

# Florida Academy of Sciences

## Minutes of the Council Meeting



March 18, 2010

Indian River State College (IRSC)

Ft. Pierce, Florida

List of Attendees: Richard Turner, Dave Karlen, Tom Manning, John Trefry, Barry Wharton, Ed Haddad, Jeremy Montague, John Baker, Kathy Carvalho-Knighton, Mark Wade, Jack Stout, Sanjay Sesodia, Leslie Sue Lieberman, Carmen Carpenter, Gil Ellis, Mark Chiappone, Kym Rouse Campbell, and Julie Regier. Apologies for absences were received Pat Zalo and Mike Reiter.

Richard Turner (President) gaveled the meeting to order. The first order of business was the review and approval of the minutes from the previous Council meeting held on January 23, 2010.

**Motion: that the Minutes of the previous Council meeting be approved as written. Motion carried.**

### Introductory Remarks

Richard announced that the 2011 annual meeting will be held at Florida Institute of Technology (FIT), March 10-12, 2011. The FIT provost recently sent Richard a letter of commitment.

**Motion: that the 2011 annual meeting be convened at FIT. Motion carried.**

Richard then appointed John Trefry as chair of the Local Arrangements Committee.

### Reports

President's Report. Richard Turner discussed three major areas of forthcoming change that will have major effects on the operations of the Academy: the journal, the endowment, and Academy finances. Tom Manning (Valdosta State University) has been installed as the new editor of the *Florida Scientist*. Dean and Barbara Martin, who have served as the journal's editors for the past 26 years, were appointed to the newly-established positions of Editor Emeritus and Editor Emeriti. The recent adoption of an endowment spending policy now provides the Academy guidance for the withdrawal and dispensation of endowment monies while allowing the endowment to continue to grow. The endowment also received this past year its first bequest and the establishment of its first designated fund (the Dr. Elizabeth A. Hays Travel Award Fund) to support travel to our annual meetings for students doing oral or poster presentations. The fund's establishment also attracted additional donations from our membership. The Council approved a budget for the Academy that includes draws from the endowment based on the spending policy. With this budget, the Academy expects 2010 to have the lowest annual deficit in a long time. Still, Richard hopes that the Academy will find resources to

cover this shortfall and enable the Academy to expand its services to Florida's professional and lay communities.

Executive Director's Report. Ed Haddad reviewed membership status, noting that the numbers were down somewhat compared to last year's. Over the past quarter, focus has been on preparing for the annual meeting preparations. The new Academy website is up and running. Ed proposes we switch to PayPal for annual meeting-related transactions. The grant application to the Florida Humanities Council to help underwrite the Academy's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary historical display was not approved. The Academy's outreach to the Orlando Science Center (OSC) continues to bear fruit, noting a successful program put on by the local chapter of the American Chemical Society. Ed also donated time to assist the OSC in producing a medical educational video, which successfully debuted on March 6.

Treasurer's Report. The reported numbers show a deficit of nearly \$4000, although it did not include recent gifts.

Endowment Trustees Report. No report. Richard noted that the market has experienced some ups and downs since the last report and that around \$170 of interest accrual was available for student awards under the Hays Travel Fund.

Finance Committee Report. No report.

Development Committee Report. No report.

FJAS Report. Pat Zalo's report summarized membership and paper counts for the preliminary competition. A total of 78 students were invited to present at the 2010 annual meeting. She reviewed the schedule for Saturday's Junior Academy proceedings and asked for volunteers to help with the judging. This year, judges will be allowed greater flexibility in the use of judging criteria.

Journal Editors Report. Editor Tom Manning reports that the transition between the past and current editors remains smooth. Donna Gosnell is serving as associate editor. Five papers have been peer reviewed. Tom has 16 papers in various stages of review and revision, as well as papers that have been accepted and are awaiting publication. Tom also launched a "Periodic Puzzle" contest, a collaborative effort involving US and Cuban students. There is a large backlog in the journal pipeline, with authors facing a year or more wait to get published. A fourth issue this year and a double issue next year would help alleviate the backlog, but neither is in the budget.

Journal Business Manager's Report. Dues increases will be brought up at tomorrow's annual business meeting. Richard discussed the ProQuest proposal for publishing our journal online at no cost and with a one-year embargo period. How many back issues ProQuest will scan under its proposal was uncertain. After much discussion, it was felt that the proposal was non-specific in some areas and that Richard should request ProQuest to provide us a more revised and more comprehensive proposal. Richard then appointed a committee (seating Richard, John, Tom, Dave, and Barry) to review ProQuest's proposal.

**Motion: that a vote to approve the ProQuest proposal be tabled pending receipt and Committee review of a revised and more comprehensive proposal. Motion carried.**

Awards Committee Report. Barry reported that student paper evaluation forms were emailed to all section chairs the previous week and that he will have ample hard copies on hand if needed. A new section on the forms containing a series of scalable response questions has been included to facilitate selection of Academy-wide award winners. Each section is tasked with judging both oral and poster presentations and dropping the completed evaluation forms off at the registration desk. Barry University now has a Sigma Xi Award of \$100 available to Barry undergraduate students. We have no contact with the Univ. of Fla.'s Sigma Xi. Gil, who chairs Barry's Sigma Xi, will make inquiries to identify the appropriate contact person.

Program Chair's Report. Jeremy summarized the oral and poster presentation counts for the 2010 meeting, which showed an increase over last year's meeting counts. Over the past five years, the number of posters has hovered around 50, considerably more than was the case between 1997 and 2005.

Membership Committee Report. No report.

Webmaster's Report. No report.

Local Arrangements Committee Report. Mark briefed Council on the arrangements for the annual meeting. Posters will be mounted on the railings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors. Mark urged everyone to drum up attendance for the plenary session, which will feature Dr. Edith Widder, a world-renowned authority on bioluminescence.

Charter and Bylaws Committee. No changes have been proposed. The recent changes were approved at the Jan. 2010 Council meeting (see Jan. 2010 meeting minutes) and will be voted on during the annual business meeting.

NAAS/AAAS Liaison. Leslie presented seven action items for Council to consider. These items included the creating of a AJAS Fellows Association; assessing various facets of the relationship between the senior and junior academies; increasing Academy members' involvement in, and communication with, the NAAS/AJAS; and potential interest in participating in a quarterly teleconference call among the state academies and the NAAS. Some of the action items involve a yes or no approval from Council. Barry suggested Leslie send out a survey to membership to solicit response regarding these action items. Leslie related that she will be retiring in the relatively near future and suggested we start planning to identify her successor.

Nominations Committee. Although there were no nominations, Tom Arnold was appointed to the committee, which now consists of Dan, Jack, Dave, and Ed.

History and Archives Committee. As previously mentioned, the Academy was not awarded the grant from the Florida Humanities Council (there were only six awardees this year). Leslie is now looking for an alternative funding source.

**At the conclusion of each report (with the exception of the Journal Business Manager's Report), a motion was made to accept the report and in each case the motion carried.**

Section Chairs. No report.

**Old Business**

There was no Old Business to report.

**New Business**

There was no New Business to report.

**Next Council Meeting**

The next Council meeting is scheduled for 11 a.m., June 19, 2010, at the Orlando Science Center in Orlando, Florida.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

*Barry Wharton*

Barry Wharton, Secretary