

Quarterly Council Meeting of the Florida Academy of Sciences
St. Leo University – 19 March 2015
Sanjay Sesodia, FAS President, presiding

1. **Present:** Tom Arnold, Darin Bell, John Baker, Meghan Buckley, Iain Duffy, Kelli Hunsucker, Ana Jimenez, Rick Jimenez, David Karlen, Jeremy Montague (minutes), Laura Mudd, Norine Noonan, Brian Pearson, Sanjay Sesodia, Jack Stout, and Richard Turner (Guest present: FAS Office Manager Jenny Bouchard, and Richard Smith [University of Florida]).
2. **Present by Phone Conference Call:** Ana Jimenez, Laura Mudd, Kannan Nagarajan, and Dan Odell
3. **Call to Order, Welcome & Introductions** – Sanjay Sesodia
4. **Apologies for Absence** – lists from Jenny Bouchard and Jeremy Montague: Sumera Ackbarali, James Austin, Carmen Carpenter, and Don Lovejoy, John Trefry, and Pat Zalo.
5. **Approval of 24 January 2015 Council Minutes** – Jeremy Montague (Secretary)
 - a. The 1-24-2015 Quarterly Council Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved by Council.
6. **Status of Council Composition for 2015** – Sanjay Sesodia
 - a. No report.
7. **Reports of Officers & Chairs of Standing Committees**
 - a. **President & Executive Committee** – Sanjay Sesodia
 - i. Sanjay discussed the Council vacancies to be filled by election at the Annual Business Meeting (20 March 2015). The President-Elect (Jeremy Montague) will assume the presidency at the end of the Annual Banquet; there is a nominee for Secretary to replace Jeremy. There is a nominee for the position of 1st-Elected Councilor-at-Large.
 - ii. Sanjay described as “grave” our need to fill the vacancy for Executive Director. The Academy is financially stable at this time, and it should be our top priority to fill this position. Council discussed the current status of applicants; we should solicit more candidates to apply.
 - iii. Sanjay reminded Council that our 20-year agreement with Orlando Science Center (OSC) is up for renewal in June 2015; as regards this renewal, Kannan Nagarajan submitted a draft proposal concerning poster displays to present to OSC (see New Business, 10., a., page 6).
 - iv. Sanjay noted that we need to fill current vacancies for section chairs (ANT, ENV, GHS, PSS, and SOC).
 - v. Sanjay and Norine Noonan announced that FAS 2016 is confirmed for University of South Florida-St. Petersburg (18-19 March, 2016). Sanjay will speak with the FAS 2014 Medalist Dr. Peter Delfyette (University of Central Florida) tomorrow evening at the banquet concerning UCF’s interest in hosting FAS 2017. In addition, St. Thomas University in Miami is interested in hosting FAS 2017 or 2018.
 - vi. Sanjay discussed the development of FAS business cards; Meghan Buckley completed a sample design and contacted a vendor interested in our business. Meghan will order an initial set of 500 cards.
 - vii. Sanjay and Jenny Bouchard discussed the current status of membership renewals; these seem to be on track with the renewal rates of the past three-four years. Jenny will have a more accurate count after the FAS 2015 registrations are tallied.
 - viii. Sanjay discussed three points concerning FAS outreach:
 1. We will have a FAS presence at the Barry University 7th Annual S.T.E.M. Research Symposium (1 April 2015) in Miami Shores.
 2. We will also have a FAS presence at the St. Thomas University Cell Science Conference (25 April).

Quarterly Council Meeting of the Florida Academy of Sciences
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3. Sanjay is hoping to schedule a FAS presence at the Florida Chapter's meeting for the American Society of Microbiology, scheduled for October 2015 (in Cocoa Beach); Sanjay will have more information on this event at the June FAS Quarterly Meeting.
- ix. Kannan Nagarajan emailed some sample member certificates for review; these certificates may be stored in and printed from pdf format, and they may also be linked to the FAS website for members' access. Council agreed that Kannan's samples appear suitable for use, with some minor editing for fonts and colors. Kannan will bring his revised samples to the June quarterly meeting.
- x. Sanjay reported that the new Medalist Award mold and stamped 2015 medal are completed; Council thanked Dean Martin for his efforts and his donation of Dr. Martin's own medal for this project.
- xi. Report was approved by Council.
- b. Treasurer – Sanjay Sesodia for Sumera Ackbarali
 - i. Sumera noted an Endowment transfer of approximately \$5,000 during 2014. The exact details of the transfer are currently being discussed by Sumera and Don Lovejoy (Endowment Chair); Council requested the issue to be tabled until the June quarterly meeting.
 - ii. Report approved by Council.
- c. Florida Endowment for the Sciences Committee – Sanjay Sesodia for Don Lovejoy
 - i. Council noted that there was an anonymous donation of \$302,021 made to the Endowment on 2 February 2015; this donation resulted in an approximate doubling of the Endowment Undesignated Funds, i.e., not including the Elizabeth T. Hays Travel Award Fund, is now valued at \$732,186. Richard Turner advised that this donation has placed FAS onto a very firm financial footing.
 - ii. With regard to this near-doubling of the Endowment, Richard Turner cautioned Council that we may withdraw annually up to 5% of the market value from the Endowment's Undesignated Funds. Withdrawal of 5% next January would result in removal of a huge amount of accrued interest or even dip into principal without the recent gift having had enough time to accrue internal growth. Richard suggested that withdrawals the Undesignated Funds should be based on a three-year rolling average (e.g., 31 December 2013-2015 for the distribution next January). He made a rough estimate of this average as follows: use the average of 2013 = \$300,000, 2014 = \$300,000, and 2015 = \$600,000, for the three-year average of approximately \$400,000. Richard made a motion for Council:
 1. Council should modify its Endowment Spending Policy to calculate the annual distribution from the Undesignated Funds using the three-year rolling average beginning with the 2016 annual distribution;
 2. Council voted "Yes" to this motion.
 - iii. Report approved by Council.
- d. Finance Committee – Sanjay Sesodia
 - i. No report.
- e. Development Committee – Sanjay Sesodia
 - i. No report.

