

Quarterly Council Meeting of the Florida Academy of Sciences
Orlando Science Center – 15 June 2013
Sanjay Sesodia, FAS President, presiding

1. **Present:** John Baker, Meghan Buckley, Stephen Dunham, Ana Jimenez, David Karlen, Jeremy Montague (minutes), Norine Noonan, Sanjay Sesodia, Jack Stout, John Trefry, Richard Turner, and Kelli Zargiel (Guests present: FAS Executive Director Ed Haddad, FAS Office Manager Jenny Bouchard, and Sonia Lavina)
2. **Present by Phone Conference Call:** Tom Arnold, Kym Campbell
3. **Call to Order, Welcome & Introductions** – Sanjay Sesodia
4. **Apologies for Absence** – lists from Jenny Bouchard and Jeremy Montague: James Austin, Steve Arthurs, Chris Brown, Mark Chiappone, Dan Odell, and Pat Zalo
5. **Approval of 7 March 2013 Council Minutes** – Jeremy Montague (Secretary)
 - a. The 3-7-2013 Quarterly Council Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved by Council.
6. **Status of Council Composition for 2013-2014** – Sanjay Sesodia
 - a. Change to 2013-2014 status was noted. Sanjay reviewed his copy of the current status.
 - b. 1st elected Councilor-at-Large is Carmen Carpenter, and 1st-appointed Councilor-at-Large is Norine Noonan; the 2nd appointed Councilor-at-Large is currently vacant.
 - c. The Chair of the Honors Committee is now David Karlen (Past President).
 - d. Jeremy Montague was elected today as Chair of the Nominating Committee; there are two vacant positions on this committee left to fill.
7. **Reports of Officers & Chairs of Standing Committees**
 - a. President & Executive Committee – Sanjay Sesodia
 - i. No action items.
 - ii. Sanjay discussed strategies for publicizing FAS activities and expanding membership:
 1. The FAS Membership Renewal Reminders should be mailed in October; John Trefry suggested the use of an option for automatic credit card renewal.
 2. We could ask the FAS Medalist to become involved in activities and out-reach beyond the Banquet Address; for example, provide the Medalist with a forum for a one-day workshop at the Annual Meeting, to be devoted to a topic of the Medalist's choosing.
 3. Council debated the appropriate focus of *Florida Scientist*. Some suggested that the Editor could broaden the diversity of topics, while John Trefry noted that our journal is already viewed as having good impact in state and regional matters of environmental science. In this regard, John noted that our journal is now rejecting manuscripts at a rate of approximately 50%, and this has elicited some favorable responses from John's colleagues.
 4. Sanjay noted a need for continued FAS focus on (and encouragement of) student research.
 5. Sanjay suggested that our 2013 FAS Medalist (Dr. Lonnie Ingram, who will give the Banquet Address on 7 March 2014) might also be invited/encouraged to develop and/or contribute to a workshop-type activity in conjunction with the FAS regular sessions on Friday, 7 March.
 6. Sanjay recommended that the FAS 3-fold brochure be incorporated into an email for dissemination.

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- iii. President & Executive Committee Report was approved by Council.
- b. Executive Director – Edward Haddad
 - i. No action items.
 - ii. Ed noted that currently we have 275 total members.
 - iii. Council discussed strategies concerning ways to increase membership. To begin, Sanjay Sesodia asked that the one who makes a proposal for an action item should be the person responsible for following up on that action item.
 - iv. Ed suggested that we return to using a strategic 5-year plan.
 - v. Norine Noonan suggested we might entice some members to convert to Life members if we allow them to pay \$500 on an installment plan.
 - vi. Other ideas about membership and funding/fund-raising were discussed, *e.g.*, grant-writing. John Trefry noted, however, that FAS has tried grant writing in the past, but we have been generally ineffective in raising grant money. Our best grant writers are generally Ph.D. researchers on college campuses with their own facilities and staff to support. Norine Noonan also pointed out that colleges and universities often frown on their faculty or administrators competing for funds with their own offices for Institutional Advancement.
 - vii. The matter of developing FAS membership cards was raised, but Richard Turner spoke for many in saying that there is little prospect for success in developing membership cards at this time.
 - viii. David Karlen recommended the September Quarterly Meeting might devote some time to an executive committee brainstorming on fundraising strategies.
 - ix. Report approved by Council.
- c. Treasurer – Stephen Dunham
 - i. No action items.
 - ii. Stephen noted that the 2013 FAS Annual Meeting had been a financial success, primarily due to Barry University's commitment to minimizing charges for room reservations, security, etc. In this regard, John Trefry suggested that in the future, Council should ask hosting institutions to pledge to minimize or eliminate operating expenses for hosting our meeting, *i.e.*, pledge to maximize the institutional in-kind contributions.
 - iii. Stephen noted that we have tapped into the FAS Endowment for 2013-2014 operating expenses at a time earlier than in past years; we need to find ways to use our Endowment funds in a more sustainable way.
 - iv. Stephen discussed our recent move to the Regions Bank; this institution specializes in accounts for non-profits.
 - v. Stephen discussed our plan to move the FAS fiscal year the interval June 1-31 May. This interval will include the annual meeting, and will give us a clearer picture of the annual receipts and expenses.
 - vi. Stephen noted that we may have to modify our Hartford Insurance payment process before the end of this year.
 - vii. Report approved by Council.

