The 2016 business meeting was called to order by the President Dr. Mark Reiter at 4:45 pm.

Officers were introduced from the 2015-2016 year. Officers are Dr. Yoana Newman, Past President; Dr. Mark Reiter, President, Dr. Dexter Watts, Vice President and Program Chair; Dr. Paul DeLaune, Secretary/Treasurer; and Julie Howe, Secretary/Treasurer – elect.

Minutes from 2015 meeting were asked to be read, Dr. Jason Krutz made a motion to abstain reading of minutes, Dr. Wayne Ebelhar seconded the motion and motion passed.

The survey of Southern Branch ASA concerning the number of presentations that a graduate student could enter was discussed. The most popular response, representing 50% of respondents, was that a student should be limited to enter one category of oral competition and one category of poster competition. 64% of survey respondents indicated that students should compete with students of like degrees (i.e. M.S. crops vs. M.S. soils instead of M.S. soils vs. Ph.D soils). The undergraduate competition will not be affected and remain as a poster competition. There was discussion concerning validating status of the student as M.S. or Ph.D. track. Dr. Carl Crozier made a motion that the student advisor would be responsible for verifying status of student’s degree plan - motion was seconded and approved.

Discussion Joint Session with Animal Sciences – Forages section: 82% of survey respondents indicated the desire to continue joint Animal Science-Forages and Agronomy session. Dr. Mark Reiter noted that Animal Sciences did not plan to meet with SAAS in 2017 and 2018. Dr. Wayne Ebelhar made a motion that the Agronomy section continue to welcome the joint session when the opportunity presents itself. Dr. Rocky Lemus seconded the motion, motion was approved.

The fourth question of the survey dealt with the possibility of extended meeting time if joint sessions or a high number of abstracts existed. Of survey respondents, 55% preferred having concurrent sessions as opposed to meeting on Sunday or Tuesday afternoon. Discussion focused on preference to have concurrent session on Tuesday to avoid conflict with graduate student competitions on Monday. Dr. Rocky Lemus made a motion to hold concurrent sessions on Tuesday. Dr. Wayne Ebelhar seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Treasurer’s report-(Dr. Paul DeLaune): It was mentioned that our starting budget for the 2016 meetings was $8,830.00 and our ending budget was estimated to be $10,049.16. Registration fees were down for the 2016 meeting at $5,600 compared with $11,085 in 2015, mostly due to low professional registration.

Attendance- (Dr. Mark Reiter): It was stated that we had 28 Professional registrants and 45 graduate and undergraduate registrants for a total of 73 participants (99 in 2015). Historically, professional numbers have been lower when meetings are held in Texas. Student participants were similar to previous years.
Future meeting locations for SAAS were discussed. Dr. Reiter mentioned the meeting will be held in Mobile, AL in 2017, and Jacksonville, FL in 2018. Then he asked for suggestions of locations for future meetings. Dr. Wayne Ebelhar explained importance of letting section leaders or SAAS board members know of concerns or needs. Locations suggested for future SAAS meetings were Atlanta, Memphis, and Nashville.

Discussion next focused on possibility of special topic sessions to increase attendance and/or networking. Topic areas suggested included gypsum, soil health, cover crops, land stewardship, NRCS programs, and UAVs.

Dr. Jerry Lemunyon discussed Soil and Water Conservation award for junior and senior undergraduates and M.S. students. The award totals $3,000, plus $500 award for the major professor. Award information is available on the Soil Science Society of America website.

Early Career and Career Professional Awards were presented by Dr. Becky Gilfillen. There was one award this year:

- Dr. Mark Reiter, Early Career Award in Research – Virginia Tech University

**Poster presentation Award Winners**

- **Undergraduate**
  - 1st Todd Pirtle; Tennessee State University
  - 2nd Alex Callaway; Auburn University
  - 3rd Morgan Gentry; Western Kentucky University

- **Crops**
  - 1st Bhupinder Singh; Mississippi State University
  - 2nd Calvin Meeks; University of Georgia
  - 3rd Yong Chen; Texas A&M University

- **Soils**
  - 1st Rui Yang; Auburn University
  - 2nd Sumit Sharma; Texas Tech University
  - 3rd Partson Mubvumba; Texas A&M University

**Oral presentation award winners**

- **Crops**
  - 1st Dennis Nicu Lozada; University of Arkansas
  - 2nd Amanda Holder; University of Arkansas
  - 3rd Robert McKee; Auburn University

- **Soils**
  - 1st Jacob McNeal; Mississippi State University
  - 2nd Partson Mubvumba; Texas A&M University
  - 3rd Josh Andrews; University of Georgia

Recognition was given to the graduate student judges and moderator for the oral presentations.
• Nominations were made for 2016-2017 Secretary/Treasurer - Elect. Dr. Jason Krutz from Mississippi State University and Dr. Paul Woosley from Western Kentucky University were nominated. Dr. Carl Crozier made a motion to close the nomination and Dr. Wayne Ebelhar seconded. The motion passed.
• The gavel was passed to Dexter Watts (President to Present-elect).
• Dr. Rocky Lemus moved to adjourn and Dr. Jason Krutz seconded the motion, motion was approved.