**ASAS Southern Section Annual Business Meeting**

**July 26, 2021**

**via Zoom**

**Call to Order:** The 2021 Southern Section Business Meeting was called to order by Dr. Christy Bratcher (Texas Tech University) at 2:02 PM Central Time via Zoom. There were 31 participants in attendance.

**Sponsorship Recognition:** Dr. Bratcher thanked the sponsors (n = 15) for their support of the annual meeting. Sponsors for the 2021 ASAS Southern Section Meeting are listed below:

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| University of Arkansas | University of Florida | Texas A&M University | University of Tennessee |
| University of Georgia | Alliance for Grassland Renewal | Texas Tech University | Oklahoma State University |
| Elanco | University of Kentucky | NC State University | Noble Research Institute |
| Zinpro | ASAS Southern Section | Auburn University |  |

**Southern Section Update:** A Southern Section update was given to provide information on the meeting and delivery strategies for the 2021 meeting. The board decided to not host a virtual meeting and combine with the ASAS national meeting to provide an opportunity to meet in person. Planning for the 2022 Annual Meeting is being initiated and will resume the same schedule as in normal years. Nominations will be solicited for committee positions, the executive board. The call for symposia ideas, abstracts and awards nominations will be released in the next two months. Membership and sponsorship are areas of focus for the section in 2022. Additional symposia were suggested to enhance the program and attract participation.

**ASAS National Update:** Dr. Glenn Duff (New Mexico State Univ.) provided an update as the ASAS President. Major highlights in 2020 included: a new editor in chief for the Animal Science Image Gallery, release of the 4th Edition of the Ag Guide in conjunction with ADSA and PSA, establishment and delivery of live virtual programming, updates to AnimalSmart.org and increased distribution of Junior Animal Scientist, creation and use of infographics on OUP blog, webinar programs during COVID (25 webinars), enhanced social media presence, selected the Council on Accreditation, created and empowered new ASAS Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, increasing impact factors and success of associated society journals, and navigating a changing environment throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall, the society has worked to provide responsive resources amid changes and challenges faced across the various sections of the organization.

**ASAS Southern Director Update:** Dr. Tom Welsh (Texas A&M) provided a southern director update. The ASAS National and Southern Section join meeting was held in Louisville, KY and was offered through multiple modalities including in-person, live-stream and virtual levels. The national office has established a goal for each section to have one year of operating funds in reserve. Dr. Welsh emphasized the importance of membership growth and diversifying the revenue streams for the section and national organization. There is increasing value in associated society journals, high-quality images and infographics for journal visibility, promotion, and information sharing for the society. National meeting dates are tentatively identified through 2027.

**ASAS Southern Graduate Director Update:** Dr. Brooke Clemmons (TAMU-Commerce) and Russell Carrell gave an update on graduate student involvement and programs.The graduate directors held a webinar on graduate life challenges during COVID-19 to help engage membership during the pandemic. An informal graduate mixer was held at the joint ASAS National-Southern Section Meeting in Louisville in order to provide a more dedicated time for southern universities to interact. Students collaborated with the ASAS National Grad Directors for a Lunch and Learn professional development program. The graduate directors for the section also participated in an undergraduate lunch and learn to provide insight on graduate student opportunities, next steps and experiences.Audrey Earnhardt from Texas A&M University was named as a new graduate director. Russell recognized Brooke’s contributions to the organization and thanked her for her service. He provided an update on prospective programs for graduate students at the Fort Worth meeting in January 2022.

**Secretary/Treasurer Update:** Dr. Dan Poole (NCSU) presented the minutes from the 2020 Business Meeting for review and approval by the participants. It was moved (Dr. Matt Poore) and seconded (Dr. Brooke Clemmons) from the floor that the minutes be approved as presented. The financial report was presented as unaudited 2020 financials. Southern section increased net assets by $1,561 for a reserve of $33,950 (with a target of $50,00 reserve). Projected reserves for 2021 is $39,000. A program update was provided for the 2021 ASAS-CSAS-ASAS Southern Section Annual Meeting and Trade Show. There were 1,289 total registrants (970 in person and 319 virtual; 474 from the southern United States) with 531 oral presentations and 489 poster presentations. For the southern section, there were 111 oral presentations and 16 competition papers. Dr. Poole presented information on the undergraduate and graduate competitions and awards:

**Student Competitions:**

* **Undergraduate 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition:** 1st place – Cody Davis, Auburn University; 2nd Place – Carlee Salisbury, Oklahoma State University; 3rd Place – Mesa Kutz, University of Arkansas
* **Master’s 3MT Competition**; 1st Place – Madison Cole, Auburn University; 2nd Place – Jordan Adams, Oklahoma State University; 3rd Place – Luke Jacobs, Auburn University.
* **PhD Student Competition** – 1st Place – Justin Burt, University of Georgia; 2nd Place – Dana Reid, Mississippi State University; 3rd Place - Rebecca Swanson, Mississippi State University.

