

*Southern Association of Marine Laboratories 2001
South Carolina Marine Resources Research Institute
Charleston, South Carolina*

Business Meeting Minutes

April 7, 2001

The minutes of the spring 2000 meeting were accepted without amendment. Bob Van Dolah suggested that the minutes should be distributed shortly after each meeting, rather than shortly before the next meeting. Secretary Jordan agreed to get the minutes to members with greater dispatch, and has been working ever since on a suitable definition of "shortly." The Secretary also will include a list of action items with the minutes.

Financial report

Treasurer Kumar Mahadevan presented the SAML financial report. There was a brief discussion of delinquent dues. There was a consensus that NOAA labs should hold individual, rather than joint memberships, and pay dues accordingly. Jay Grimes was able to recover the records of SAML incorporation in Mississippi. The question of SAML's corporate status in Florida is still under discussion. The financial report was approved by the members.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee approved SAML's financial records during the NAML Board Meeting in Washington, D.C. in February, 2001.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee presented James Sanders as the candidate for President-Elect and John Marr as the candidate for Member-at-Large. Both nominations were approved unanimously by voice vote.

President's report

Wes Tunnell introduced the new SAML Handbook and the new SAML brochure.

President-elect's report

Bob Van Dolah talked about problems with the database of SAML laboratories. The most difficult problem is getting consistent and correct nomenclature for some of the labs. The SAML list-serve and NAML web site have been updated. The SAML list-serve is maintained by Alan Kuzirian, Secretary of NAML, so updates need to be sent to him. It might be best for NAML to manage the SAML membership database, rather than maintaining it separately.

Upcoming SAML Meetings

- NAML Biennial October 4 -5 at the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport, Oregon, hosted by Lavern Weber.
- SAML 2002 at Mote Marine Lab in Sarasota, Florida.
- SAML 2003 in Morehead City/Beaufort, North Carolina.

Education Committee

Matt Gilligan reported on minority representation in marine science. It is necessary to increase the visibility of marine science to under-represented groups. The A Bridging the Gap@ video (1997) had A heroes, @ i.e. minority people as models and mentors. The video and DVD versions have become very popular. There is a new NOAA initiative to establish four centers at minority-serving institutions, in partnership with NOAA labs. Curriculum development in marine and atmospheric sciences for minority institutions is a high priority. The necessary partnerships depend on committed individuals in both marine labs *and* Historically Black Universities and Colleges.

There was a discussion of the need for and efficacy of SAML sponsoring a minority panel at the NAML 2001 meeting. The Education Committee was charged to continue developing ideas for the minority panel, and to ensure that it would be useful to NAML members. All SAML members were asked to provide input. Ken Tenore moved that SAML should provide up to \$5000 to support the minority panel; the motion was seconded by Tom Malone and approved.

Priorities for SAML expenditures

Several ideas were discussed. The most popular of these was to sponsor awards for student papers at professional meetings such as ERF and ASLO. Members favored a single \$1000 award for each meeting, or \$500 each for best poster and best oral presentation. ASLO has a structure for targeting the award to minority students; ERF would be a general award. The Education Committee was charged to work out the details. The membership approved a \$2000 budget for 2001. Awards should not necessarily be limited to ERF and ASLO.

Business managers' report

Gus Mercanti reported that he was developing a database of SAML laboratory business managers, and asked for help from SAML members to get business managers to meetings. The managers are comparing indirect costs among labs. Information on rules for grants and regulations for various funding agencies will be summarized and distributed. Spring is not the best time for managers to meet. Suggestions included a separately scheduled meeting, or having business managers meet in conjunction with the NAML Board meetings. Bob Van Dolah suggested a discussion of fee structures and indirect charges as an internal item for the next SAML meeting, with a report from business managers. Representation in the managers club could be more inclusive. Grants administrators, etc. in addition to chief financial officers, might benefit from participation.