

Minutes
SAML Business Meeting
2004

Jim Sanders mentioned that he thought we don't have a quorum, so no motions may be voted upon; it was pointed out by Mike Orbach that according to the bylaws it is 1/3 of paid members constitutes a quorum thus we have 41 paid members through 2003 and the quorum is 14 members.

Minutes of Spring 2003 Meeting:

Minutes were circulated last fall to the entire membership and copies provided at the meeting.

Motion to approve; seconded.

Approved by acclamation (17 votes)

Lou B. noted that the housing report should be attached

Treasurer's Report:

Brad; money in bank acct;

Report one: 12-31-02 balance 63,737.75; 12-31-03 balance \$82,604.67;

Report two: 12-31-03 balance; 4-30-04 balance \$65,688.74. Discussion diverted to Financial Committee Audit.

Motion to approve; seconded.

Report accepted by acclamation (17 votes)

Financial Committee Audit Report:

Audit comm. met and reviewed paperwork; copies of checks for dispersal and check register. The committee recommends approval of financial report without alteration.

Nominating committee:

(vote for Board Member at Large, 2005-2007)

Tabling the discussion and vote until Friday morning.

Presidents' Report:

(SAML action items)

Bob VD suggested that the student awards were successful. The question remains why is the attendance at the SAML mtg so low—one experiment was to offer to cover meeting registration and housing of this meeting to improve attendance. It appears that this didn't help improve the attendance. Concerned that some were still unaware of the offer to assist financially. Bob feels we need to make a personal effort to telephone others in SAML to encourage attendance. One change was made to move mtg from weekend to weekdays; also moved from Mar to May. Annual meeting vs two per year; budget issues. Question remains do these changes have an impact on attendance.

Jim Sanders: Question as to whether email information is reaching the new leadership of the labs. Apparently some are not receiving information. Jim got a poor response to his requests for planning Spring meeting. Jim plans to call all member institutions to determine why our attendance is falling.

Discussion as to value of holding meetings; not only to meet folks personally, but developing contacts so that when issues arise one feels comfortable in reaching out for supportive information. Bob pointed out several instances where labs found that they were not

consistent in fees charged or how vessel costs were handled, ie, some facilities were undercharging. He feels that internal issues may be more important to the business/lab managers.

Suggestion that some involvement of non-members (ie. Some of the researchers in the labs) could lead to an interest in what SAML does and can do for their facilities.

“If you don’t have an alternate, would you identify one so that your facility always has a representative?” Question could be added to interviews. Jim brought up the issue assoc with alternates vs the director. Another suggestion is not to underestimate the power of a letter to folks. The meeting announcement should be sent both routes...thus those that don’t respond to email will still be reached.

Jim suggested that one major issue in SAML is poor communications; he will place a copy of the database info for address etc.

President elect: Mike Orbach thinks that there will be a natural re-growth of SAML; especially things like the OHH solicitation. More permutations for external topics to bring to the meetings.

Meeting Updates:

NAML Fall Meeting; NAML Winter meeting reviewed. Concern expressed over access to NAML webpage and making corrections to individual lab pages. User name ‘NAML’ and password ‘ch@nge’; email address for each director on NAML Board will be firstnameinitial.lastname@NAML.org

Spring 2005 SAML meeting location; question of Wilmington, maybe Savannah as site; should we set the time then look for a lab to host? Potential date in early to mid April.

Spring 2006 meeting location at TAMU- Corpus Christi Center for Coastal Studies, at the new Harte Research Institute

Spring 2007 East Coast (Potentially Savannah State U/Skidaway to joint host)

Spring 2008 West Coast Florida

Other items:

Discussion on course requirements, with focus on whether a curriculum that drops invertebrate zoology is creating a problem.

New Business:

Leo Demski brought up the issue of animal rights and animal care. Perhaps SAML could provide a statement on the guidelines that are followed by marine laboratories. Jim suggested that this might be put on the business meeting next time so that Leo can describe his lab’s issues on this topic.