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- d. Florida Endowment for the Sciences Committee – Sanjay Sesodia for Don Lovejoy
 - i. No action items.
 - ii. Sanjay noted that the value of our endowment (excluding the Hays Travel Fund) increased this year approximately from \$285,000 to \$302,000; this has been good performance by any financial standard. He noted our 4/11/2013 withdrawals of \$14,703 (for FAS operating expenses) and \$500 (for the Hays Travel Awards).
 - iii. Council expressed gratitude for the continued faithful stewardship of the Endowment Committee.
 - iv. Report approved by Council.
- e. Finance Committee – Sanjay Sesodia for TBD
 - i. No report.
- f. Development Committee – Kym Campbell
 - i. No report.
- g. Florida Junior Academy of Science – Sanjay Sesodia for Pat Zalo
 - i. In her written report, Pat expressed her concerns about the long-term financial stability of FJAS. With the expenses for travel to the annual AJAS Meeting in 2013, FJAS is approaching financial unsustainability. Pat suggested that perhaps the Hays Travel Fund might be used to lessen the financial burdens to FJAS. She suggested that we might table a discussion of this matter until the September Quarterly Meeting, and Council agreed to this.
 - ii. Pat expressed her gratitude to Council members for their continued efforts to support FJAS.
 - iii. Report approved by Council.
- h. Editor, *Florida Scientist* – Richard Turner (serving as Interim Editor)
 - i. No action items.
 - ii. Richard discussed the status of the current issues, and his written report included comments and notes from Incoming Editor James Austin.
 - iii. Interim Editor report approved by Council.
- i. Journal Business Manager – Richard Turner
 - i. Richard made three motions to apply to all issues of *Florida Scientist* beginning with Volume 77 (2014):
 - 1. Motion-1: increase page charge to \$65 (see report); Council approved this motion.
 - 2. Motion-2: decrease the surcharge for foreign subscriptions to \$8.00 (see report); Council approved this motion.
 - 3. Motion-3: retain in storage 10 archival copies of our journal + 10 copies for future supply of back issues confirmed to have been added to the Biodiversity Heritage Library (see report); Council approved this motion.
 - ii. Report approved by Council.
- j. Charter & Bylaws Committee – John Trefry
 - i. John discussed the recent change to the By-Laws. The Council of the Florida Academy of Sciences has approved the follow proposed amendment to Article IX, Section 4 of the Bylaws of the corporation, from: "*Funds may be removed from the Endowment only upon affirmative vote of two meetings of the Council separated by a business meeting of the Corporation. Such funds shall be provided to the Treasurer to be expended as directed by*

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the Council." to: "Funds may be removed from the Endowment only upon affirmative majority vote of the Council during its first quarterly meeting of the calendar year and in accordance with the spending policy. Such funds shall be provided to the Treasurer to be expended as directed by the Council."

