

# Minutes

## SEAAPM Business Meeting

March 29, 2008  
Birmingham, AL

The meeting was called to order at 12:56 PM by President Robin Miller.

### **Incorporation:**

It was announced that on March 19, 2007 Maryland Articles of Incorporation were filed for SEAAPM. This year is the Chapter's first full year as a non-profit incorporated entity.

### **Last Year's Minutes:**

Last year's minutes were motioned for approval by the Raymond Tanner. The motion was seconded by Al deGuzman and approved by the Chapter membership present. None opposed.

### **Elections:**

The winners of the 2008 election of officers were announced as follows:

- President-elect: Sha Chang
- Secretary: Christine Noelke-Gnaster
- Treasurer: David Gauntt
- Board Representative (beginning January 1, 2009): Ivan Brezovich

### **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.

AAPM HQ now collects chapter dues in its own billing as requested by the chapter. This was enacted for this dues year and chapter registration has now approximately doubled from last year's registration.

Treasurer David Gauntt discussed the current issue with the chapter not being run per the chapter constitution. He clarified that because we are a legally incorporated and tax-exempt entity it is legally important that we bring the constitution in line with current practice. A few issues of importance are: candidate nomination process, office of Secretary-Treasurer versus two separate positions, ballots are electronic though specified as paper ballot, chapter membership guidelines, and too much detail on some constitutional items. Any e-mail will be sent to the chapter membership outlining ExCom's reformation process. All changes must first be approved by the chapter membership and subsequently the Executive Committee of the AAPM (HQ).

David Gauntt also announced that he will not be running for re-election as Treasurer next year. Though, he will stay on as database manager on 2009 and maintain the chapter scripts. Additionally, the chapter database will be "cleaned up" after the meeting to reflect the current membership.

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

Ken Vanek has stated that the issue with the organization/composition of AAPM Board is currently tabled. The Spring board meeting is in a few weeks, and Vanek will update the chapter after the meeting. Per last year's

meeting, Vanek/SEAAPM is supportive of a strong board versus a strong ExCom – to be more proactive in strategic planning and serving the membership. This follows last year’s Chapter motion. There is a Board meeting at RSNA as well.

Additionally, AAPM HQ needs to look at the budget. Vanek explains that there are budget deficits that are being approved and are getting near \$500,000. Overspending is an issue as one item is approved a certain way and overspending occurs anyway. The AAPM needs to overhaul the budget process. As a professional society, we need to work on strategic planning as well. Vanek states that AAPM needs to adjust our by-laws and we need a major grassroots effort. More money has been put into the professional area and it seems to be working/helping the issue.

Vanek’s major concern has to do with the Government Relations committee. Background: the AAPM is a member of the AIP (American Institute of Physics). One of the primary stances of the AIP is that they strongly object to any support of Creation Science ideology. Namely, a school in a western U.S. state was adding a course to their offerings on Creation Science as an alternative to Darwin’s theory. The AIP asked the AAPM to issue a statement that they do not endorse such types of courses in academia. The AAPM president at the time (2004) did issue a statement on AAPM letterhead stating the organization’s lack of support for the course. Vanek’s issue is the use of AAPM letterhead to, basically, issue a position statement on the issue of Creation versus Darwin without a Board vote. The AAPM currently has no policy or provision for this. It also seems that this is a social issue, and not a policy issue that is being discussed. Vanek states that the Board should vote on any statements made by the AAPM and that the membership should be notified before a statement is given. Gary Barnes comments – he first clarifies the issue and confirms that the Board did not vote on this – that it was a “straw” vote. Ivan Brezovich supports Vanek’s view. Larry Case clarifies the issue again – AIP does not support the teaching of non-Darwin concepts and asked AAPM to make a statement agreeing with their view. Richard Popple mentions that the chapter membership needs to decouple the issue of intelligent design and the board issue and all agree. Robin Miller clarifies the issue again – the AIP is using AAPM letterhead to decline support for this class on non-Darwin theory. Subsequently Richard Popple wants to know what our commitment is to AIP. Miller states that an AIP board member sits on the AAPM board as ex-officio. Mike Yester asks if there is a AAPM committee to supervise these types of issues – there isn’t currently. Ivan Brezovich makes a motion that the SE chapter wants the Board to formally vote and approve a statement/position before a statement is put on AAPM letterhead. Ray Tanner asks that the motion be amended to include “before a statement is published”. Wlad Sobol wants to know what event triggered the letter – Vanek clarifies: the AIP saw in a press release in a western state, that the school was going to ask for a course supporting Creation Science. The AIP asked the AAPM for a response to support their view. The President of AAPM (at the time) sent a letter saying that AAPM would not advocate for this type of course as AIP asked. The motion was seconded by Gary Barnes – but he would like clarification that the statement should have some sort of policy impact – thinks that original motion is too vague. David Gauntt wants clarification on if this is a long-term policy issue or just rapid response topics. Vanek stressed that he wants a clear position statement with a sunset clause. Gauntt amends the motion to state that AAPM does not make a policy statement unless the AAPM Board approves it. It is noted that the AAPM President is not permitted to make a policy statement without board approval, but the president was not calling this a policy statement. Gauntt’s motion is seconded by Raymond Tanner. This topic was discussed in a board meeting in 2004 (per Gary’s question). Tanner thinks that the motion as made and amended will have some effect on the board’s reaction to the issue. Brezovich accepts the amendment. The SE chapter officially motions that the AAPM not make a policy statement unless the board of directors formally accepts that policy. The motion was passed. This is to be the position of Vanek through December 31, 2008. As of January 1, 2008, Brezovich is the new Board member and will maintain this stance unless otherwise amended by the Chapter.

