



SERMACS Inc. Board Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2023
Durham, North Carolina

I. Call to Order (Mary Engelman) 8:02 AM (EST)

The meeting was called to order by SERMACS Inc. Chair, Mary Engelman at 8:02 AM on Saturday October 28, 2023 in Meeting Rooms 1&2, Durham Convention Center.

ATTENDANCE: Executive Committee: Brent Feske (Coastal Georgia, Past Chair); Tracy Hamilton (Alabama, Secretary); Mary Engelman (East Tennessee, Chair); Clifford Padgett (Coastal Georgia, Chair-Elect); Will Lynch (Coastal Georgia Section, Treasurer); Mitk'El B Santiago-Berríos (Puerto Rico, SERMACS 2022, standing in for Ingrid Montes); Katherine Glasgow (North Carolina, SERMACS 2023); Ajay Mallia (Georgia, SERMACS 2024)

Steering Committee In-Person Local Section Representatives:

Name	Local Section
Kevin Shaughnessy	Alabama
Brandon Quillian	Coastal Georgia
Keenan Dungey	Chattanooga
Al Hazari	East Tennessee
Mark Mitchell	Georgia
Dmitry Liskin	Hampton Roads
Tim Brewster	Memphis
Wathsala Medawala	Middle Georgia
Amanda Carroll	Nashville
Christopher Chouinard	Orlando
Mitk'El B Santiago-Berríos	Puerto Rico
Chris Bannochie	Savannah River
Shipra Gupta	Southwest Georgia
Christian Tang	Tampa Bay
John Engelman	Tenn / Virg. Highlands

Linette Watkins	Virginia
Jennifer Hawk	Western Carolinas
Humayun Kabir	Wilson Dam
Jordan Poler	Carolina-Piedmont
Brent Eldredge	Lexington
Kyle Lambert	Hampton Roads

Guests: Lisa Houston (ACS Board of Directors, District IV); Dorian Candas (North Carolina, SERMACS 2023 Program Chair); Nicoalas Smith (Virginia); Alyson Freitas (ACS Staff); Brianne Blevins (ACS Staff); Sydney Vranna (ACS Staff)

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes: Review and Acceptance of 2022 Steering Committee Minutes – Secretary – Tracy Hamilton

Unanimous approval with no corrections.

III. Treasurer Report – Will Lynch

Numbers are current as of Oct 28, 2023.

\$228,397 in checking, savings and investment accounts.

\$1200 in the P3 fund

\$98,122 in meeting loss account is appropriate

Will discussed the Income (\$17,928)and Expenses (\$15,024) in detail, big drivers are exec committee travel, local section registrations, awards, then website

The extra \$1000 to the high school teacher came from a combined SERMACS/SWRM meetings

Proposed SERMACS, Inc budget

Discussion of the recognition awards – ACS did this in the past, SERMACS Exec will make sure it happens. In Puerto Rico was \$1000, a motion was made and seconded to add \$200 for awards to recognize ACS staff and meeting organizers. – passed

Budget passed unanimously (estimated income \$16,627 – from dividend income ~\$3000, plus 20% of profit for 2022 meeting = \$13,267). Total budgeted expenses are \$15,580.

Investments are \$137,607 , up \$7000

IV. Elections

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

Nominations for Chair-Elect (2023 – 2025)

1. Brent Feske (Coastal Georgia)
2. Dane Scott (Tennessee Virginia Highlands)

Nominating Committee (Call for Volunteers)

Brent went first – His speech was that he feels like he finally has a good grasp of SERMACS, Inc. He changed bylaws , and has a good idea of future changes that may need to be made.

Dane – His speech noted his experience in SWRM when he was a member of the Oklahoma section, and has served as chair of two sections twice. His current section is Tennessee Virginia Highlands (formerly named the NE TN section).

Chris Bannochie points out that Brent would be both future meeting chair and past chair, which would reduce the SERMACS, Board by one member.

Linette Watkins points out that this has a precedent with Jordan Poler as a member of the elected office and SERMACS 2017 General Chair.

Tim Brewster points out the Board is already a Georgia heavy exec committee.

A secret ballot was distributed and counted. The results were

Dane Scott – 9
Brent Feske - 16

The current officers (and their terms) are

Treasurer Will Lynch term (2023-2025)
Secretary Tracy Hamilton term (2023-2025)
Brent Feske, Chair-elect
Mary Engelman, Chair, will become past Chair of SE Region in 2024
Cliff Padgett, Chair-elect, will become Chair of SE Region in 2024
General Chair of 2022, Ingrid Montes, rotates off
General Chair of 2023, Katherine Glasgow
General Chair of 2024, Ajay Mallia

The representative from SERMACS 2025, Chris Chouinard, rotates on in 2025

d) Nomination Committee (Call for Volunteers)

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

Recognition

Mary Engelman recognized

Board of Director members Will Lynch and Lisa Houston

ACS Staff - Alyson Freitas, Brianne Blevins, Sydney Vranna

V. Meeting Bids for 2028 (Mary Engelman presiding)

a) Hampton Roads - Dmitry Liskin and Kyle Lambert (general co-chairs)

Dmitry is Councilor, has been local section chair

The section had a rough time during covid, there is new leadership

Letter of endorsement from Shimadzu

Virginia Beach – large convention center, 7000 hotel rooms

Virginia Beach is called the Neptune city

Guijun Wang has agreed to be one co-program chair

Student heavy in section, lot of local industry in area

Hampton Roads chose the Virginia Beach convention center, walkable, close to attractions

price drops dramatically at the end of tourist season

Hampton Roads members have already talked to the tourism board

Virginia Beach has sponsored biotech meeting past two meetings - bioaccelerator

Academic sponsors and potential industry sponsors have been identified

Questions:

Will Lynch – How far to other region? 2 hours to DC. May need to recruit some MARM.

