American Meteorological Society
Board of Women and Minorities
Minutes (DRAFT)

Meeting:
Room HEC-02, Hilton Riverside Hotel, New Orleans, LA
2:00-5:00 pm

Attendees:
Board Members: Leslie Hartten (CIRES), Shirley Murillo (NOAA), Raj Pandya (UCAR),
Keenan Smith (WGN-TV), Ada Monzón (Univision PR), Sepi Yalda (Millersville Univ.),
Jeff Gaffney (UAR-Little Rock), John E. Jones, Jr. (Retired)
Alumni: Sim Aberson (NOAA), John Nielsen-Gammon (Texas A&M)
AMS & BOPE: Julie Winkler (Michigan State), Susan Foster (UCAR), Corinne
Kazarosian (AMS), Joe Moran (AMS)
Guests: Markeitta Benjamin (Jackson State), Henry Blakes, Jr. (Jackson State), Priti
Brahma (NOAA), Jarrett Claiborne (Jackson State), Ian C. Colon (UPR Rio Piedras),
Idamis del Valle (UPR Mayaguez), Laura Furgione (NWS), Kantave Greene (Jackson
State), Marque Jones (Jackson State), Tom Karl (NCDC), Janice Maldonado (UPR
Mayaguez), Tamil Maldonado (Howard Univ.), Luis O. Maymi (UPR Mayaguez), Alina
del M. Nieves (UPR Mayaguez), Gabriel Olavarria (UPR Mayaguez), Patrick Pete
(Jackson State), Shanna Pitter (NOAA), Suseela Reddy (Jackson State), Ashton
Robinson (Univ. Oklahoma), Myrna Santiago (UPR Mayaguez), Andrea Sealy (NCAR),
Cecille Villanueva (UPR Río Piedras), Karretta Venable (Columbus State), Jamal R.
West (Jackson State), Loren White (Jackson State), Quinton Williams (Jackson State),
Amanda Wisdom (University of Illinois)

1 - Attendance sheets were distributed by Leslie Hartten.

2 - Minutes of the 2007 meeting were distributed by electronic mail and were approved
before present board meeting.

3 - Leslie acknowledged: Shirley Murillo for her support and 7 years working for BWM,
Howie Friedman, and those that are following for second term. BWM 2008 is composed
of 12 members, plus one undergraduate student and one graduate student.

4 - Education and Human Resources (EHR) Matters:
   a) Shirley Murillo (for Howard Friedman):
      • AMS Weather Book will be published later this year
      • EWOC Conference will be in 2009 in Czech Republic
      • Discovery Breakthrough is being produced in Spanish as well
      • New Role: Weather Video preview: Seeking new input of weather videos,
can talk to Susan Foster or Walt Lyons
      • Weather Fest: outstanding record this year: between three to four
thousand persons participated (including community such as Girl Scouts);
talks around selling things
b) Susan Foster:
Susan suggested that in AMS 2009 in Phoenix, that Weather Fest should have activities in Spanish. Ada Monzón said that she can organize with the AMS Student Chapter of UPR Mayaguez an area with hands-on activities and materials: “Weather En Español”. Susan also mentioned that the Anderson Award was for Yolanda Amadeo. She told Board Members that they are invited to make comments on report through their website of the NSF Science Framework which drives educational efforts across the nation.

c) Sepi Yalda:
There have been changes of criteria regarding the Teaching Excellence Award. The Student Conference this year was not well attended by other AMS members. Sepi asked if BWM wanted to be part of the Planning Committee, and Leslie mentioned that she will give Jeff Gaffney the Board’s email list. The Diversity Summit by the end of these years will enhance minority institutions participation. Leslie will consult with the Board focusing on recommendations. Jackson State University emphasized that there are not enough access points for minority to attend university institutions with meteorology degree programs. General knowledge and support is needed, and Leslie is going to summarize and send it to the BWM Board list. Another email is suggested to get partnerships on industry voices which are needed. There was been a suggestion to improve the Student Resource Page. Leslie will include the link of the NCAR Library in the BWM site which is a real opportunity to obtain papers, history, etc. Sepi will be our liaison to BHE for another year.

d) Julie Winkler (EHR Commissioner):
Julie thanked for everyone’s participation. She mentioned that there were successful activities such as the Student’s Conference (with more than 500 students), Weather Fest and the Women’s Luncheon (with near 100 persons). AMS is doing a large effort to increase membership. Julie also indicated that the Board of Private Meteorologists are looking for mentorship. The AMS had its first external review with contributions from volunteers.