Quarterly Council Meeting of the Florida Academy of Sciences
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- f. Florida Junior Academy of Science – Sanjay Sesodia for Pat Zalo
 - i. Sanjay noted that Pat finds the financial condition of FJAS, particularly with regard to expenses, to be improved over her expectations in January 2015.
 - ii. Pat noted in her email report that she has a potential new sponsor for FJAS; Council awaits details on this.
 - iii. There had been some discussion in the January 2015 quarterly meeting about the availability of \$300 from the Elizabeth T. Hays Travel Awards Fund for use by FJAS; Council asked that Jeremy Montague check with Sumera Ackbarali tomorrow (Friday, 20 March 2015) concerning the status of this availability.
 - iv. Pat expects approximately 80 student presenters on Saturday. Normally scheduled Saturday classes at St. Leo are not expected to conflict with the FJAS sessions.
 - v. Report approved by Council.
- g. Editor, *Florida Scientist* – Sanjay Sesodia for James Austin
 - i. James reports continued progress with manuscripts in press, and the current 2015 issues are in preparation as expected.
 - ii. Richard Turner noted that manuscript submissions are down at this time; Council members are encouraged to consider submissions of their own to *Florida Scientist*.
 - iii. Report approved by Council.
- h. Journal Business Manager – Richard Turner
 - i. Richard noted that the journal is doing well in terms of receiving authors' page charges. He suggested that recently, our trend toward fewer papers per issue but with higher page counts per paper has been economical for the journal.
 - ii. Richard announced that *Florida Scientist* has secured an agreement with the Charlotte Harbor Symposium for their next special issue (tentatively scheduled for late 2015); this will bring \$19,000 to FAS.
 - iii. With regard to last year's decision by the University of Florida Library Exchange to drop all but 25 of its 120 subscriptions, Richard reported that UFX agreed again to a 3% increase in subscription rate, providing income for FAS of approximately \$900 per year for the journal for 2015.
 - iv. Norine Noonan and Kelli Hunsucker discussed the possibility of developing a FAS 2016 Special Section on the Gulf Oil Spill, perhaps soliciting papers for peer-reviewed manuscripts for publication in a special issue of *Florida Scientist*. Council requested that Norine and Kelli follow-up with James Austin on this idea. (See also 10. New Business, item c., p. 6).
 - v. Report approved by Council.
- i. Charter & Bylaws Committee – Richard Turner for John Trefry
 - i. No report, but Richard reminded Council members about the vote tomorrow at the annual business meeting to approve (or not approve) the amendment to Bylaws V, Section 3 (To add: (r) removing an officer for cause or for failure to perform the duties of the office).
- j. Honors Committee – David Karlen
 - i. David noted that, due to a previously scheduled event, our selected FAS 2016 Medalist will not be in attendance at tomorrow's FAS annual banquet; however, David, Sanjay Sesodia,

Quarterly Council Meeting of the Florida Academy of Sciences
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- and Jeremy Montague are planning to travel to USF-Tampa in early May, and this will give an opportunity for them to make the presentation to the Medalist.
- ii. David reviewed the current status of the committee with regard to past Medalists. Dr. John Lawrence has resigned from the committee; Dr. Bruce McFadden will complete his 2nd year of service and will resign in June 2016.
 - iii. At present, past Medalists are listed on the FAS membership, but they do not receive issues of the journal unless they pay current membership dues. David proposed they be given “Honorary” member status which would allow them to receive academy emails and newsletters and serve on committees, but would not include Florida Scientist subscriptions. Journal subscriptions are reserved for the paid membership categories.
 - iv. David suggested that FAS should publically acknowledge any former Medalists in attendance at the annual banquet; Council agreed.
 - v. Report approved by Council.
- k. Nominating Committee – Jeremy Montague
 - i. No Report.
 - l. FAS Delegate to NAS/AAAS – Norine Noonan
 - i. Norine noted she managed to visit, interview, and photograph five of the six Florida students presenting at NAS/AAAS at San Jose, CA, in February.
 - ii. Norine noted that NAS/AAAS is pushing in the direction of electronic publishing (i.e., going paperless).
 - iii. Report approved by Council.
 - m. History and Archives – John Baker
 - i. No Report.
 - n. Membership Committee – Sanjay Sesodia
 - i. No report.
 - o. Website – Dan Odell
 - i. Dan reported that web updates have been going smoothly, however, FAS should work on updating our web photos.
 - ii. Kannan Nagarajan suggested that our website’s banner ribbon needs a more consistent presentation of links, particularly with any links dealing with contact information (emails, phone numbers, etc.)
 - iii. Council members are asked to review particularly the listing of current Council members on the website; please send any recommendation changes and updates to Dan.
 - iv. Report approved by Council.
 - p. Awards Committee – David Karlen
 - i. David announced that there will be 113 student presentations tomorrow. He has distributed the award judging sheets to the section chairs, and he asks all section chairs (and Council members in attendance) to be vigilant concerning judging and evaluation sheets. Please be sure that these sheets get to the FAS Registration Desk ASAP at the end of the session.
 - ii. Report approved by Council.