Ajay Mallia – Is there a connected hotel? Doubletree is right beside it

Linette Watkins – have you talked to Virginia? Dmitry said that they tried to contact Anne Sullivan, Linette is willing to be the contact in Virginia section

Chris Bannochie moves to accept bid, Will Lynch seconds

Discussion:

Will says it is on margin of the region

Brent says Alyson will look into being able to target nearby states, Sydney Vranna says it can be done

Ajay voices concern over one bid only, mentions the need to publicize bid better

Jordan Poler maybe ACS can send request for SERMACS bid to all members

Al Hazari – also suggested an earlier request for bid

Mary Engelman encourages each representative to go back to their leadership about bidding for future meetings

Jordan Poler – example of successful bid should be included in a communication requesting bids

Question called for a vote. Hampton Roads representatives left the room, vote was unanimous after a brief discussion

Will mentions that another section was to put in a bid until two weeks before

Chris Bannochie mentions this bid as a success for the process

VI. Future Meeting Reports

a) 2024 – Georgia (Final Budget Approval) – presented by Ajay Mallia (General Chair)

Chris Bannochie: hopes this is the last iteration of MOU wrt who signs contracts

75th SERMACS

Organizing committee is stable

Americas Mart contract signed

Westin is connected

History of SERMACS will be part of the program

Organizing Committee met on Oct 26, 2024

40 half day symposia already taken, up to $15 \times 7 = 105$ half day sessions possible

Companies want to recruit, and talk about their products to an audience

The budget was discussed in detail, and some small adjustments were made.

There was some discussion on number of award dinners,

it was reduced since SERMACS, Inc liability

There is a free C&E News ad in a predetermined issue and size, but if you want to place an ad it is \$1000

The F&B is not as exorbitant in rented space as in hotel.

Reduced registration charge of \$4 per registrant, all charges of sponsorships best gone through ACS

Pipe and drape is included in rental

Chris Bannochie moved to accept the budget which had total expenses of \$308,467, Mitk' el Barrios seconded, passed unanimously. SERMACS, Inc. liability is 10% , i.e. \$30,846.70

b) 2025 – Orlando (Joint with SWRM)(Preliminary Budget Approval) – Chris Chouinard and Chris Avery (General Co-Chairs)

Chris Bannochie mentions co-branding with SWRM needs to be included
venue is Doubletree Sea World, Florida feel, room rate is affordable around \$159

last SERMACS was 1987

change the 75th to 76th

preliminary logo, very pretty

Oct 26-29, 2025 is Sunday-Wednesday

The extent of SWRM involvement is vague, Lisa Houston points out that since she is in SWRM, that she can facilitate a conversation later

Orlando section members have done a site visit

It should be possible to negotiate down F&B

c) 2026 – Memphis Timothy Brewster and William Alexander (General co-Chairs)

The Memphis section hosts the southern chemists award, invite all past winners for a symposium or similar event. The winner for 2026 will be a plenary

Covid era winners also as plenary speakers
Tim Brewster is awards chair

Molecules in Memphis or Bridge to the Future as theme
Chris Bannochie mentions preliminary budget due next year

Ajay Mallia asks if MOU is signed yet, answer is no.

d) 2027 – Savannah – Brent Feske and Will Lynch are the general co-chairs
Nothing else to report

VII. Past Meeting Report

a) 2022 – Puerto Rico – presented by Lisa Houston and Mikt’el Barrios

Theme and meeting showcased the uniqueness of Puerto Rico
It was the first hybrid SERMACS
Central and South American attendees, some others who could not afford travel,
Exhibit on hispanic women, had some dual language
Each plenary had sign language, and were available over internet
Speakers allowed to speak spanish but slides were required to be in English
They gave attendee breakdown in graph (total 1532)
The SERMACS2022 website had 23K visits
Profit of \$68,135.75, SERMACS, Inc. received a check for \$13,627.15

VIII. Officer Reports

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

Update on SERMACS 2023)

1957 attendees, 1311 abstracts, 39 expo booths, 46 grad school booths
volunteers worked for free registration
The superhero theme was creative, inclusive and fun
The organizers made specific invites to HBCU faculty and students
There was a quiet place for members and students (following the practice started by SERMACS 2022)
Food trucks outside of conference hotel for quick lunch options
Profit will be around \$80,000

Al Hazari asked how much of \$100K sponsorships was industry, Katherine said around \$70K
NC section paid for their event AT THE CONVENTION CENTER

b) Web site ad-hoc Committee – Tracy Hamilton and Cliff Padgett

Cliff presented, on whether it is possible to have all meeting websites on just SERMACS, rather than build a new website for each meeting

Met with Brianne Blevins, Victoria Xue, Elizabeth Parry. They suggested a professional developer, and a bidding process

Cliff then solicited comments

Ajay Mallia suggests all in one place

SERMACS social media needs to be added

Chris Chouinard asks about timeline – what will be the impact on 2025

A single unchanging website can promote industrial sponsorship by showing what past sponsors received as far as web presence

Chris proposes that we do

David Harwell is SWRM contact, Duy Le in Orlando

Could place a generic meeting timeline on website, FAQ on how to host a meeting

Ajay Mallia asks for a linkedin list of past SERMACS for his history, or a SERMACS LinkedIn account/group

Paul Deck has all past hard copies of SERMACS materials, need to digitize somehow. Could we leverage a University CIS Department ?

c) Chair – Mary Engelman (with Brent Feske) discussed the new MOU

The Board Meeting was adjourned (motioned and seconded) at 11:30 AM.