditures that have occurred over the last year to date.
An approved expenditure of funds made at the Steering committee meeting in Atlanta of \$5000 for promotional materials for the SERMACS meeting to be distributed at the National or Regional meeting booths at the National meeting will be made. Several items are under consideration and will contain the SERMACS, Inc. brand and logo.
There are sufficient funds in the various accounts to allow for all business needs. There are significant funds in the endowment fund that could be placed into a more secure or conservative fund and perhaps show larger returns for SERMACS, Inc. A motion was made by Tim Hanks and seconded by Tad Whiteside.
Motion: The motion was to invest the endowment fund into a conservative fund with review of the chosen fund by the treasurer, chair and immediate past chair. The review was added as an amendment upon discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
6. Chair Bannochie introduced Dr. Linette Watkins as a possible candidate for Chair-Elect of the Steering Committee. Dr. Watkins was a member of the Southwest Regional Board since 2008, General Chair of the 2011 Southwest Regional Meeting. She recently moved to Virginia and is the Chair of the Chemistry Department at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. She is very active in divisions and local, regional and national affairs of the ACS. Dr. Watkins will be attending SERMACS 2014 and the Steering Committee in Nashville.
7. The Steering committee meeting will be held during the SERMACS 2014 meeting on Sunday, 19 October 2014 beginning with breakfast at 8:30 AM with the regular business meeting to begin at 9:15 AM

New Business.

1. A discussion occurred about the non profit status of SERMACS, Inc. It was brought to the attention of the ACS national that the non profit status of several of the regional boards may be lapsed. The requirement is that the non profit status must be renewed every two years. ACS national took over the registration several years ago and are currently determining if any of the regional meetings need to be renewed.
2. A discussion occurred about the American Association of Chemistry Teachers. The yearly membership is \$50. SERMACS gives an Education Award in the region to one high school teacher nominated by their local section. The nomination packets are kept for three years in which the teacher can be selected for the award. A motion was made by Ann Sullivan and seconded by Dennis Merat.

Motion: The motion was to provide AACT membership to the Education awardee. The motion was amended. The new motion was for SERMACS, Inc. to pay for a one-year AACT membership to all teachers nominated by their local section in 2014 and all previous nominations that are currently being considered for the Education Award in 2014. Subsequently in the following years, SERMACS, Inc. will pay for a one-year AACT membership to new nominations for that year. Clarification of the number of awards to be granted was discussed. In 2014, the number of nominations would be approximately 10 to 15 with the same number of paid memberships. There are generally 3 to 5 new nominations and approximately 10 previous nominations that are considered each year. The question was called. The motion passed unanimously.

3. A question was proposed as discussion for the Steering Committee. Is it time to extend the SERMACS, Inc. brand for other meetings as an endorsement or co-endorsement? Tim Hanks will draft a proposal for the Steering Committee to consider.

The conference call adjourned at 4:50 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Sullivan