

SAML Annual Business Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2025

In-person and Virtual from Texas A&M University at Galveston

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by President Clark Alexander at 3:06 PM

In-Person Attendance:

Antionietta Quigg – Dept. of Biology - TAMUG
Reide Corbett – Coastal Studies Institute – ECU
Brian Roberts – Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium
Mike Allen – Nature Coast Biological Station – UF
Joel Trexler – Coastal and Marine Laboratory – FSU
Jack DiTullio – Grice Marine Lab – University of Charleston
Loretta Battaglia – Center for Coastal Studies - TAMU-Corpus Christi
Shari Yvon-Lewis – Dept. of Oceanography – TAMU
Nuette Gordon – UGA Marine Institute – UGA
Nancy Smith – Eckerd College
Clark Alexander - Skidaway Institute of Oceanography – UGA
Terry Donaldson – U Guam

Online Attendees:

Sally Brooks - VIMS
David Eggleston - CMAST
James Gelsleichter - UNF
Jill Stewart – Baruch/USC
Sue Ebanks - SSU
Victoria Young - SSU
Nick Macias - UGAMI
Rodger Harvey - ODU

Old Business:

- **Approval of minutes**
 - Motion (Mike Allen; Joel Trexler, second): Approve the minutes of April 29, 2024 SAML Annual Business Meeting as submitted
 - No comments for changes
 - No opposed
 - Minutes approved by vote

New Business:

- **Introduction of officers**

- Clark Alexander, President 2024-2025
- Loretta Battaglia, President-elect 2024-2025
- Sue Ebanks, Past-president 2024-2025
- Eric Milbrandt, Treasurer 2024-2025
- Sally Brooks, Secretary 2024-2025
- Antonietta Quigg, Member-at-large 2022-2024
- Mike Allen, Member-at-large 2023-2025
- Reide Corbett, Member-at-large 2024-2026
- Joel Trexler, Member-at-large 2025-2027
- **Nominating Committee** (Sue Ebanks - Chair, Brian Franks, Mike Sieracki)
 - Provided a slate of nominees for President Elect and Member at Large
 - Eric Milbrandt of Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation Marine Lab is nominee for president elect 2026-2027
 - Member at Large 2026-2028
 - Sara McDonald, South Carolina Aquarium
 - Brian Roberts, LUMCON
 - Nancy Smith, Eckerd College
 - Received slate at beginning of April, May 8th 30 days
 - Delegates will receive the ballot on the 8th, voting will close May 19th
- **Dues**
 - 42 members have paid dues
 - 48 total members – 2 associate institutions, 46 regular members
- **Treasurer's report** Jim Gelsleichter (for Eric Milbrandt) (see attached report)
 - 2024 Budget Overview
 - Jan. 1, 2024 = \$75,440 in reserves
 - \$2,297.44, unrestricted assets, Eric looking into this
 - Dues income in 2024 = \$9,776
 - Reserves should be 2-3 x annual budget, which is about \$18K per year
 - Expenses \$20,579
 - Balance Dec. 31, 2024 = \$69,236
 - Expenses higher than expected for 2024 annual meeting, but we don't think annual meeting costs will be as high as 2024 in the future
 - 2025 Budget – approved by Board September 27, 2025
 - Dues = \$9,984 (48 members)
 - Planned for \$2K registration fees, but were not able to capture that this year
 - Expense to have Burke and Associates manage the registration fee was going to be about \$1,500, so decided to not move forward with this
 - Total Revenue (\$13,484 (inclusive of \$2K and 1500 money market acct interest income))

- Expenses
 - Annual meeting - \$3,500 (\$3,000 for travel support and \$500 for tech support)
 - Website support (\$1,000)
 - Student support awards (\$10,000), last year planning to spend this amount for student awards (to reduce reserve amount)
 - Total = \$18,400 (dip into reserves by about \$6,916 (\$4,916 plus 2K loss in registration fees)
 - \$400 fee for Student Support Awards – NAML charging 4% of awards to handle the administration of the awards, SAML paying this moving forward
- **Audit Committee** (Jim Gelsleichter, chair, Jill Stewart, Carys Mitchelmore)
 - Treasurer's report was reviewed and there were no irregularities found. 100% agreement between auditors and treasurer.
- **Education Committee Report** (Victoria Young) (see attached PPT)
 - **Meetings happen ever third Friday of the month**
 - Marine Science Best Practices Seminars are open to all and recordings are posted on the [NAML website](#)
 - Concerns noted by committee: Several partner programs have lost funding for DEI programs
 - Please let the committee know about federal funding impacts to your education and training programs
 - Reminder about [Best Practices in Field Safety and Accessibility](#) posted on NAML site for use as a resource
 - Breadth of document allows for its use as a framework to build off of for the specific situations at individual campuses.
 - Crossover between DEI and Education committees: meets 3rd Thursday of every month
 - Concerns noted by committee – examining the development of community for postdoc and early career professionals
- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Report** (Nick Macias, Billie Swalla, Chair, Amanda Knoblock, Vice-Chair) (See attached PPT)
 - Comment: even before the federal changes in this area, some states were working through changes in this area. Makes it very difficult for member orgs. to promote programs that aim to provide opportunities for diverse audiences. How do we continue/move forward?
 - There are things we can do to support individuals (faculty, students, etc.) so that they can perform well and feel safe and a sense of belonging.
 -
- **Student Support Awards** – (Loretta Battaglia, chair, Reid Corbett, Brian Roberts)

- Program is growing in popularity, students are applying in record numbers
 - Used to be able to fund almost all applicants, review process was easier/simpler
- 75 applicants in 2024
- Need a better way to review and rank applications
- Current process is very minimal on student's end, but doesn't provide much info. for reviewers to differentiate between applications
- Format of application is antiquated (lots of information in excel format)
- Recommendations:
 - Have students submit:
 - a short (one page) proposal abstract that explains their project
 - Budget
 - Budget justification
 - Short form letter from their supervisor to indicate the student is in good standing
 - All submitted as one document via google drive, etc.
- Discussion around requiring student/advisor to document that the rest of the funding is available, so we know the funding we provide will go toward the intended purpose.
- Loretta will work with a student to develop a draft google form.
-
- **NAML Update** (Terry Donaldson, NAML President) (see attached PPT)
 - Provided overview of survey results on "Vulnerabilities of Marine and Great Lakes Laboratories"
 - Provided overview of winter NAML meeting
 - NAML is putting together letters of support for various programs, working with Federal Science Partners to get them to representatives
 - IOOS system
 - Meg Thompson sent one from U of Wisconsin for support for NOAA
 - Expect to see more of this kind of thing, agency heads should see them, but should go to congress and their staffers
 - NAML biennial meeting Oct. 9-10, 2025
- **New Business**
 - Welcome South Carolina Marine Resources Institute back (2025)
 - Be thinking about who else we can invite to join SAML
- **Future Meetings Proposed Schedule (at annual meeting business meeting)**
 - 2026 – CSI, Reid Corbett
 - 2027 – CMAST, in conjunction with biennial NAML meeting
 - 2028 – Cedar Key
 - 2029 – TBD, possibly VIMS Eastern Shore Lab? Or maybe jointly hosted between VA and MD labs? Sally will talk with VIMS ESL

- 2030 – Gulf Coast (LUMCON)
- 2031 – UNCW

[Note: this schedule was changed by Board of Director's vote at Dec. 1, 2025 Board meeting given new data. Current schedule is:

- 2027 – LUMCON, Brian Roberts host
- 2028 – VIMS
- 2029 – Cedar Key, FL
- 2030 – East coast – volunteers(?)]
- **Future topics?**
 - Please send ideas to board members for topics to address at annual meetings

- **Motion to adjourn** (Reide Corbett, Dave Eggleston, second)
 - Approved by acclamation

Business Meeting adjourned at 4:22 PM