

SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF MARINE LABORATORIES
Spring 2000 Annual Meeting
Florida Marine Research Institute
St. Petersburg, Florida
Business Meeting Minutes

Leo Demski, University of South Florida, Sarasota, a new candidate for membership, was introduced.

The minutes of the Milwaukee SAML meeting (September 1999) were approved.

Past President's report

Madilyn Fletcher has support for SAML web page updates. The list of lab links on the SAML web page has been improved. SAML & SURA have submitted a proposal (\$850,000) to NSF to help marine laboratories manage data from monitoring programs so that these data sets can be documented and available.

Nominating Committee

Peter Anderson (Whitney Lab) was nominated for Member-at-Large, 2001-2003. James Alberts moved to close nominations, seconded by Herb Windom. Unanimous vote in favor of Peter Anderson.

President's report

The new President's priorities are: 1) bringing SAML brochure up to date; 2) a new membership directory with By-Laws and Articles of Organization; 3) to work with President-Elect Bob Van Dolah to correct the membership list.

President Tunnell read Past-President Fletcher's list of topics for future SAML meetings and asked for comments and additional topics.

President-Elect's report

Bob Van Dolah reported on the revised Articles of Organization and By-Laws. These documents were last revised in 1992. Jim Alberts suggested some technical changes in the draft Articles of Organization. The Executive Committee agreed to make these changes. Ken Tenore moved to accept the revised By-Laws and Articles of Organization with the changes discussed. The motion was seconded and approved.

Bob circulated the current membership list for corrections by members present at the meeting.

Prospective new SAML members or candidates for reinstatement included: Lamar University, Beaumont, Texas; Blucher Institute at Texas A& M University, Corpus Christi; Caribbean Marine Research Center (reinstatement), Florida International University, which is building a new marine lab, and the NOAA Coastal Services Center.

Wes Tunnell agreed to introduce prospective new members to SAML membership by email.

Jim Sanders moved to accept Lamar University and Blucher Institute as new members; the motion was seconded and approved.

There was a discussion of whether public aquariums were eligible for SAML membership. It was decided to send them the new brochure with a cover letter inviting their interest and possible participation in SAML.

Treasurer's report

The audit committee agrees with the Treasurer's report. Members were asked for spending ideas, i.e. initiatives that would benefit SAML as a whole. Jim Alberts moved to accept the Treasurer's report; seconded by Madilyn Fletcher and approved.

Upcoming SAML meetings

Spring 2001: Charleston, SC.

Fall 2001: Oregon (NAML).

Spring 2002 : Sarasota

Spring 2003: Beaufort-Morehead City, NC

Lee Harris asked if meetings had to be on weekends. There was no general interest among SAML members in changing this hallowed tradition.

Minority participation at marine labs

Matt Gilligan suggested a panel discussion of this issue at a future NAML meeting. Lavern Weber, NAML President, had asked SAML to organize this initiative for the fall 2001 NAML meeting. The panel should deal with minority participation at all levels, from student to administrator. SAML could pay travel costs for panel members, including those from WAML and NEAMGLL. Jim Alberts suggested that SAML should have this issue on its agenda for the spring 2001 meeting, in preparation for the NAML meeting. The panel could include those who have established successful programs, and information on tracking students who have gone through programs. AExpanding Opportunities for Minorities@ was suggested as a title for the panel and organizing committee. Further discussion of this issue was referred to the committee. Matt is in the process of updating and re-releasing the Bridging the Gap: Minorities in Marine Science video.

Advisory councils at marine laboratories

John Wells' lab has a Board of Visitors that provides guidance and clout with the university. Members are wealthy and influential people. The Board meets twice a year. Board members need to be given meaningful tasks to maintain interest.

Wayne Gardner reported that the University of Texas Marine Science Institute maintains a Marine Science Advisory Council, primarily as a development tool. The Council has both business meetings and social events, with a separate budget for the latter. Members are people

who love marine science, avid marine recreational fishers, and alumni. Having a strong Director of Development is key to successful fund-raising. Clear expectations of members and good meetings (clear science presentations) are essential. Directors and institutions need to be responsive and appreciative. The Institute also is working on developing connections with industry.

