

Minutes

Meeting of ACS Southeastern Region Board for 2008
The Music City Sheraton Hotel
Nashville, Tennessee, November 15th, 2008
DRAFT for Board Approval in San Juan (2009)

1. Call to Order by the Chair, John Struss.

2. The Secretary, Paul Deck, recorded the attendance. Those who were the only attendees present from a particular local section were presumed to represent that local section. Executive Committee members did not also vote as local section representatives. Roll was called to confirm the attendee list. The Chair-Elect, Chris Bannochie, was absent with notification and assigned proxy to Stephanie Myers.

Steering Committee Members with Local Section Affiliations			
John Struss	Tampa Bay - Chair	Dick Hanley	Florida
Greg Grant	Chattanooga - Past Chair	Stuart Burris	Nashville
Paul Deck	VA Blue Ridge - Secretary	Sean Hickey	Louisiana
Sol Levine	North Carolina - Treasurer	Bill Switzer	North Carolina
Tom Furtch	Nashville – GC 2008	Herman Holt	Western Carolinas
Tim Hanks	W. Carolinas – GC 2007	Stephanie Myers	Savannah River
Ingrid Montes	Puerto Rico – GC 2009	Deborah Sauder	Georgia
Other Attendees			
Marc ter Horst	North Carolina	Preston MacDougall	Nashville
Tim Hanusa	Nashville	Ruth Woodall	Nashville
Amanda Frederick	ACS M&E Staff	Michelle Stevenson	ACS M&E Staff

2. Paul Deck reviewed the 2007 minutes. The minutes were approved by the Board.

3. Greg Grant made a presentation on the High School Teacher award. The Board had agreed at the 2007 Greenville meeting that nominations of those not selected for the award would remain active for two additional years, and that nominators would be invited (by email) to update their nominees' applications annually. For the 2007 award, 8 local sections had nominated 8 candidates in 6 states. Accordingly, all of those nominees (except the 2007 award recipient) were automatically considered again for the 2008 award.

The 2008 High School Teacher Award Selection Committee (Greg Grant, Chris Bannochie, and Robert Wingfield) received, in addition to the 7 continuing nominations from 2007, 12

new nominees. The total field of 19 teachers (representing 10 local sections in 8 states) was highly competitive and the selection process was difficult and labor-intensive. Nevertheless the Committee selected Dianne Earle from Spartanburg SC, who was one of the nominees carried forward from 2007. By the time of the 2008 Board Meeting, Mrs. Earle had already been given her award in the Awards Luncheon in Nashville.

Greg Grant proposed that no more than 25% of the nominations from 2008 (including those carried forward from 2007) should go forward to the 2009 competition. Paul Deck suggested that as an additional constraint, no more than 5 applicants should be carried forward from one year to the next. Stephanie Myers countered that we should always have three minimum going forward to satisfy ACS recommendations. The Board agreed that all applicants up to a maximum number of five would be carried forward each year.

Bill Switzer recommended that teachers not going forward in the “top five” should be eligible for re-nomination, and Stuart Burris added that we should notify the nominators of the candidates not rolled forward in case they want to re-submit their nominations. The Board embraced these suggestions but decided to leave procedural matters in the hands of the Awards Committee.

Stuart Burris asked whether previous winners are ineligible indefinitely. Ruth Woodall said that local section teach awards are sometimes given more than once to the same individual. Paul Deck countered that ACS National awards are not ever given to the same individual twice. The Board referred the matter to the Awards Committee.

Greg Grant noted that the 18 teachers nominated in 2008 (including those carried forward from 2007) have been sent a certificate acknowledging their nominations. The Board agreed this practice should continue annually.

4. John Struss made a presentation on the Regional Volunteer Service Award. Only one nomination was received, and that only shortly before the meeting, so the selection “process” was rather abbreviated. Bill Switzer was nominated and selected unanimously. By the time of the 2008 Board Meeting, Dr. Switzer had already been given his award in the Awards Luncheon in Nashville.

Tim Hanks moved that we rename our Regional Volunteer Service Award the E. Ann Nalley Southeastern Region Volunteer Service Award. In the discussion, Stuart Burris suggested that we should make sure other regions know that we are not claiming exclusivity. Michelle Stevenson said that there is standing precedent for Nalley’s name to be attached to the award in every region. Sean Hickey said that a similar change was being considered in Southwest region, but without the region name in the award title. Paul Deck suggested that Dr. Hickey bring a recommendation for inserting the region name to the SWRM Board, and Dr. Hickey agreed to do so. Dr. Deck suggested that Ms. Stevenson arrange for ACS National to standardize the name for all regions. Dr. Hanks’s original motion carried.

5. John Struss presided over a discussion of the Stan Israel Award. Stuart Burris asked why nominations were so sparse. (Again only one nomination was received, and it had to be turned around quickly.) The Board agreed that ACS National manages the Stan Israel Award solicitations ineffectively. The Board agreed that Chris Bannochie will need to work with ACS National, perhaps offering to have the Region Board “take over” the solicitation for our Region so that we can use our own contact management tools (email lists, etc.) to manage the process more directly. Tim Hanks moved that the matter be tabled for later consideration by the Executive Committee. His motion carried.