- ii. Report was accepted by Council.
- k. Honors Committee – David Karlen
 - i. No report.
 - ii. David thanked Richard Turner for sending his newly-written manual on the policies and procedures of the FAS Honors Committee.
- l. Nominating Committee – Jeremy Montague
 - i. No Report.
- m. FAS Delegate to NAS/AAAS – Norine Noonan
 - i. No report.
- n. History and Archives – John Baker
 - i. No action items.
 - ii. Jeremy Montague noted that Barry University had created streaming videos for the 2013 FAS Plenary Address (by Dr. Christopher Landsea) and the 2013 FAS Banquet Address (by Dr. Brue Macfadden); these may now be linked to the FAS website. Both presenters had sent emails to Jeremy prior to March 2013 authorizing FAS to make their video presentations public by way of the FAS website.
 - iii. With regard to availability and use of abstracts, photos, images, etc., we might include a statement in the 2014 FAS Call for Abstracts on waiver policy. However, waiver forms for photos/videos/abstracts might be necessary for authors under-18 years of age.
 - iv. Report approved by Council.
- o. Membership Committee – Mark Chiappone
 - i. No Report.
- p. Website – Dan Odell
 - i. No report.
- q. Awards Committee – David Karlen
 - i. No report.
 - ii. David Karlen volunteered to chair the Awards Committee, and Council approved.
 - r. Program Committee – Kelli Zargiel
 - i. No action items.
 - ii. Kelli Zargiel received a jump-drive from Jeremy Montague containing digital files for the FAS Program Book.
 - iii. Changes in section chairs were discussed for BIO (newly elected Dr. Laura Mudd), CMS (proposed volunteer Dr. Ricardo Jimenez), and MED (newly elected Dr. Ana Jimenez).

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- iv. Past Chair Jeremy Montague noted progress with FAS Web Master Lonnie Braden in the porting of the FAS Abstract Submission process from the Barry University website to the FAS website; Lonnie hopes to have the process completed before the September Quarterly Meeting.
- v. Report approved by Council.
- r. Local Arrangements Chair FAS 2014 – Meghan Buckley for Casey Lunceford.
 - i. Meghan presented a letter expressing Casey Lunceford's acceptance to serve as Local Arrangements Chair for FAS 2014; Meghan also volunteered to serve as Co-Chair.
 - ii. Report approved by Council.
- s. Section Chair Reports:
 - i. AGR: Steve Arthurs and Julian Bourne Smothers (no report).
 - ii. ANT: Gilbert Ellis (no report).
 - iii. AOS: Kelli Zargiel noted that Meghan Buckley (IRSC) will co-chair the AOS section.
 - iv. BIO: Laura Mudd (no report).
 - v. CMS: Jeremy Montague noted that Dr. Rick Jimenez (Barry University) has expressed an interest in chairing the CMS section.
 - vi. ENG: John Baker (no report)
 - vii. ENV: Eric Steimle (no report)
 - viii. GHS: Chris Brown (no report)
 - ix. MED: Ana Jimenez (no report).
 - x. PSS: Eric Perlman (no report)
 - xi. RES: Jack Stout (no report)
 - xii. TCH: Tom Arnold and Carmen Carpenter (no report)
 - xiii. SOC: Michael DeDonno (no report)
 - xiv. URB: Jim Barnes (no report)

8. Old Business

- a. Matters arising from minutes of 7 March 2013 Council Meeting – none.

9. New Business

- a. Sanjay Sesodia discussed initiatives toward increasing memberships. Council heard pros and cons on the matter of membership cards and enhancements to the existing FAS website.
- b. Council members were reminded again of Pat Zalo's request to use funds from E. A. Hays Travel Awards to support student travel to AJAS/AAAS annual meeting.
- c. Council discussed the potential use of web-based teleconference media (*e.g.*, Skype) for future Council Quarterly meetings to replace our current telephone conference hook-ups.
- d. Richard Turner led a discussion regarding the recent "*San Francisco Declarations on Research Assessment*" (DORASF); this document recommends that professional institutions remove the measure of journal impact as a factor in any decisions affecting institutional personnel. The following motion was made: Council authorizes Richard Turner, as Florida Scientist Business Manager, to sign in support of the DORASF statement. This motion was approved by Council.
- e. David Karlen discussed a request to FAS from Kamala Anadam: On behalf of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) she is seeking Black or Hispanic women in science

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for recognition by AAUW. Her phone number is 407-228-2838. Interested Council members are asked to provide prospective nominees with contact information.

- f. David Karlen discussed the public comment period review of the Next Generation Science Standards for adoption by the Florida Department of Education. David asked Council to send notice to all FAS members when the public comment period review is to come up.
- g. A request was made at this point for Council to enter into a closed session.
- h. Date for the next quarterly meeting: 21 September 2013.

10. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Montague, Secretary _____ 15 September 2013