Quarterly Council Meeting of the Florida Academy of Sciences
St. Leo University – 19 March 2015
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- q. Program Committee – Kelli Zargiel
 - i. Kelli reported that we will have 154 oral reports and 81 poster presentations at tomorrow's sessions.
 - ii. Kelli noted that Laura Mudd in BIO will need at least one co-chair/moderator; Iain Duffy said that he will be ready to serve in this capacity tomorrow.
 - iii. The PSS section chair position is currently vacant; Richard Turner advised that Embry-Riddle University might have a person interested in this position, and that he will make contact with Dr. Terry Oswalt concerning this.
 - iv. Kelli reported that our current online abstract submission process is working, but she would like Lonnie Braden to develop an Excel-based reporting file similar to the one used by the prior Barry University submission process.
 - v. Kelli suggested that she could use more timely assistance from various section chairs in editing and scheduling. Richard Turner reminded Council that we do have a Section Chair Manual, originally developed by Ernie Estevez, which contains duties and responsibilities for all section chairs; Jeremy Montague has a copy of the most recent edition of this manual, and he will send it to Kelli and all the Council members before the June quarterly meeting.
 - vi. Report approved by Council.
- r. Local Arrangements Chair FAS 2015 – Iain Duffy.
 - i. Iain and Darin Bell reported all is ready for tomorrow and Saturday. They covered some items concerning the poster sessions, banquet, parking, etc.
 - ii. Report approved by Council.
- s. Section Chair Reports:
 - i. AGR: Brian Pearson (no report).
 - ii. ANT: David Karlen (Interim Chair, David reported on the number of ANT oral and poster presentations anticipated for tomorrow's session).
 - iii. AOS: Kelli Zargiel/Meghan Buckley (no report).
 - iv. BIO: Laura Mudd (no report).
 - v. CMS: Rick Jimenez (no report).
 - vi. ENG: John Baker (no report).
 - vii. ENV: TBD.
 - viii. GHS: Jeremy Montague (Interim Chair, no report).
 - ix. MED: Ana Jimenez (no report).
 - x. PSS: TBD (no report; Eric Perlman resigned as PSS Chair).
 - xi. RES: Jack Stout (no report).
 - xii. TCH: Tom Arnold and Carmen Carpenter (no report).
 - xiii. SOC: Jeremy Montague (Interim Chair, no report).
 - xiv. URB: Jim Barnes (no report)

9. Old Business

- a. Sanjay Sesodia and Meghan Buckley discussed the designs to be used in printing our new FAS business cards. Council agreed to an initial printing of 500 cards, and Sanjay will discuss the pricing and payment with Sumera Ackbarali tomorrow.

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10. New Business

- a. Sanjay Sesodia discussed an offer by Kannan Nagarajan to help in the design and display of FAS oriented poster presentations at the Orlando Science Center; Council expressed two areas of concern:
 - i. The design and development of appropriate FAS poster exhibits would require considerable labor and costs for any single person; Kannan has graciously offered his time, talent and funds, but we may need a broader investment to move forward.
 - ii. The Orlando Science Center already employs full-time professionals who handle design and development of museum exhibits; we should seek first their permission and guidance before we move forward with any plans for exhibiting poster materials of our own.
- b. Jeremy Montague will be travelling to OSC in early May to discuss the renewal of the FAS-OSC 20-year license agreement (our current agreement ends on 31 May 2015). Norine Noonan offered to attend this meeting. Jeremy and Norine will report back to Council at the June quarterly meeting.
- c. The topic of the 2010 Gulf Oil Spill has attracted the attention of several organizations, including Florida Institute of Oceanography (FIO); Norine Noonan has a contact named “Bill” inside FIO who might be interested in arranging a FIO sponsorship of FAS 2016. FIO 2016 will meet in Tampa one month before FAS 2016. As Local Arrangements Chair for FAS 2016, Norine will seek FIO underwriting for FAS 2016.
- d. Date for the next quarterly meeting: Saturday (11 am), 20 June 2015, at Orlando Science Center.

11. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Montague, Secretary _____ 5 June 2015