

# Minutes

## SEAAPM Business Meeting

March 24, 2007

Atlanta, Georgia

The meeting was called to order at 12:34 PM by President Thad Wilson.

### **Incorporation:**

It was announced that on March 19, 2007 Maryland Articles of Incorporation were filed for SEAAPM.

### **Awards Committee:**

Perry Sprawls announced that as part of his role on the Awards Committee he will update the chapter website soon on recent awards actions.

### **Government Relations:**

Lynne Fairobent, AAPM Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Manager discussed the following government relations.

- Federal issues including the CARE bill.
- The need for more outreach by chapters and chapter members on state-focused issues. Lynne works with the CRCPD and says chapter and individual assistance and feedback are needed for state issues.
- Volunteers are needed to assist in economics issues of interest to the membership. AAPM needs to provide an economics voice to ASTRO and ACR committees and she sees a need for younger or newer members to take over efforts.

### **President's Report:**

Robin Miller spoke about the SEAAPM's emphasis on student involvement. She thanked students for their participation. In 2006 SEAAPM voted to provide up to \$5,000 to be used for student involvement. Robin Miller started by querying the AAPM website for medical physics educational programs in the SEAAPM six-state region. She contacted each program and asked each director to select one student to give a talk at the 2007 SEAAPM program. Student abstracts were posted on the SEAAPM website. SEAAPM provided travel grants of \$250 as well as a hotel room for out-of-town students and parking for local students. SEAAPM provided a discounted registration for both the symposium as well as the scientific meeting. Robin Miller was not sure how much of the allocated \$5,000 was spent.

### **Treasurer's report:**

The treasurer's report was distributed in the meeting registration packets. Treasurer David Gauntt reviewed the report. His executive summary was that SEAAPM finances are in good shape. Chapter net assets as of Oct 1<sup>st</sup> are approximately \$100,000. This date was chosen since it is a stable time of year after all expenses have been paid for the last meeting and before funds are received for the next. SEAAPM lost money in only one year of the last six.

Robin Miller stated that this year SEAAPM incorporated as a non-profit organization. Treasurer Gauntt stated that that one reason chapters were required to incorporate was to protect its officers.

AAPM will now collect chapter dues in its own billing if requested by the chapter.

### **AAPM Board Representative Report (Ken Vanek):**

The AAPM Board or Directors has become more pro-active. Board members now get monthly board bulletins instead of spending time at board meetings listening to committee reports. The board has become more reliant on staff as volunteer physicist board members are busier.

Jeff Ibbott was elected ABR physics liaison, selected from 3 proposed candidates.

Virtual meeting technology is increasingly being used. WebX used and other newer technologies have reduced travel costs.

The board is discussing pathways into medical physics as well as training requirements. There is a feeling that AAPM is losing support as part of JCAHO process.

AAPM Board reorganization was discussed in detail. While the previous board reorganization proposal was turned down by the membership, members still want changes in the board including a reduced size. A new proposal will be discussed at next week's spring AAPM board meeting.

Issues about the board include concerns about excessive control by EXCOM and the need for representation from community level as well as academic level physicists. George Sherouse is on the regional reorganization committee and has been involved in the development of a new proposal. He considers himself as an opponent of board reorganization. He brought up a new compromise proposal that would do away with chapter representatives and instead include board members from a council of chapters. Under this proposal, chapters will appoint representatives to the council of chapters who would then appoint AAPM board members who would make up approximately half of the board. This proposal disbands EXCOM, its work being taken over by appointed board members who will be selected by some mechanism within board.

Ray Tanner requested that our chapter board representative report back to the board that SEAAPM would like to see chapter representatives remain. Ken Vanek replied that the change from chapter representation was in part because of concerns that large institutions

could exercise control. There were also concerns about efforts to create new chapters with small numbers of people.

Under the regional council plan, these regional councils would meet at least twice a year. Gary Barnes expressed concern that the AAPM Board would get too small and not have at-large representation. Barnes also expressed concern about AIP ex-officio AAPM board members who give reports but have no other responsibilities. Vanek said that under the regional council proposal chapters would still have consolidated representation through the council.

The current AAPM board has 37 members. There is no formal proposal from board right now on reorganization. Ivan Brezovich said he wanted to be sure board is representative of membership.

Reorganization is to be discussed at the spring AAPM board meeting. The board is not asking for chapter proposals. George Sherouse reported that the regional reorganization committee had been working on new proposal. Which he has and which considers as public document. The original reorganization proposal that was narrowly rejected by the membership had come from excom. The regional organization committee got the mandate to slightly modify the original proposal with the hope of getting an additional 5% approval, thus enough for passage.

The regional organization committee did not agree with its charge to slightly modify the original proposal. It invited two physicists to participate, Jerry White as a proponent of the original proposal, and George Sherouse as an opponent. The committee came up with the following compromise proposal:

- President
- Past president
- President-elect
- Three council chairs
- Three at-large members
- Six representatives from the council of chapters
  - There are currently 20 chapters

George Sherouse said he thought the above compromise proposal was a good one. The council of chapters allows for chapter input and will constitute half the board. The council of chapters will make its own rules concerning how it selects AAPM board members.

