

**2021 Business Meeting Minutes**  
**Southern Regional Branch – American Society of Agronomy**  
**February 1, 2021 (Virtual conference)**

- The 2021 business meeting was called to order by the President Dr. Nithya Rajan at 10.45 am February 1, 2021.
- Officers were introduced. Officers are Dr. Jason Krutz, Past President; Dr. Nithya Rajan, President; Dr. Song Cui, Vice President and Program Chair; Dr. Gurpreet Kaur, Secretary/Treasurer; Dr. Curtis Adams, Secretary/Treasurer-elect
- Dr. Rajan said minutes from 2020 meeting will be shared either in chat in the Zoom or posted online. Motion was passed to approve the minutes from 2020.
- Dr. Gurpreet Kaur presented the budget. There were 65 registrants for this year's conference, out of which 40 were students. Total revenue from the registration was \$8,600 (This number is higher than last year and don't look right; we are checking with Beth Jacques from ASA for the correct amount generated by the registrations). The ending balance is \$16,038.
- There were 61 submitted abstracts including 6 professional oral presentations, 7 professional poster presentations (5 Crops + 2 Soils), 15 PhD oral presentations, 7 PhD poster presentations, 15 MS oral presentations, 9 MS poster presentations, and 2 undergraduate poster presentations.
- Early Career Research Award was presented by Dr. Jason Krutz:
  - Dr. Song Cui, Associate Professor of Digital Agriculture, Middle Tennessee State University.
- Dr. Song Cui presented the student competition awards.

Undergraduate competition (2)\*

1. Emma Tyre (Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College)

*\*Since, there were only two people participating in the UG competition, the judges and officers decided to give only first place award.*

M.S. Poster Competition (9)

1. Hayden Godwin (University of Georgia)
2. Hannah Decker (Auburn University)
3. Adina Grossman (University of Florida)

M.S. Oral Competition (15)

1. Mary Gracen Fuller (Mississippi State University)
2. Hayden B Godwin (University of Georgia)
3. Lori M. Hearon (Mississippi State University)

PhD. Poster Competition (7)

1. Chiara Rossi (University of Georgia)
2. Musfiq Salehin (Texas A&M) & Joseph Iboyi (University of Florida)
3. Philip Hinson (Texas A&M)

### PhD. Oral Competition (15)

1. Shandrea Stallworth (Mississippi State University)
2. Chiara Rossi (University of Georgia) & Ana Azevedo (University of Georgia)
3. Simon Riley (University of Florida)

(First Prize - \$300, Second Prize - \$200, Third Prize - \$100)

- Recognition was given to the judges of oral and poster competitions and moderators for the oral presentations:

Dorothy Menefee, Sri Pinnamaneni, Xuejun Dong, Curtis Adams, Song Cui, Cristiane Pilon, Pramod Pokhrel, Jodie Reisner, Gurpreet Kaur, Nithya Rajan, Tina Sullivan, Michael Maw

- Election - Secretary/Treasurer position. Got 3 nominations:
  1. Dr. Trent Irby, Mississippi State University (Nominated by Dr. Jason Krutz)
  2. Dr. Audrey Gamble, Auburn University (Nominated by Dr. Scott Tubbs)
  3. Dr. Xuejun Dong, Texas Agrilife Research-Uvalde, TX (Nominated by Dr. Nithya Rajan)
- New business/comments/suggestions
  - For undergraduate students- need to specify from next year that there should be only one presenter for each poster presentation. This year, one of the UG poster had 2 presenters for the 3-slide powerpoint audio file whereas the other UG poster only had 1 student presenter for the 3-slide powerpoint audio file.
  - Suggestions from Michael Maw (Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College): need to increase undergraduate participation in the Southern ASA conference. Therefore, he suggested having some educational tours, visits, workshops, educational presentations on “how to make poster or oral presentations etc”. Michael is willing to take a lead on this and be involved with program next year to increase undergraduate participation in this meeting.

One of limitation that we discussed for having low number of UG participants is that emails from southern ASA is received only by members of ASA. We think it is possible that the faculty in many of the institutions having mainly UG degrees are not members of the ASA. Therefore, they do not know about the southern ASA conference. We should somehow try to reach out to such institutions as well in future to increase UG students participation in southern ASA conference. We can also ask the southern ASA members for their input for the program.

- The gavel was passed to Dr. Song Cui virtually (President to Present-elect).
- Motion was approved to adjourn the meeting.