### **Old Business:**

Last year, the Chapter began updating the web hosting from Earthlink to AAPM HQ. The web domain change is now official, and we are operating off the AAPM HQ server. The changeover was seamless and Perry

Sprawls and George David coordinated this and did a great job with it. A link to the SEAAPM webpage is on the AAPM homepage. Updates to our webpage are constant in order to give our chapter members the most up-to-date information.

The SE chapter was sponsoring a physicist in India through the “AAPM Partners in Physics” program. This program is now being funded through AAPM HQ so will no longer be an expense of the chapter.

The Chapter, as an entity, can now make recommendations to the AAPM for awards, honors, and fellows outside of their typical awards scheme. Robin Miller asked for e-mail suggestions.

Jun Duan discussed the Graduate Student program. Miller clarified that any program can suggest a student to the program, for whom the chapter will cover registration, the student’s overnight room expense and provide a travel grant. None are opposed to continuing the program. All understand that as the program progresses, items will need to be adjusted as the chapter sees fit. Richard Popple mentions that he believes that all programs should be involved with one speaker each, not just a few presenters from one or two programs. Miller wants to also be sure that we are not just delineating between CAMPEP and non-CAMPEP approved programs. Fang-Fang Yin suggests that we accept abstract “nominations” to the program and “award” the presentations to a few students. Miller states that this will be suggested to next year’s Meeting Director (Sha Chang, President-Elect). Gary Barnes agrees that one talk per program is sufficient and that 6 presentations is enough for the session. Miller concludes by thanking the program directors for the great speakers present at this year’s meeting.

Jerry Allison has recently spoken to the people with the Savannah River Chapter of the American Nuclear Society who still 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. The project, details of which were shared by Allison last year, is currently on hold due the National Science Center being slow to begin their end of the project. 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 continue last year’s motion to have SEAAPM match the Savannah River Chapter of the American Nuclear Society’s commitment by donating \$10,000 to the National Science Center under three conditions: 1) SEAAPM would get recognition and would have input to content, 2) the design would be made available to other science centers, and 3) the funds not provided immediately but rather on delivery and only if enough money is raised to do project The motion passed.

### **New Business:**

Robin Miller states that the chapter is having issues with spam in two dimensions. The first is that some are not receiving chapter e-mails due to newer spam filters in hospitals, etc. The second is discussion of the Federal CanSpam Act. Due to this, we are not permitted to blast the entire AAPM database about our meeting, only those who live in the SE region. Gauntt mentions that the AAPM “endorses” some meeting throughout the year. Though, notes that the chapter meetings are not endorsed by the AAPM and he believes that the AAPM should endorse it’s own Chapter meeting. Barnes also thinks that the AAPM should have a separate meeting calendar, in addition to the Medical Physics calendar, on their website that lists only Chapter meetings. Gauntt concurs. Robert Wilson agrees and states that this is a webmaster issue. Robin Miller reiterates the issue and states that SE Chapter ExCom will contact Chris Marshall and ask for a web heading for Chapter Meetings/Symposia. Notification may be sent to Dan Pavord as well.

Robin Miller states that the chapter currently allows students to vote, contrary to AAPM HQ rules. Mike Yester motions that student should not be permitted to vote in the chapter. Miller seconds the motion. None oppose and the motion passes.

Per Miller, our Chapter Constitution currently states that the nominations for officers shall be made by the solely by the Nominating Committee AND be approved by at least 2 other members and that the nominee consents to holding the office. There is nothing that mentions write-in (floor-nominated) candidates. This year, if people

were self-nominated, they were required to provide 2 letters of recommendation, though this is not currently allowed by the constitution. Robert Wilson agrees that this should be changed. Gary Barnes agrees as well and the motion is made that the current constitution article regarding Nominations be amended from “and” (capitalized above) to “or”. Ray Tanner seconds the motion. David Gauntt amends the motion that the business meeting attendees direct the Chapter ExCom to interpret the constitution that members from the floor can nominate someone to the ballot if they have two letters of recommendation. None oppose and the motion passes.

