

Florida Academy of Sciences

Minutes of the Council Meeting



June 13, 2009
Orlando Science Center (OSC)
Orlando, Florida

List of Attendees: Richard Turner, Dave Karlen, Barry Wharton, Ramon Ruiz-Carus, Ed Haddad, Julie Regier, Jeremy Montague, Patricia Zalo, Sanjay Sesodia, Dan Odell, John Trefry, John Baker, Kathy Carvalho, Tom Arnold, Michael Reiter, Mark Wade, Don Lovejoy, and Jack Stout. Apologies for absences were received from Leslie Sue Lieberman, Mark Chiappone, Jacci White, Eric Perlman, Niescja Turner, Kym Campbell, Dean Martin, Barbara Martin, Gil Ellis, Dan McCarthy, and Gilbert Queeley.

Meeting was called to order. Minutes of the previous Council meeting held on March 19, 2009, were approved as written.

President Richard Turner reviewed matters arising from the March minutes that required Council action. The requisite vote to approve the proposed increase in membership dues was inadvertently not held at the 2009 Annual Business Meeting; therefore, the vote will take place at the 2010 Annual Business Meeting. Regarding Council's decision at the March 2009 Council meeting to limit withdrawal of funds from the Endowment to 5% of its value, Richard pointed out that Council needed to clarify what the percentage was to be based on (i.e., the value at what point in time).

Richard amended the order of items in the agenda and then called for reports.

Reports

President's Report. This being Richard's inaugural meeting as the Academy's new president, he outlined what his emphases would be during his term. His would be a task-oriented approach.

He distributed three documents: (1) "Council for 2009-2010 as of 13 June 2009", (2) "Standing Committees for 2009-2010", and (3) "Ad Hoc Committees for 2009-2010." Corrections and updates were made to all three documents.

Council elected Susan Bambo as chair-elect of the Agricultural and Natural Sciences Section; Kathy Carvalho was appointed as Councilor-at-Large for a two-year term (2009-2011). John Schultz is stepping down as Anthropology Chair, although Jeremy indicated he may have a replacement lined up (unidentified). John Trefry suggested that section chairs should serve a two-year term, which would require an amendment to the Bylaws.

Richard stated that, during the upcoming September 2009 Council meeting, Council will be asked to elect chairs to the active standing and ad hoc committees. Richard noted that the President-elect is a member of all standing committees but has no vote. For that to change, the Bylaws would need to be amended.

Council elected Dan Odell and John Trefry to the Executive Committee.

With the Richard taking over for Dan Odell as President, the makeup of the Honors (Medalist) Committee was updated, with Dan (as past-president) now serving as chair. The rest of the committee now consists of John Trefry (as 2nd past-president), Cherie Geiger (as 3rd past-president), a past Medalist (with Chris Clausen having served that capacity for the past three years), Richard (as President), David Karlen (as President-elect), and Ed Haddad (as Executive Director).¹

Ad Hoc Editor Search Committee Report. Committee chair, John Trefry, recommended that Dr. Thomas J. Manning, PhD., Professor of Chemistry at Valdosta State University, be appointed for a five-year term as the new editor of the Academy's journal, *Florida Scientist*. Dr. Manning's Curriculum Vitae and other biographical material were provided to Council several days before the Council Meeting. John Trefry, Kathy Carvalho, and other endorsed the selection.

Motion: that Dr. Thomas J. Manning be appointed journal editor-designate until December 31, 2009 and journal editor for a five-year term. The motion carried.

Other Reports. Reports by the Executive Director (Ed Haddad), Treasurer (Ramon Ruiz-Carus), Journal Editors (read in absentia), Journal Business Manager (Richard Turner), Awards Committee (Barry Wharton), Endowment Committee (Don Lovejoy), Honors (Medalist) Committee (Dan Odell), Nominations Committee (John Trefry), Membership Committee (David Karlen), FJAS Coordinator (Patricia Zalo), and Program Chair (Jeremy Montague) were presented and approved by Council. Key portions of these reports are summarized as follows:

Jeremy Montague (Program Chair) indicated he will continue to serve as Program Chair through the 2011 Annual Meeting.

Dan Odell (the Academy's de facto Web Site Administrator) stated that Lonnie Braden is the contractor who is hosting the Academy web site.

