

Texas Genetics Society
Minutes of the Spring Board of Directors Meeting
April 27, 2017
George Bush Presidential Library and Museum, College Station, TX
Prepared by Joe M. Angel, Secretary/Treasurer and Tina Gumienny, Secretary/Treasurer-elect

Directors Present:

Erika Abel—President	Jonathan Rios
Sarah Canterberry—President-elect	Terje Raudsepp
Joe Angel—Secretary/Treasurer	Tina Gumienny
Clare Gill—Past President	Steve Daiger
Trey Fondon—Past President	David Threadgill
Pat Howard Peebles—Historian	David Nelson

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:13 by President Erika Abel
2. Minutes of the December 16, 2016 Board of Directors meeting by teleconference were approved
3. Treasurer's Report—Joe Angel

We have \$22,831.60 in our accounts. This is down slightly from our balance a year ago. Anticipated meeting expenses of ~\$12,500 remain to be paid and sponsorships from the American Journal of Human Genetics and the Texas A&M Institute of Genome Sciences and Society totaling \$1,500 remain to be collected. This is the best turnout we've had in some time with 74 trainees and 33 regular members registered for the meeting. Two Emeritus Members, Rodney Nairn and Robb Moses, are also attending the meeting. Over 20 institutions from Texas, Oklahoma, and Oregon are represented.

4. Erika thanked the outgoing members of the BOD for their service to the Society. Outgoing members are:

Trey Fondon
Terje Raudsepp
Jonathan Rios
Samantha Fletcher
Joe Angel

5. Results of the election of officers and board members were announced and new members of the BOD were welcomed. They are

Jonathan Rios, President-Elect
Tina Gumienny, Secretary/Treasurer-Elect
David Aiello
David Nelson

6. Replacement of vacancy on the BOD—The election of Tina Gumienny as Secretary/Treasurer leaves a vacancy for the last year of her at large position on the BOD which is to be filled by the BOD. Caleb Phillips was nominated, seconded, and approved to fill Tina's at large position on the BOD. This is a one-year position.
7. Report from the local organizing committee—Sarah discussed the poster session.
8. Other Business
 - a. Next year's meeting—Houston, Denton, and College Station were suggested for next year's meeting. The pros and cons of holding the meeting at the same location every year were discussed. David

Threadgill stated that there may be more options for locations in College Station at lower costs by next year.

- b. Registration Fees—The suggestion was made that registration fees are too high for undergraduates and that more undergraduates might attend if the registration fee was lower. It was suggested that we poll faculty members to determine if cost keeps them from sending trainees to the meeting.
- c. Tax exempt status of the organization and end of year donations from members—Joe mentioned that the Texas Genetics Society is a tax-exempt 501c3 organization and that donations made to the TGS are tax deductible. A discussion followed regarding putting something on the TGS website about making tax deductible donations to the Society, including a “Donate Now” link. Erika suggested that we might want to send something out to the membership closer to the end of the year.
- d. Increasing participation in the meeting—Jonathan suggested that we find a way to set up an endowment that could be used to provide stipends to trainees totaling about \$6,000 per year. It was also suggested that we need to increase awareness of the organization around the state.
- e. Increasing sponsor interest—It was suggested that we need to increase the value of sponsorships to the vendors. One way to do this would be to make the attendee list available to sponsors or to offer to make a one-time mailing to our membership list on behalf of the vendors. It was noted that several vendors wanted to sponsor a table but had conflicts and could not attend the meeting. It was suggested that we need to encourage vendors who can’t attend the meeting to support the TGS by sponsoring student awards, invited addresses, coffee breaks, etc.
- f. Emeritus Members—The BOD awards Emeritus Member status to retired members who have contributed significantly to the success of the TGS. Emeritus Membership comes with a lifetime membership to the TGS and the TGS has waived meeting registration fees for Emeritus Members who attend the annual meeting. There was some discussion regarding qualifications to be an Emeritus Member and whether the TGS should continue to waive the meeting registration fees. No additional qualifications were agreed on and the BOD agreed to continue to waive meeting registration fees for Emeritus Members as a way to show the Society’s appreciation for their contributions. The following five members who are either retired or will be retired by next year’s meeting were selected to be Emeritus Members:

Andy Dewees
Charleen Moore
Loren Skow
Jim Womack
Joe Angel

- g. Erika suggested that individual board members should take responsibility for four areas important to the organization. These are:
 - Social media
 - Fundraising/Donations
 - Membership
 - Sponsorship

Tina suggested that donations should be the responsibility of the Secretary/Treasurer and that she would oversee that area. Sarah will call a meeting later this year to discuss this item.

- 9. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30.