Miller explains that the Chapter currently has a few Constitution issues. What we do as a Chapter and our Constitution statements are in disaccord at the current time. We are a non-profit and are incorporated in Maryland through AAPM HQ. We do not need to change Articles of Incorporation, we are not in violation of these. Next in hierarchy is the Chapter Constitution, then Chapter by-laws, then Chapter policies, then our rules. Gauntt explains why we are in violation. He reiterates the hierarchy of documents: articles, constitution, by-laws, policies that ex com is currently trying to compose. He states that the constitution is more restrictive than we think it should be and the issue is that we are not following this at all in some cases. One main issue is Secretary-Treasurer is currently one position, not two separate offices. Also, per the Chapter Constitution, Chapter election have to be completed by paper ballot – we have done voting electronic for last few years. Also, in order to become chapter member, you “currently” need 2 letters of recommend that are passed to a membership committee – we don’t have one – for approval. Then there is the aforementioned Nominating Committee issue. Additionally, the student member guidelines need to be discussed. Robin is appointing a presidential Ad Hoc committee that will review the Chapter Constution and change what needs to be changed (i.e. to match current operating “procedures”). After Ad Hoc committee forms the necessary Constitutional Amendments, all changes will then to go membership – electronically – for a 2/3 majority approval (2/3 of those paying SE membership dues). All changes then must be approved by the AAPM ExCom for amendments to be enacted. Ray Tanner makes a motion that an Ad Hoc committee is formed to correct the constitutional issue. Thad Wilson seconds the motion. None oppose and the motion passed. Miller states that Jerry Allison is on the committee she has approved/appointed. All amendments can be voted on electronically, per meeting membership approval. Thad Wilson wants reasonable time to review new amendments before voting is concluded. Miller states that this will be done and mentions to watch the SEAAPM website.

Robert Wilson states his disappointment that the election candidates were differentiated online as either selected by the Nominating Committee or Nominated from the Floor. Miller explains the circumstances of this years election and the reason that things were done thing way (Constitutional issues). Barnes states that the new Constitutional motion (above) will take care of the issue.

### **2009 Symposium and Meeting:**

Robin Miller suggest that North Carolina be the site for next year’s meeting and symposium. She mentions that in past years, the meeting has been held in the president-elect’s city. She notes, however, that this is not a chapter policy. No one objects to NC as the location for next year’s meeting.

Robin Miller spoke about IMM, a company who helped SEAAPM arrange hotel contract two years ago at no charge to the chapter, and who the AAPM HQ uses to arrange their meeting hotels (i.e. Summer School). She explained their involvement in the contract process. David Gauntt clarified some points to the chapter: they provide us with a few selections for hotels, they handle any contractual issues that may arise, and the SE chapter has the final say on location chosen for the meeting. Thad Wilson vocalized his support for the use of IMN. Gary Barnes does not believe that they understand our needs or are even able to negotiate a better deal. For example, it was clarified that free rooms were provided both last year, when we used IMN, and this year, when we didn’t. David Gauntt mentions some issues that were a huge issue (re: direct chart authorization) for the Chapter the year the meeting was held in Charleston and states that if IMN was used then, they would have handled the issue and help the hotel responsible. The change caused a lot of man-time to be lost with David Gauntt and George David having to enter a lot of transactions manually with the hotel. Wlad Sobol agrees that meeting planners are a great idea, but since IMN is reimbursed by the hotel industry for their services, that

perhaps they aren't actually working "for" us. He does like the idea of a meeting planner, and suggests getting one without the conflict of interest. Dan Bourland agrees to the comments. Ken Vanek suggests getting the AAPM to look at our past contracts to see if we are missing any details. Barnes states that the hotel can write a contract and we can just adjust it as needed before signing though. Ray Tanner realizes the reality that no SE chapter or ex com members are paid, and therefore resources are limited, so the chapter should use what is the most efficient and effective method of negotiating the hotel contract.

Symposium topics were discussed from the online election poles and a topic was chosen. Options ranked online as follows: 1) Imaging Methods for Effective Radiotherapy, 2) Role of the medical physicist in PACS, and 3) Clinical Support for Cardiac Imaging. Fang-Fang Yin offered to be director of a 2009 symposium on "The Role of Imaging Informatics in Radiation Oncology."

Gauntt asks for feedback on the different layout of this year's Scientific Meeting (a few smaller "symposia" within the meeting). Thad Wilson asks that we limit the number of outside speakers to the Meeting, but expresses that he really likes the student presentations. Mike Yester thought the meeting was hurried. Barnes liked the invited speakers and the different format. Miller will compile a list of suggestions for the new President.

### **Virtual Gavel:**

Out-going president Robin Miller gave the virtual gavel to in-coming president Jun Duan. George David asked if the chapter needed to purchase a gavel. Ray Tanner offered to make one for the chapter.

### **Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Noelke-Gnaster, Secretary SEAAPM