**Award recipients were as follows:**

* Emerging Scholar Award – Elizabeth Palmer (University of Florida)
* Early Career Animal Scientist Award – Dr. Rodolfo Cardoso (Texas A&M)
* Early Career Animal Scientist Award – Education – Dr. Brandon Smith (Tarleton State)
* Extension Award – Jennie Ivey (University of Tennessee)
* Distinguished Service Award – Dr. Matt Poore (North Carolina State University)

**Committee Reports:**

**Academic Quadrathlon (AQ)** - The AQ report was presented by Dr. Dan Poole on behalf of Dr. Carrie Pickworth. He acknowledged the support of the AQ committee in organizing and delivering a virtual academic quadrathlon for the 2021 meeting. Thirty-two students representing eight universities competed in the 2021 Virtual Southern Section ASAS Academic Quadrathlon. Teams from: Auburn University, Middle Tennessee State University, Mississippi State University, North Carolina State University, Oklahoma State University, Texas A & M University, Texas Tech University, and University of Tennessee completed virtual practicum challenges and written test on Google Forms. They also participated live on Zoom in oral presentations and quiz bowl. Results were as follows:

* **Practicum**: Texas A & M 1st, Oklahoma State University 2nd, and University of Tennessee 3rd.
* **Written Exam:** Texas A & M 1st, Auburn University 2nd, and Oklahoma State University 3rd.
* **Oral Presentations**: Oklahoma State University 1st, Texas A & M University 2nd, and Texas Tech University 3rd.
* **Quiz Bowl**: Texas A & M University 1st, Oklahoma State University 2nd, and Auburn University 3rd.

After all scores were combined Auburn was 3rd, Oklahoma State University was 2nd, and in 1st place and representing the Southern Section at the National contest was Texas A & M University.

**Necrology** – Dr. Justin Rhinehart (University of Tennessee) presented the necrology report on behalf of Dr. David Lalman. Dr. Carl Hoveland (UGA), Dr. Bill Jones (Auburn University) and Dr. Bob Swain (NC State) were recognized for their service and contributions to the ASAS Southern Section. A moment of silence was offered in memorial of these individuals.

**Extension** – Dr. Philipe Moriel (UF) gave the Extension update. The 2020 Extension webinar series on Livestock Genetics and Genomics was offered and is now housed online for access by Extension agents. There were 9 webinars and 460 attendees with an average knowledge increase of 16%. The 2021 series will be offered and focused on small ruminants. A planning committee is organizing the 2022 Extension Forum for early summer 2022.

**Call for Old Business:** No old business was discussed.

**Recognition of Board Members:** Dr. Bratcher recognized the outgoing board members for their service - Dr. Paul Beck, Past President and Brooke Clemmons as Graduate Student Director. Dr. Bratcher recognized the incoming board of directors and transitioned the meeting over to Dr. Justin Rhinehart. Dr. Rhinehart thanked Dr. Bratcher for her service and contributions to the organization.

**New Southern Section Board Members:** Dr. Rhinehart recognized incoming officers Dr. Joe Vendramini (UF) as secretary-treasurer elect and Audrey Earnhardt (TAMU) as a Graduate Student Director.

**New Business:** No new business was presented by the membership.

**Southern Section Bylaws Updates:** The Southern Section is updating the bylaws to provide consistency in terminology regarding the functionality of the organization and alignment with the national bylaws. Bylaws will be ratified at the 2022 Southern Section Business Meeting by the membership. A motion from Brooke Clemmons (TAMU-Commerce) and a second from Matt Hersom (Clemson) was made to allows changes and electronic voting by the membership. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

**Future Meeting Updates:** The 2022 meeting will be held in January 22-25 at the Sheraton in Fort Worth, Texas and in 2023 at the Hilton Raleigh North Hills, Raleigh, North Carolina.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Jeff Lehmkuhler (UKY) made a motion to adjourn, and Dan Poole (NCSU) seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 PM Central Time.