



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

I. Call to Order (Brent Feske) 8:06 AM (EST)

The meeting was called to order by SERMACS Inc. Chair, Brent Feske at 8:06 AM on Saturday October 22, 2022 at Convention Center in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

ATTENDANCE: Executive Committee: Chris Bannochie (Savannah River, Past Chair); Tracy Hamilton (Alabama, SERMACS 2021); Brent Feske (Coastal Georgia, Chair); Mary Engelman (East Tennessee, Chair-Elect); Will Lynch (Coastal Georgia Section, Treasurer); Herman Holt, Jr. (Western Carolinas, Secretary); Ingrid Montes (Puerto Rico, SERMACS 2022); Katherine Glasgow (North Carolina, SERMACS 2023)

Regional Board In-Person Attendees:

First Name	Last Name	Section
Keenan	Dungey	Chattanooga
Chris	Chouinard	Orlando
Ryan C	Fortenberry	Ole Miss
Pamela	Leggett-Robinson	Georgia
Linette	Watkins	Virginia
Milagros	Delgado	South Florida
Johnson	Agbo	South Carolina
Xinyu	Zhang	Auburn
Cliff	Padgett	Coastal Georgia
Brent	Eldridge	Lexington
Zach	Davis	Western Carolinas
Patrick	Ward	Savannah River
Ajay	Mallia	Georgia
Dorian	Canelas	North Carolina
Dmitry	Liskin	Hampton Roads
Timothy	Brewster	Memphis
Elizabeth	Walters	ENS ACS district V
John	Engelman	Northeast Tennessee
Amanda	Carroll	Nashville
Brandon	Tutkowski	Carolina-Piedmont
Robert	Yokley	Central North Carolina
Peter	Rosado	Middle Georgia

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes: Review and Acceptance of 2021 Steering Committee Minutes – Secretary - Herman Holt

The Board voted to approve with one friendly correction - Add Ajay Mallia to the attendance list.

III. Elections

a) Chair-Elect (2023-2025) - nominations

Clifford Padgett (Coastal Georgia) was nominated and on the ballot for Chair-Elect

Vote: Unanimous

b) Treasurer (2023-2025) - nominations

Will Lynch (Coastal Georgia Section) was nominated and on the ballot for Treasurer

Vote: Unanimous

c) Secretary (2023-2025) – nominations

There were two nominations on the ballot:

a) Chris Bannochie (Savannah River)

b) Tracy Hamilton (Alabama)

Each candidate provided a statement to the committee

Tracy Hamilton was elected as Secretary by hand vote. Vote count: 16-9-1

d) Nomination Committee (Call for Volunteers)

Cheryl Trustee, Mary Engelman, and Christopher Bannochie will serve in this capacity.

IV. Meeting Bids for 2027 (Mary Engelman presiding due to COI)

a) Coastal Georgia – Brent Feske (Coastal Georgia)

Savannah, GA for 2027

Leadership: GC Lynch/Feske; PC Feske; Expo: Weiland; Treasurer: Penland; Market Zingales; Grad: Padgett; Awards Lobue; YCC/EVnts: Guillet

The leadership shows representation from the previous meeting suggesting great experience to benefit the meeting preparation;

Meetings from 2001 and 2019 were profitable, \$42K and \$113K respectively

Theme: Ghost Coast Chemistry - Halloween theme - pre-Halloween

Marriott Savannah Riverfront and the Westin and Convention Center

Going later into the year tends to see a hotel rate go up closer to November.

Motion: GA

Second: Augusta

Motion passed Unanimously

Q&A

- 1) Question regarding planning around hurricanes was rendered. Force majeure is now in contracts moving forward.
- 2) Discussion around where meetings are up to 2027 and where it might be in 2028 occurred.

V. Meeting Reports

a) 2023 North Carolina (Final Budget Approval) – Katherine Glasgow (North Carolina, General Chair)

Budget report provided by Katherine; moved to 1500 attendees budgeted - over 2000 in the last hosted meeting, so conservative budget; Budget based on 2018 and 2021 comparisons; advance fees only in budget; Focused on making the meeting economical for students; expo/grad 40 and 30; typical luncheons; sponsorships Eastman @\$10K and Vertellus @\$8K

Durham Convention Center with adjoining Durham Arts Center; May leverage Carolina Theater as a possible additional space for plenary, etc.; One Nobel talk; many volunteers stepping up; 100 rooms T/F and 125 W/R @\$205; F&B\$35K; AV \$50K; State Fair in Raleigh could create traffic and tried to stay away from that date.

Question about F&B came up and was discussed; cost of food on the rise and thus should be taken into account; no cost of living adjustment was made.

Need to approve the budget: Budget was approved unanimously.

b) 2024 Atlanta – Ajay Mallia (Georgia, General Chair)

Two years out presentation

Program Chair: Mark Mitchell

Treasurer: Holly Davis

Awards: Joe Stoner

Webmaster: David Gottfried

There was a suggestion to look at the RFP to make sure it reflects your needs when planning SERMACS

MOU is complete

Venue selection - in progress; need to resubmit the revised RFP on CVENT; possibility Signia (Hilton) near GWCC that will open in 2024; rejected by hotels due to low F&B; other approval by Sheraton;

Finances: Fundraising \$30K; exhibits \$48K; Grad \$10.5K; Grants \$25K; Registration @ 1500 attendees \$185 advanced; Grad\$100; UG \$70. F&B @\$78K;

*Whether or not we offer virtual options for meetings was discussed. Since incorporated in DC, must follow DC rule, thus must be in our bylaws that we would offer virtual meeting options; Exec committee can take that up to change bylaws

*Access for students, both with virtual and with meeting cost was discussed. Keep cost down for students overarching core value.