Kumar Mahadevan reported that Mote Marine Laboratory is run by a Board of Trustees, mostly older people. There is a need for younger people to get involved, hence Mote established an Advisory Council primarily for fund-raising and public relations. The Council has 50 members, and meets every other month. Members have strong political and financial connections. Motivational activities are important boards need focus and concrete accomplishments. Focus and a good development director can help to avoid difficulties with advisory boards. Council members have rotating 3-year terms, and inactive members are not invited back. Board members like to hear from students and identify with them. There was discussion of the pros, cons and variations of Boards of Trustees.

SAML 15 year anniversary

Wes Tunnell gave a presentation on the history of SAML, statistics of current membership and updates on Emeritus Directors Mike Greenberg, Bob Jones and Joe Ramus. It was suggested that John Vernberg should also have Emeritus status. Madilyn Fletcher will nominate him by email.

LABNET

Ken Tenore reported that the EcoHAB Gulf of Mexico project will be the first application of LABNET.

Tom Malone presented an overview of developments towards ocean observing systems. Access to data is the goal. The Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom project will use LABNET to formulate a strategic design and implementation plan and to integrate diverse data from disparate sources. SAML will be asked to help support a workshop. Tom outlined the agenda for the workshop (Gulf Breeze, fall 2000). Discussion followed.

Coastal 2000 initiative National Coastal Assessment

Kevin Summers presented an overview of Coastal 2000. The goal is to characterize the condition of U.S. estuaries with probabilistic, stratified sampling. All of the U.S. ocean coast including Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico will be included in the assessment.

April 2, 2000

Education coordinators report

The report of the education coordinators meeting was given by Sue Cook. Ten education coordinators met on April 1.

It was observed that most marine lab educators try to link research to classroom enrichment. It is important to maintain dialog between research scientists and educators.

Distance learning was a common theme for the meeting. Interactive video techniques were discussed along with access to equipment by the member labs.

A new list-serve for marine lab education coordinators will be established. SAML directors were asked to provide names and email addresses for their education coordinators. Bob Van Dolah will include business managers and education coordinators in the updated SAML membership directory.

Developing an education link to the NAML/SAML web site was discussed

There is a critical need for coordinators to have full support from lab directors, especially to maintain faculty involvement.

Coordinators are looking to private and corporate sources for financial support for educational programs.

The coordinators want to meet again, but no date was set. Minority outreach and evaluation of educational programs (quality control) are important future topics, along with discussion and examples of interactive remote learning.

Business managers report

Bill McChesney reported on the business managers' meeting. They identified a need for access to common information, e.g., what fees are charged by marine laboratories for various services. The managers will create a matrix of labs with descriptions of facilities and operations (e.g., boat fees) for incorporation into the web site.

The networking and educational experience at SAML were important for business managers, as were the opportunities presented by the SAML meeting to spend time with lab directors.

In discussion, it was pointed out that indirect costs were an important topic for business managers to develop common dialog among laboratories.

Business meeting wrap-up

The question of members in arrears was discussed. Usually if dues are not paid for a year, Kumar Mahadevan contacts the laboratory director. A one-year grace period is typical. There is a need for continuity when labs change directors; often the new director is not made aware of SAML membership. New directors should get a letter from SAML and a follow-up phone call.

Minority panel

There was discussion of coordinating the minority panel initiative with NAML. Wes Tunnell agreed to discuss this matter with Lavern Weber and to introduce Matt Gilligan as chair of the SAML Expanding Opportunities for Minorities Committee.

Expenditures

It was suggested that available SAML funds should be used as seed money for a larger initiative. A request was made to use some funds to support student travel. Another suggestion was to organize issue-oriented SAML workshops at ERF meetings, e.g., on the topic of relationships between state and academic labs. This idea was generally popular. Ken Tenore, Jim Sanders and Madilyn Fletcher will work on a session for ERF 2001.

SAML Web Site

Members expressed concerns that the SAML site needed improvement beyond what has already been funded through NAML and Belle Baruch. It was decided to select a committee to work on supplying issues to Madilyn Fletcher that need to be addressed on the SAML web site.

Members were asked to email proposed themes for the next SAML meeting to Wes Tunnell.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 AM, April 2, 2000.

Prepared by Steve Jordan, SAML Secretary