

**MINUTES OF** **ANNUAL VIRTUAL MEETING OF**

**THE SOCIETY OF PHI ZETA**

**Thursday, July 20, 2023**

**Zoom Meetingsponsored by Auburn University**

1. **Call to Order.** President **Charles Wiedmeyer** called the 2023 virtual meeting to order at 2:00 pm Eastern Daylight Time.

Twenty-three of 33 chapters were able to participate. Representatives of the following chapters were present for the meeting:

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| **Chapter** | **Institution** |
| Alpha | Cornell University |
| Epsilon | Auburn University |
| Eta | Texas A&M University |
| Kappa | University of Minnesota |
| Lambda | University of California |
| Mu | University of Illinois |
| Nu | Oklahoma State University |
| Xi | University of Georgia |
| Omicron | Purdue University |
| Pi | University of Missouri |
| Rho | Tuskegee University |
| Sigma | Kansas State University |
| Tau | Louisiana State University |
| Upsilon | University of Florida |
| Phi | University of Tennessee |
| Chi | Virginia-Maryland Regional College Vet Med |
| Omega | Mississippi State University |
| Alpha Alpha | University of Wisconsin |
| Alpha Beta | Tufts University |
| Alpha Gamma | Oregon State University |
| Alpha Delta | St. George’s University |
| Alpha Zeta | Ross University |
| Alpha Theta | Lincoln Memorial University |

As there was representation from at least five chapters, **a quorum was constituted**.

1. **Introductions and President's Report**:Charles Wiedmeyer welcomed those in attendance. Roll call was made at the beginning and the end of the meeting.
2. **Approval of Minutes of 2022 Virtual meeting**:Minutes of the July 13, 2022 meeting were presented for discussion. The minutes had been presented to the chapters soon after the July 13, 2022 meeting for an unofficial vote. Motion to accept the 2022 minutes was made, seconded and approved by voice vote.
3. **Secretary-Treasurer's Report**: The Treasurer’s Report for 2022-2023 was presented and showed an increase in income of about $5,000 due to the donation by Mars Veterinary Health in support of the Research Manuscript Award. In addition, the income represents certificates for 859 new members and another 90 extra certificates (for printing errors) distributed to chapters in 2022-23. The increase in certificate orders means we will need to order another printing of 1000 certificates (normally an every other year expense). Expenses fell largely into 3 categories: Manuscript Award expenses (~$7,800), office supplies and printing expenses (~$1,500), and postage/shipping expenses (~$500). Flat rate postage for shipping certificates by USPS Priority has increased every year the past 4 years. We did not incur a cost for brochure printing as we switched to an online brochure after last year’s meeting.
4. **Phi Zeta Research Awards**: Dr. Wiedmeyer announced the winners of the Research Manuscript Awards. In the Basic Science category, **Dr. Kristin Bowers**, University of Tennessee, won for her manuscript “Mesenchymal stem cell use in acute tendon injury: In vitro tenogenic potential vs. in vivo dose response.” In the Clinical Science category, **Dr. William B. Crosby**, Mississippi State University, won for his manuscript “Does swab type matter? Comparing methods for *Mannheimia haemolytica* recovery and upper respiratory microbiome characterization in feedlot cattle.”

Dr. Wiedmeyer reported that the Research Manuscript Award review process worked well again this year. He thanked the reviewing chapters for 2022-2023, which were St. George’s University, Texas A&M University, Tufts University, Tuskegee University, University of California-Davis, University of Florida, University of Georgia and University of Illinois. There were 30 manuscripts submitted and each institution had 1 or 2 manuscripts in each category to review. The reviews reflected conscientious consideration of the manuscripts and were mostly submitted in a timely manner.

Dr. Wiedmeyer discussed the promise of a donation of $5,000 from Purina to support the Research Manuscript Awards, the intention this year being to split the money between the 2 category winners. The check has not yet been received. Dr. Wiedmeyer will get in touch with his contact at Purina to follow up. There will be an announcement of the winners submitted to JAVMA which normally also includes a head shot of each winner.

1. **Old Business**:
   1. Dr. Josephson will be emailing chapter representatives to obtain current mailing addresses in order to send dividend checks.
   2. **IRS reporting by individual chapters:** Dr. Josephson reminded representatives of U.S. chapters that collect income that, in order to maintain their tax exempt status, their chapters have to file a 990N ePostcard (report) with the IRS annually during the period between July 15 and November 15. More information is available on the Phi Zeta website, [www.societyofphizeta.org](http://www.societyofphizeta.org).
   3. The call for nominations for the position of President was reissued. Dr. Wiedmeyer noted that the main responsibility in the position is contacting reviewing chapters and sending them manuscripts to review for the Research Manuscript Award.

## New Business:

## Proposed Budget for 2023-2024: The proposed budget for 2023-2024 includes the cost for printing 1000 member certificates. After discussion of possible price increases due to inflation and chapter’s having problems with printing cardstock certificates, the proposed budget was approved by voice vote. Dr. Josephson suggested a possible workaround for the printing problems that the Omega chapter was having.

## Determination of level of financial support to chapters: With 23 of 33 chapters in attendance at the 2023 Annual Meeting, the calculated amount of financial support per chapter was $111.00 = [($2552) ¸ 23]. The actual amount to be distributed per chapter was set at $100.00.

* 1. **Criteria for student membership vis-à-vis Pass/Fail-types of curricula:** Addressing a concern brought up at last year’s meeting, a discussion was initiated about how different chapters assign student ranking, especially at those institutions that do not use a numerical value to identify student progress, e.g., grading systems based on P/F or SMU designations. OkSU, UC-Davis and U of IL use grades in the first 3 years and then P/F in the 4th year. At U of MN students are only graded during their 2nd and 3rd years, which affects determining senior students’ rankings. U of MO is discussing switching to a P/F system for the clinical years only. U of TN has a system, after the first 2.5 years, of assigning points when clinical students earn an honors designation. This is done through the Administration. VA-MD administration also keeps track of points earned while not reporting a grade to students beyond P/F. It is still the case that rankings are used, in part, to award internships and residencies. The national organization will continue to monitor these trends toward non-quantitative student evaluations.
  2. **Other business:** Dr. Wiedmeyer requested Dr. Josephson update the chapter contact list.

**IV. Adjournment:** With no further items to discuss President Wiedmeyer adjourned the meeting at 2:40 pm Eastern Daylight Time.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Josephson, Secretary-Treasurer