*Need to consider the tech savvy support for virtual meetings; hybrid creates complications; presiders are not necessarily tech savvy.

*Travel awards for schools less likely to participate or have not traditionally represented at SERMACS suggested.

*Puerto Rico got some healthy donations to support student attendance and lunches.

Timeline to finalize hotel is uncertain

Brianne discussed the balancing act of hotel selection process.

Tentative Program provided for W-S October 16 - October 19, 2024

c) 2025 Orlando (Joint with SWRM) Chris Chouinard (Orlando, General Co-chair)

Three years out presentation (verbal update)

Dr. Chouinard took a position at Clemson but committed to running the meeting; Orlando section wanted someone physically in Orlando (Chris Avery) elected as co-Chair for 2025. Adv./Market Chairs still being examined; other roles still be examined for leadership opportunities.

“Chemistry in the Sunshine” is the theme.

Venue planning - RFP in early 2023.

Tentative date: not yet; want to remain flexible, but early November dates seem to be least expensive.

d) 2026 Memphis – Timothy Brewster (General Co-chair)

First week of November in Renaissance Convention Center where Sheraton Hotel is attached; Crown Plaza down the street @\$180/night. Need to replace the treasurer as Memphis section treasurer is taking that on for now.

“Molecules in Memphis - Bridge to the Future”

Diverse background for Program chairs

One or two industrial specific symposia

General co-chair with Will

Program co-chairs - Nate Deyonker (U. Mem) and William Eckenhoff (Rhodes)

VI. Officer Reports

a) Immediate Past Host Section Report – Birmingham – Tracy Hamilton a. Final Budget (attached) b. Final Report (attached) – Discussion item SERMACS website/timeline

Revenue: \$233350.65

Expenses: \$167425.80

Profit: \$65924.85

SERMACS Inc. Share \$13K for return of the loan

Regular registrations = 1258 (1200 estimate)

Sponsor actual = \$51491.97

Exhibits: \$23700 (budget \$49K)

Major Meeting Expenses

AV \$45840.05 (\$40K est)

Symposia \$38583.78

Tracy Hamilton provided some major lessons learned

-Resilience

- Active websites two years in advance and SERMACS Inc. Link prominently
- MAPS worked well or program chair.
- Using a meeting app is a must.
- You cannot foresee everything; be prepared to be nimble.
- Experience matters in important key roles.
- It was mentioned that having the poster session during the social was good. It did create a potentially bad experience for the presenters since it was a little darker (lighting) during that time.
- It would be good to allow the current meeting to remain the prominent meeting and afterwards, bring the next meeting to the forefront.
- SERMACS social media was suggested to be examined

Great meeting in Birmingham and through the COVID pandemic challenges.

b) Current Meeting Update: SERMACS 2022 General Chair – Ingrid Montes (Update on SERMACS 2022)

1530 attendees 768 Members 758 non-members

38 exhibitors

50 grad schools

57 major sponsors

REG revenue \$161K?

Puerto Rican night was successful

83 different sessions

Meeting uniqueness - many different countries represented

Offered symposia that were hybrid modality, including 50 participants that were virtual

Sign language interpreters

Inclusion moment in each plenary

Student anxiety was considered and provided a quiet room location; encouraged next meetings to consider.

More than 1000 kids at Festival de Chimie

LSAC grant - interaction between regional leaders and Puerto Rican
Space for members to interact with board members
ACS on campus was a highlight
Several other activities, events, and meetings were mentioned by Montes
The local news provided a 5 minute news report about SERMACS
Abstract count about 1230 before hurricane, close to 1000 after hurricane

c. Awards Discussion – Past Chair – Chris Bannochie

Regional awards

Stan Israel Award: Pamela Leggett Robinson

Ann Nalley Award: Lynette Watkins

ACS Division High School Teaching Award: *Colorado Florida person*

Industrial Innovation Award: *Dow Chemical representative*

SERMACS the only region to present Industrial Innovation award. Do we want to continue this award? It was awarded in 2022 but not awarded in 2019 and 2018. *This will be further discussed in 2023 and spearheaded by Mary Engleman (Chair, 2023); Section members seem to be in agreement that sections should make this a priority moving forward and will consider nominations for making this award and reaching out to industry partners.

*P3 Award - up for discussion as \$1200 is remaining to award. This award goes away with the last one issued. It was last awarded/issued in 2021.

Awards should be made obvious. A future priority for Executive Committee.

Commentary: We should be making nominations in the local sections; Chairs don't have to report on their efforts in the end. Sections should know who they will be nominate; not enough award winners in the southeast. Should make a statement to LSAC who control the report.

c) Chair Report Brent Feske (By-Law Committee: By-laws were voted and updated summer 2022)

d) Chair-Elect Report – Mary Engelman

No report

e) Treasurer report – Will Lynch

Holdings: \$217,958

Meeting loss: \$90,503

Investments: \$124,098

Endowment: \$110,609

P3: \$1200

General: \$15646

Treasurer moved \$10K to checking to cover this meeting.

2021-2022 balance sheet was presented at the meeting

Motion and seconded to move \$20K (or corrected amount as presumed by the Treasurer) from Meeting loss to Endowment (motion passed with one member opposed)

Website domain costs and purchases not well outlined. Proposal to buy sites through 2030. The cost is “small” but it will protect the brand of SERMACS. Question about why separate and not part of SERMACS Inc. main website? This will keep it in one place and more secure. Executive Committee will make the determination of whether to keep with SERMACS, Inc. or to buy new separate websites. Will it be able to keep past sites? Desire to keep as many past sites as possible.

The Board Meeting was adjourned (motioned and seconded) at 11:06 AM.