Membership and subscriptions currently stands as 392, up from 326 (as of March 2009). The University of Florida Exchange adds 120 additional subscriptions worldwide.

In his treasurer's report, Ramon projected that the Academy would remain in good financial shape for the next three months, but then would need a contribution from the Endowment to stay in the black. It was noted that the annual meeting has been bringing in more money of late through sponsorships. Ramon proposed a couple of cost-saving measures, including minimizing payment of fees by credit card (to avoid surcharges), distribute the annual program issue on CD instead of paper. Patricia Zalo suggested we add the surcharge to the fees to compensate for the lost revenue. Ed noted that credit cards are convenient and that most students rely on them for their transactions. Ramon will get fees charged by the various credit card companies and present this information to the Council during its September 2009 meeting. At that same meeting, the Finance Committee will look into the matter.

¹ According to the Bylaws, the President, President-elect, and Executive Director are standing members of this committee.

The Endowment's current portfolio value (as of May 31) is \$186,439. Don feels that withdrawing 5% annually from the Endowment will not be sustainable. Its value, however, did increase by ~\$14K from April 30 to May 31 due to improved market conditions. Council then clarified what it meant by 5% in the following motion:

**Motion: to withdraw up to 5% of the Endowment for the current year but to limit the withdrawal to 5% of the Endowment's portfolio value at the time that the request for withdrawal is made to the Trustees.
The motion carried.**

In the Journal Business Manager's report, Richard Turner expressed concern over "hit-and-run" authors (i.e., those join, publish, then bolt). Allen Press is now handling all reprint requests. The journal is being mailed from New Hampshire.

Barry Wharton (Awards Committee Chair) called for greater support from the various sections in judging the student posters. Also, we need to improve the process for selecting the winners of the various Academy-wide awards. It was generally agreed that what is needed is some higher order criteria with which to evaluate the section-specific winners. After much discussion, Sanjay Sesodia suggested, in addition to selecting the winning section-specific student presenters, that the judges prepare responses to five or so questions (certainly no more than 20). It was suggested that these questions be open-ended. Sanjay and Mike Reiter offered to help develop the judging form for the Academy-wide awards.

Membership Workshop. The Council meeting was adjourned for a short time to allow Dave Karlen to convene a membership workshop, wherein he highlighted the importance and benefits of Academy membership and recent membership trends, identified some benchmark goals (increase "core" membership from its current 300 to 400-500 by 2010 and 500 by 2011), and "rolled out" an implementation plan that features a recruitment drive and increasing the overall visibility of the Academy. He identified academia, governments, private sector, and other science/professional associations as potential targets for new membership. The section chair would be tasked with developing a contact list of potential members and request section members to begin recruiting them as new members. Council weighed in on various ways to drum up new members. Richard asked that Council send ideas to David on how best to implement the plan. Upon completion of the workshop (approximately a half hour in duration), the Council meeting was called back to order.

The Honors (Medalist) Committee will be sending out as soon as possible requests for nominations for next year's Medalist.

The Nominations Committee reminded Council that Tom Arnold was elected as Councilor-at-Large for a two-year term (2009-2011) during the 2009 Annual Business Meeting. One office (the two-year elected Councilor-at-Large) will become vacant next year. All four corporate offices will become vacant in 2011, and a staggering of terms for treasurer and secretary needs to be reestablished at that time.

Patricia Zalo (FJAS Coordinator) expressed concern about students doing their research projects at colleges versus students conducting independent research.

Mark Wade was appointed as chair of the Local Arrangements Committee. Mark is with the Indian River State College (Ft. Pierce Campus), where the 2010 Annual Meeting is scheduled. Mark distributed a proposal for the 2010 meeting. He hopes to have a Plenary Session speaker from either Scripps or Torrey Pines, which should be a good draw for session attendance.

Old Business. Dan Odell reported on the web site re-design. He presented two alternatives, one developed by Jaime Wharton (Barry's daughter), and a second that Dan developed, using Jaime's front-end design and modifying the secondary page designs. He asked Council to visit both sites and provide him feedback by no later than June 2009.

Ed Haddad reported that a possible relocation of the Academy's OSC office was averted for now.

Next Council Meeting. The next Council meeting is tentatively scheduled for Sept. 12 or 19, 2009, at the OSC.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barry Wharton".

Barry Wharton, Secretary