6. John Struss led a discussion of the Industrial Innovation Award. This award did not happen this year. The Board finds that it is difficult to work within the constraints of ACS National’s solicitation guidelines and procedures. The Board believes that it could be more nimble and ultimately more effective if it could manage the Southeastern Region Industrial Innovation Award directly, including solicitation and selection.

Ingrid Montes recommended that all of our awards develop mathematical rubrics (and that these rubrics would be published) for fairness, transparency, and efficiency in the judging process. Paul Deck recommended that we also have “citations” for all awards. The Board embraced these suggestions, subject to constraints in place for the awards that are managed by ACS National. Bill Switzer noted that we already have a published rubric for the High School Teacher Award.

7. Treasurer’s Report. Sol Levine submitted the appended tabular summary of Board expenses and account balances. Dr. Levine explained that he planned to invest \$50,000 of the Board’s existing balance in certificates of deposit. He also indicated that he would contact Flint Lewis, Secretary of the Society, to make sure that such investments were consistent with the Board’s status as a 503(c) organization under the Federal tax code.

The Board presently has a bank account holding \$80,510 in cash. The Board has one outstanding \$3000 Startup Loan to the Puerto Rico Section. A gross income of \$10,689 was attributed entirely to the Meeting Tax associated with SERMACS 2007 (Greenville). One expense of \$275 was paid to cover Paul Deck’s registration at the 2008 ACS Leadership Institute. Thus a net income of \$10,414 was realized for 2008.

8. Meeting Reports

Greenville 2007. Tim Hanks reported that SERMACS 2007 had 1254 registered attendees, 16 workshops, 21 invited, mostly multi-session symposia, ca. \$15000 in grant funding arising from peer-reviewed proposals to agencies, ca. \$78,000 from registrations, ca. \$63,000 from donations, and ca. \$19,000 from exhibitors and the graduate fair. Dr. Hanks indicated that Greenville’s “meeting tax” of \$10,600 had already been paid (which Sol Levine confirmed). His powerpoints are attached as an Appendix.

Tim Hanks suggested that post-meeting surveys could help improve meeting quality in the long term, and he offered some data from a survey that was conducted following the

Greenville meeting. Michelle Stevenson noted that ACS National is piloting a post-meeting survey with SERMACS 2008 and that, in the future, Region Boards would be invited to help design those surveys (e.g., by contributing questions).

Nashville 2008 – Tom Furtsch provided a tentative verbal report. All indicators pointed to a highly successful meeting.

San Juan 2009 – Ingrid Montes gave a progress report. Her powerpoints are attached as Appendix 3. All indicators seem to be on track at this point, except for the lack of a major sponsor. Paul Deck suggested that because the Puerto Rico meeting is a special experiment, and that the success of the San Juan meeting would reflect well on ACS as a whole, perhaps ACS National should get involved in helping to secure a major sponsor for San Juan. Michelle Stevenson agreed to bring the matter to ACS National. Ingrid Montes noted that the San Juan meeting would coincide with National Chemistry Week and offered several creative ideas for involving the characteristically energetic Puerto Rican Student Affiliates chapters in the meeting.

New Orleans 2010 – Sean Hickey noted that the dates November 30th through December 4rd were secured at the Hilton Riverside in New Orleans. He indicated that the meeting would use only the hotels, not the New Orleans Convention Center. He already has a strong slate of symposia, and he expects to have ca. 22 parallel sessions. The hotel room rates are expected to be relatively high (above \$200), and the registration fee also will be about \$200, because of the high costs associated with New Orleans' status as a travel and tourism destination. Dr. Hickey indicated that securing industrial sponsorship was his next major task.

Richmond 2011 – Joe Pompano and Ann Sullivan were present for the pre-meeting luncheon but were not able to stay for the Board Meeting because of their flight itinerary. John Struss presented their brief report, indicating that dates have been set for Nov 2 - Nov 6th (Wed - Sat). The hotel contract is set, but the meeting does not have a web site yet.

Raleigh-Durham 2012 – Bill Switzer reported that the North Carolina Section has secured the Sheraton Imperial Hotel in Durham for the first week in November.

9. Proposals were invited for the 2013 meeting, first from District II (Alabama) and then from the whole Region. No proposals were heard. Deborah Sauder reported the intention of the Georgia Section to bid for hosting the 2013 meeting in Atlanta.

10. New Business.

Branding. The Board discussed branding and web presence, agreeing that a fixed domain name (sermacs.org) should be secured by the Board. Paul Deck suggested that the Board get professional consulting help for its own web site hosted on the ACS membership site. The Board embraced this suggestion. Logos and other branding ideas were discussed briefly but not substantively.

Travel Grants. John Struss proposed that the Board fund travel grants for undergraduate students based on nominations from their professors. In the discussion, some Board members indicated that such a program would add to the workload of the Board. Paul Deck proposed awarding grants to the *institutions* of poster-contest winners, so that the institution could send another student the following year. The matter was tabled to be taken up by the Executive Committee later.

11. Elections of Officers

Dr. Hanks nominated Herman Holt for the office of Chair-Elect. Dr. Holt was elected unanimously.

12. Greg Grant (Past Chair) and Tim Hanks (General Chair, Greenville 2007) were thanked for their service to the SERMACS Board. Sean Hickey is welcomed to the Executive Committee as General Chair of the following year (New Orleans 2010). Dr. Deck and Dr. Levine continue in their respective offices.

13. John Struss adjourned the meeting.