



**SERMACS Inc. Board Meeting Minutes**  
**October 22, 2022**  
**San Juan, Puerto Rico**

I. Call to Order (Brent Feske) 8:15 AM (EST)

The meeting was called to order by SERMACS Inc. Chair, Chris Bannochie at 8:15 AM on Saturday November 13, 2021 at Sheraton, East Meeting Room N, in Birmingham, Alabama.

**ATTENDANCE:** Executive Committee: Jordan Poler (Carolina Piedmont, Past Chair); Will Lynch (Coastal Georgia Section, SERMACS 2019); Brent Feske (Coastal Georgia, Chair-Elect); Chris Bannochie (Savannah River, Chair); Tad Whiteside (Savannah River, Treasurer); Herman Holt, Jr. (Western Carolinas, Secretary); Tracy Hamilton (Alabama, SERMACS 2021); Ingrid Montes (Puerto Rico, SERMACS 2022)

**Regional Board In-Person Attendees:**

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>District</b>
Keenan	Dungey	Chattanooga
Katherine	Glasgow	North Carolina
Sara	Johnson	Wilson Dam
Amanda	Carroll	Nashville
Chris	Chouinard	Orlando
Brandon	Tutkowski	Carolina Piedmont
Shelley	Smith	Mississippi
Zach	Davis	Western Carolinas
William	Alexander	Memphis
Brandon	Magers	Mississippi
Lisa	Houston	PAC, LP, BOD SERMACS 2022
Jennifer	Hawk	Western Carolinas

DRAFT

Regional Board Remote Attendees via Zoom:

First Name	Last Name	District
Al	Hazari	East Tennessee
Shariffa	Love-Rutledge	North Alabama
Monica Marie	Arroyo	Puerto Rico
Mary	Engelman	Northeast Tennessee
Cheryl	Trusty	Georgia
Carmen	Gauthier	Florida
Linette	Watkins	Virginia
Deborah Bromfield	Lee	Florida
Zaida C.	Morales-Martinez	South Florida
Bommanna G.	Loganathan	Kentucky Lake
Scott	Goode	South Carolina

II. Remembrance for Prof. John Z. Larese (May 4, 1954 – November 1, 2021)

Tad Whiteside provided a reading honoring John Larese

III. Elections

a) Chair-Elect - nominations

Mary Engleman was nominated and seconded (Coastal Georgia) for Chair-Elect

Approved - Unanimously

b) Interim action of the board

Chair-Elect Feske appointed Will Lynch as Treasurer to fulfill the remainder of John Larese's (deceased) term

The Board will elect a treasurer for a 3-year term in 2022

c) Elections for 2022

Chair-Elect (preside over SERMACS 2024), Secretary, and Treasurer

IV. Meeting Bids for 2026

a) Memphis section – William Alexander U. of Memphis

Molecules in Memphis – Bridging Chemistry and Society

Bridging healthcare, industry etc. for not silo non-academic entities

Large changeover in leadership – considered a plus

2021 Planning retreat (led by Bill Carroll; Larry Krannick)

Leadership Team – Tim Brewster (GC) and Will Alexander (co-Chair); Will Eckenhoff (co-Chair) and others were named on the leadership team

Emphasized hospitality

Upgraded venue – Renasant Convention Center

46 flexible meeting rooms

600 rooms – 450 Room block available Sheraton \$175?

Crowne Plaza 150 room block \$165

Loews Hotel – 500 rooms/convention center

15 rooms plus concourse at convention center

Memphis International Airport

Keynotes from Academia and outside academia

DEI Symposium

Undergraduate Program – dedicated organizer (Chuck Garner)

HS Educators/Student Program

Awards

#### Q&A

- 1) Penciled in but can't book convention center 14 months before meeting a noted concern. William indicated he could review Convention Center policy.
- 2) Pandemic clauses? Force majeure? This language will be included.
- 3) How will you decide if you need to go bigger? Likely will need to go bigger. Provided minimum specs to get the space.
- 4) Loews hotel in progress so have there been discussions about contracting with them?
- 5) Lots from academia in leadership. It would be nice to identify someone from Industry as part of the leadership team. No representation from industry/healthcare.
- 6) Travel grants to get sponsored by industry.

7) Projections are a bit low and inconsistent relative to previous meeting numbers was a noted comment. Previous meeting organizers stated that “this group” will not allow a projection above 900 attendees for the 2015 meeting.

b) Western Carolinas – Zachary Davis – Western Carolinas

Not bidding

Downtown convention Center not approved

Hoping to present next year for a bid

Mentioned sponsors Michelin, Millikin, Soloras lighting.

Commentary related to the bid was provided.

Eastman took van loads to Memphis

Motion – Coastal Georgia

Second – Northeast Tennessee

None opposed

Awarded 2026 to Memphis – They should also be provided the comments.

#### V. Meeting Reports

a) 2022 Puerto Rico (final budget approval) – Ingrid Montes (General Chair); Nestor Carballeira (Program Chair)

Exhibition and poster session moved

16 educational meeting rooms

Hotels

Sheraton \$189

Hyatt Place \$160

MacMillian, Wilson, Warner, and JACS editor

Chemistry festival outreach event – Festival de Quimica (Friday morning)

Puerto Rican night and luncheons for socials

24 different symposia

Need organic, biochemistry, and

Rev: \$321,057 Expenses \$283,100 Net: \$37,957.

Need to see budget for approval

Started at 1500 but we needed to lower it.

Why no commitment to the mobile app?

Things have changed since the pandemic

Needs to have ease of access to the programming

Builds community amongst app users

What are we approving and Commitment from SERMACS?

Approving liability 10% of expenses (\$28,310)

Motion – will

Second – Cheryl Trusty, GA

Approved 14 in-person; 11 Zoom

b) 2023 North Carolina – Katherine Glasgow

Meeting presentation will be provided

c) 2024 Atlanta – AJ Mallia

LOC formed; MOU signed

AJ General Chair; Mark Mitchell Program Chair

Advancie and Transforming lives through Chemistry

October 16-19

Venue selection – work in progress working with ACS Regional Meeting

Three turn downs due to space to ratio; Looking Hyatt and Sheraton

d) 2025 Orlando (Joint Meeting with SW Region) – Chris Chouinard

Meeting presentation will be provided

VI. Officer Reports

a) Past Chair report - Polar

Chair-elect female adds diversity

Great awards ceremony this week

b) Chair Report

Looking at meeting numbers

Wanted to discuss bylaws

Will send to steering committee

Have two months to review

Hope to wrap up by mid-January with fresh bylaws in 2022

c) Chair-Elect report – Brent Feske

Chair of bylaws committee

Discussed bylaws changes

d) Treasurer report – Tad Whiteside

No funds output in 2021 as of date

e) Secretary

Meeting minutes approved from 2020

Contingency plans

Abstracts

f) 2021 Report – Tracy Hamilton

\$187,605 revenue

\$10000 from Oakwood Chemical

\$5000 Merck sponsorship (not allowed to travel)

Over 1400 (1422) registrations – projected 1000

Total abstracts 1223

Large number of undergraduates

ACS should improve how undergraduate registrations are done

Furman brought over 50 students

Discussed problems leading up to SERMACS 2021

Wifi not part of the contract so had to pay extra for it.

Couldn't visit during pandemic

Restaurants closed in the hotel

Hotel/Convention center communication issues

30 grad schools, but not enough space for more.

No mobile app

g) ACS Staff

ACS National no longer have a mobile app

Possibly bringing back Cvent

No RMPC programming during the pandemic

Meeting adjourned 11:22PM CST