

ASAS-SS Business meeting Minutes – 1/29/24

The 2023 American Society of Animal Science Southern Section Business Meeting was called to order at 5:45 PM Eastern Time on Monday, January 29, 2024 at the Omni Louisville Hotel in Louisville, KY by President Kim Mullenix.

Kim Mullenix recognized the meeting sponsors and thanked them for their continued support of the section. Sponsors included: Elanco, University of Florida, ASAS and ASAS Foundation, Randel Appreciation Club, North Carolina State University, University of Tennessee, Texas A&M University, University of Arkansas, Texas Tech University, Auburn University, Oklahoma State University, Zinpro, Alliance for Grassland Renewal, Virginia Tech, University of Kentucky, Tarleton University, and University of Georgia.

Next, Daniel Poole recognized Past Presidents of the Southern Section and National ASAS. The National ASAS staff were also recognized and thanked for their support of the Southern Section and success of the 2024 meeting.

Scott Radcliffe (Department Head, Animal and Food Science at Univ. of KY) gave the 'Welcome to Kentucky' overview. He gave an overview of the major commodities in KY, and discussed the various focuses of University of Kentucky.

Joel Caton, ASAS President, provided an update from National ASAS Board, where he highlighted the top 10 accomplishments of the organization in the last year. These included successful hire, onboard and transition of a new ASAS-CEO and increasing membership numbers, reinvigorated ASAS Foundation and giving efforts, revamping of membership communications, and journal advances and successes.

Kim Mullenix next gave an update on the Southern Section. She highlighted new aspects of the 2024 Southern Section meeting and shared continued growth in industry participation and collaboration. Specifically, increased engagement from regional institutions.

Dallas Soffa and Maggie Justice (Graduate Student Directors; Texas A&M and Auburn University, respectively) gave an overview of the 2024 Southern Section Lunch and Learn. The speakers were Dr. Kevin McBride and Ms Samantha Bennett, with topics on Bridging the gap between industry and academics. There were 60 students registered. Additionally, approximately 80 students attended the Sunday night Meet and Greet. The incoming Graduate Student Director is Nicole Valliere (Virginia Tech).

Nicole Sanchez provided the Treasurer and Secretary update. ASAS Southern Section increased net asset by \$7,500 (UNAUDITED) and is tracking for a profit in 2024 of \$5,000. Motion to approve the financial report, moved by Daniel Poole and second by Maggie Justice, the motion passed unanimously. Nicole also reviewed the 2023 ASAS Southern Section Business Meeting Minutes and approval. A motion was made by Christy Bratcher, second by Dallas Soffa. Motion passed, unanimously.

Nicole Sanchez gave the 2024 ASAS Southern Section Program Update and reviewed registration numbers. Registration total was 300 and there were 167 abstracts presented at the meeting. With 9

companies and organizations represented, 35 universities, with the top 2 registrations by school from NCSU (39) and TAMU (29).

Joao Vendramini provided the Undergraduate 3MT competition update. Winners were: 1) Jamie Lavergne – Tarleton State University, 2) Catherine R. Kalmbach – Mississippi State University, and 3) Alyssa Lopez – Texas State University.

Kim Mullenix provided an update on the Graduate MS and Phd 3MT competition. For the master's competition winners were: 1) Macy E. Ragsdale – University of Kentucky, 2) : Grace Moore – Texas A&M University, and 3) Connor Kern – Texas Tech University. For the PhD competition winners were: 1) Dallas Soffa – Texas A&M University, 2) Vinicius S. Izquierdo – University of Florida, and 3) Brittany A. Lippy – Oklahoma State University.

Whitney Crossland provided an update on the Academic Quadrathlon. There were 17 teams that participated in the regional competition (Auburn University, Berry College, Eastern Kentucky University, University of Florida, University of Georgia, Louisiana State University, Mississippi State University, University of Mount Olive, North Carolina State University, Oklahoma State University, Tarleton State University, University of Tennessee- Knoxville, Texas A&M University, Texas Tech University, Tuskegee University, West Texas A&M University, Virginia Tech).

University of Kentucky hosted the practicum. The committee thanked Deb Aaron, Cathleen Williams for organizing the 2024 contest. The winners of the contest were: 1) Texas A&M University, 2) North Carolina State University, and 3) Texas Tech University.

Christy Bratcher gave the Necrology report for the section. The following Animal Scientists were recognized:

Steven Lynn Nissen - Iowa State University - 1/29/2023
George Heersche, Jr. - University of Kentucky - 2/5/2023
William “Willie” Galyen - Galyen Family Farms - 6/25/2023
Carl Reed Richardson - Texas State University - 6/30/2023
Richard “Dick” George Saacke - Virginia Tech - 8/20/2023
Raymond Walter Harvey - North Carolina State University - 9/29/2023
Henry Tyrrell - USDA-ARS - 11/3/2023
Jarold Eldon Callahan - Express Ranches - 12/23/2023
Richard “Dick” Heitmann - University of Tennessee - 12/28/2023

Vitor Mercadante provided the Extension Committee report. There were 39 attendees at the Extension Breakfast, which was sponsored by the Alliance for Grassland Renewal. The committee plans to continue their webinar/symposium series to train agents in the southern area. They have hosted an online symposium with 79 participants from 13 institutions. There were 14 abstracts presented in the Extension section, which was more than double from previous year. The new chair is Ashley Edwards (LSU).

There was no old business to discuss.

Kim Mullenix recognized and thanked the outgoing board for their service to the section which included Daniel Poole (Past President) and Maggie Justice (Graduate Director). The current slate of officers were introduced:

President: Joao Vendramini, University of Florida
President-Elect: Nicole Burdick Sanchez, USDA-ARS
Past-Present: Kim Mullenix, Auburn University
Secretary-Treasurer/Program Chair: Vitor Mercadante, Virginia Tech
Secretary-Treasurer Elect: Brandon Smith, Auburn University
Southern Section Director: Christy Bratcher, Texas Tech University
Graduate Director: Dallas Soffa, Texas A&M University
Graduate Director: Nicole Valliere, Virginia Tech

Kim Mullenix transferred the gavel to Joao Vendramini, who made a call for discussion of new business. No new business was presented.

Vitor Mercadante gave an update on future meeting sites and dates. The 2025 meeting will be held jointly with the ASAS-Western Section in Arlington, TX at the Sheraton Arlington from April 5-8, 2025. Site selections for the 2026 and 2027 meetings are under discussion.

Joao Vendramini called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Dallas Soffa and seconded by Daniel Poole. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm. The business meeting was followed by the awards banquet in the hotel.