5 - Annual BWM Activities
a) AMS Industry Minority Scholarship - There were 35 applications (applications were down from previous year: 43), and they awarded 8 (before there were 10 awards). Keith mentioned that these scholarships are $3,000/year for 2 years. Awardees are invited to the AMS meeting. Leslie asked for volunteers to serve on the Scholarship board. John and Sepi volunteered.

b) Women’s Luncheon - There was a cash/carry station. In 2007 there were 130 persons and in 2008 there were 99. There were other activities simultaneously and it was a poor location and not enough signs to indicate the luncheon. There was a suggestion that we should consider a sponsor for the luncheon.

c) Anderson Award - There were no new nominations for 2007, and this year there were 3 nominations. There is a need for sponsors to get nominees, and to put together packages for submission.

d) Battan Award - Sepi mentioned that there were 11 children books nominated for this award and Oceans was selected. There were 5 adult books of which Field Notes/Rivers Run Dry was selected. Sepi asked to be eliminated from the university scholarships.
e) Teaching Excellence Award - Sepi’s husband was awardee and she stepped out from this committee.

6 - Incoming AMS President-Watt Dabbert
He reminded the group that he wants to increase the AMS membership in the next five years, simplify the membership process and increase diversity so that all sector are well represented. The Phoenix’s AMS Convention in 2009 will focus on Urban Weather and Climate: Today and Future. The Earth is reaching its tipping point with 1 out of every 6 people living in squatter cities with no infrastructure. Therefore the AMS has a challenge to contribute. There are three components of the AMS Outreach Program:
   i) International Outreach is a very important component of the AMS establishing exchange of ideas and opportunities.
   ii) Reach out to pre-college students, with Susan Foster and Julie Winkler making preliminary recommendations
   iii) Scientific and Public component through the MAS Compendium of Meteorology

He also provided his email: amspresident@ametsoc.org

7 - Special 2007 BWM activities
   a) AMS Membership Survey Papers: 2005 survey is divided into eight papers which will be published in BAMS starting in March 2008. Leslie thanked everyone for working on this.
   b) Special Session: Assessing Diversity among Geoscientists with the Committee on Probability and Statistics - There was a small response but networking and discussion started.
   c) Mentorship for Students from Minority Institutions - Ashanti Pyrtle from USF started this initiative in 2005. It has been very difficult to find out what the experience has been and contacting mentors. Leslie will write the ground rules and invite her to talk about it as the BWM Board is supportive to do this mentorship.
   d) Changes to BWM web page - For now, Lena Miller (SOARS) is the web master. NCAR continues to keep the domain name and maintenance of site. There are some content changes that need to be done.

8 - Special 2008 BWM activities
   a) AMS Strategic Plan: Points A4, A5, A7, H2 and J4 are relative to BWM board. Input is needed in these issues.

9 - New Activities/Issues
   a) GLBT issues - Should the AMS be addressing these issues? Constructive dialog went along as there are several societies that have informal events that include common interests. Nothing has been done before at the AMS. Maybe there is an alternative of a special session since there are some policy issues which may be relevant. Sim Aberson and Ian C. Pagan will help identify other societies’ groundwork and make recommendations.
   b) Leslie asked for other issues. Bill Hook mentioned the AMS Policy Colloquium and a letter to STAC Committee.
10 - Julie made final comments. She said that progress has been made in diversity, the increase has been small but it goes to all sectors of our society.

11 - Meeting adjourned.