Gary Barnes questions having council chairs sitting on board since they are appointed and have enough other things to do. Barnes said he has been council chair and presented things to the board but didn't see the need or want to be on board at the time.

Ray Tanner asked the percentage of AAPM members who do not belong to a chapter. He thought these people should be represented by a like percentage of at-large AAPM board members. It was pointed out that the ACR requires chapter membership while

AAPM does not. Tanner expressed concern about having six board reps representing twenty chapters. Sherouse said council of chairs created so chapters would be represented. Dave Vassy said the board should represent the membership and that operational folks should not be on the board.

The regional concept of the original AAPM proposal is gone. AAPM membership has doubled since 1990 with a thousand new members since 2004.

There was a discussion on the question the board is currently studying about who can be a member of the AAPM.

### **Elections:**

The winners of the 2007 election of officers were announced as follows:

- President-elect: Jun Duan
- Secretary: Christine Noelke
- Treasurer: David Gauntt

### **Old Business:**

The question about retaining the finance committee as a standing committee was not dealt with during year. Gary Barnes didn't see the necessity since members can go directly to the executive committee. Robin Miller moved to dissolve the finance committee to be revisited later as needed. The motion passed.

### **New Business:**

Jerry Allison has spoken to the people with the Savannah River Chapter of the American Nuclear Society who wish to place an educational project related to nuclear science at the National Science Center in Augusta. The project is called "The Interactive Nucleus: Students Take Control of the Atom" is to be a hands-on display targeted to middle school students. Allison shared details of the initial project design that has been field tested with students. One panel on the design is about medical uses of radiation. Allison said the entire project is expected to cost \$80,000-\$100,000.

Jerry Allison moved to have SEAAPM match the Savannah River Chapter of the American Nuclear Society's commitment by donating \$10,000 to the National Science Center. SEAAPM would get recognition and would have input to content. The design would be made available to other science centers. The funds not provided immediately but rather on delivery and only if enough money is raised to do project. The motion passed.

Out-going president Thad Wilson gave the virtual gavel to in-coming president Robin Miller. Wilson moved to provide \$5,000 for student involvement for 2008 with excom

determining the use of those funds. This year local students got parking but not hotel or travel expenses. The motion passed.

### **2008 Symposium and Meeting:**

Richard Popple offered to be director of a 2008 symposium on “Recent Technologies in Radiation Therapy.”

Ray Tanner said he would like excom to consider inviting symposium registration to include scientific meeting but not the *Night Out*. George Sherouse stressed that the scientific meeting is also important and should be highlighted separately from the topical symposium.

Robin Miller spoke about IMM, a company who helped SEAAPM arrange hotel contract at no charge to chapter. Ray Tanner moved that 2008 be in Birmingham and that Gary Barnes & Ivan Brezovich do local arrangements. David Gauntt offered an amended motion to recommend that the meeting be held in Birmingham. The amendment was accepted by Tanner. The motion passed.

Robert Wilson thanked Robin Miller for the meeint and also for a great meal.

David Gauntt asked business meeting attendees how important free internet was, A straw vote indicated that this was very important.

### **Continued Discussion on AAPM Board Reorganization:**

Robin Miller said that board reorganization is coming. Board representative Ken Vanek says surveys say the board is not presently effective. Gary Barnes disliked having council chairs sitting on the board. Richard Popple would like to see all board members elected rather than appointed. Ivan Brezovich moved that board representative Vanek urge the AAPM board to reject any proposal that reduces # of at-large board members. George Sherouse pointed out that the fraction of at-large board members doesn't change much in new proposal. Barnes said the board shouldn't be too small because new officers needed to have previously been board members. Sherouse said there is also a proposal for changes to the nominating committee and nominating process. The proposal calls for the board to become the nominating committee. Miller suggested posting link with the new proposal on the SEAAPM website. Brezovich amended his motion that Vanek express to the board that any change should result in no fewer than 1/3 of board but no less than 9 be at-large members, whichever is more. He further amended his motion that if the board reduced the number of members so that 1/3 of board is less than 9 then Vanek should get best the compromise possible. Barnes & Popple thought the proposal should be that the three council chairs not be board members but instead those three slots go to at-large members. Barnes reiterated that council chairs should report to board but not be on board. Barnes thought the critical issue is to have a democratically elected board. Motion passed.

Ken Vanek brought up issue of who should be eligible to be an AAPM member. George Sherouse says the AAPM articles of incorporation denote eligibility. But if its language

were taken literally, it would disqualify many present members. There was a mandate from board to have a clear statement of the membership eligibility policy. This may required a change in the articles of incorporation. The consensus of the SEAAPM members present was that there should be a broader interpretation of membership requirements to include engineers and others in industry. Sherouse brought up another associated issue, whether physicians should be eligible for AAPM membership.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
George David, Secretary SEAAPM