

Minutes of Florida Academy of Sciences Council – June 20, 2015

Orlando Science Center
777 E. Princeton St.
Orlando FL 32803
Executive Board Room, 3rd Floor

Call to Order, Council Attendance and Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 11:03 am by president Jeremy Montague. Three guests were recognized: Dr. Sessa Srinivasan & Dr. Ryan Integlia from Florida Polytechnic University, