

SRA Biological Stressors Specialty Group (BSSG)
Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2006
Baltimore, Maryland

Meeting was called to order by Chair, Felicia Wu. Other officers present were Vice-Chair Sherri Dennis, Secretary-Treasurer Michael McElvaine. Official attendance was 26 although several people did not sign in.

Wu discussed recent name change of the group, rationale for the change, and the restatement of the mission with the use of biological stressors (abbreviated as 'biostressors;') to capture the broader fields of food, animal and plant pathogens, contaminants and exotic incursion, and related subjects. A copy of the By-Laws was distributed along with the agenda to all attendees.

McElvaine provided report that there was \$5,283.83 in the treasury prior to the annual meeting. BSSG will be charged about \$1100 for a share of the reception and will receive additional dues from meeting site registrants. [The BSSG student merit award for best abstract went to Thomas Biksey who will receive a check for \$500 dollars toward his travel expenses. – *I am guessing at this fact and amount – mdm*]. There were no motions about financial projects for next year.

Wu then handed over the 'gavel' to incoming chair Sherri Dennis who thanked Dr. Wu for her work with BSSG.

First order of business was selection of a new Vice-Chair. The two nominees were Steven Anderson and Emma Hartnett. Dr. Hartnett was elected by a show of hands vote.

Discussion of Activities for 2007:

Christina McLaughlin recommended that the web site be transferred/attached to the SRA website. [did somebody volunteer to take this over? Yi Jong of FSIS???

It was suggested that we have another student travel award for next year. (no motion)
It was suggested to have a poster award to help increase interest in posters. (no motion)
It was suggested to work with other specialty groups for combined symposia.

Specific subjects suggested for symposia were communication between risk assessors and decision makers, and qualitative risk assessment (what is it, does it exist, how can it be done.)