

Minutes of the Society of Herbarium Curators – Southeastern USA Section annual business meeting
ASB Virtual Conference
Thursday, 25 March 2021

Meeting called to order by President Travis Marsico at 12:05 pm EDT.
There were 16 members in attendance.

Agenda Items:

1. Fill vacant leadership positions

A ballot will be finalized and emailed to members after the meeting. Travis asked attendees to approve altering the by-laws process this year to vote online after the meeting (instead of at the meeting) in order to get more participation in the election; motion approved. Ashley Morris noted that voter turnout for ASB elections is much higher online than at the business meeting.

2. SHC-SEUSA will set up a survey to get more information from our members to determine their thoughts about how to move forward as a chapter. Goals for the next year include:

a. Develop practical strategies for expanding engagement to individuals who are not part of our community

Discussion points:

- Now that SERNEC funding is completed, SEUSA could replace its function as a clearinghouse of information
- Andrea Weeks – invite nonmembers to meetings; there is a need to do more outreach such as to new staff hires, and there is more digitization to do (out of state, international, e.g.)
- Ashley Morris – RE: digitization, over the past 7 years there have been changes to protocols, strategies and equipment, upgrades to equipment needed; SEUSA could become a new hub of information; we could host workshops to build community and dispense information, discuss what did and didn't work in SERNEC
- Charlie Horn – specimen imaging needs are ongoing, with new collections being made
- Zack Murrell – SERNEC is in the second year of a no-cost extension with NSF; staff are no longer being paid on the grant, and we have 4 years of data storage purchased; there is a critical need for a data manager; SEUSA may be the best group to sustain SERNEC down the road, providing continuity and momentum; the data are certainly being used; new people need to step up to fill the roles of those stepping down
- Travis – continuing the state-level model is a good idea and works well in AR, where there is a statewide digitization coordinator through the AR Natural Heritage program; the SERNEC model of training students and sharing data needs modification to include data cleaning by experts as data error rate is a big issue for downstream users; focusing on data management (including error checks) and georeferencing (including CoGe).
- Andrea – which universities have engaged with their libraries, to leverage the institutional resources and databasing infrastructure? Data management is a huge issue and time intensive

- Zack – taxonomic concept mapping needs leadership for a group effort; he is looking to pass the torch, but is happy to work with others and help in any way needed
- Andrea – should SEUSA submit an NSF proposal for an envisioning workshop for “SERNEC 2.0”? We should pull in folks like Alan Weakley who do concept mapping daily. The extended specimen is the next reach goal for ADBC specimen.
- Emily Gillespie – should we generate standards for data usage, such as for documenting error, so that studies can be comparable?

b. Ways to recruit and retain student members in SHC

Discussion points

- The name SHC might be a deterrent to non-herbarium curators
- We could have professional development workshops for new curators and students, grant-writing workshops
- Provide lunch for students at the business meeting
- Ask students about their lessons learned working in herbarium
- Aliya Davenport – our business meeting is always at the same time as the Diversity and Inclusions lunch meeting at ASB; can this be changed every other year to allow participation in both?

c. Ideas to make sure we as a section appropriately interface with the overall SHC organization? Can we provide added value to the overall organization from our experiences in the SE?

Discussion points

- Discussion of diversity and inclusion issues; this pertains to SHC as a whole, but should SEUSA do our own thing to engage with D&I issues?
 - Emily - doing our own thing at the regional level would be the right route; we should have a thoughtful and non-superficial effort for diversity and inclusivity
3. Members should expect to get emails soon with an election ballot and a survey for more input on these discussion topics

Travis ended the meeting at 1:00 pm.

Minutes compiled by Kathy Mathews, SHC-SEUSA Secretary (v. 1.1)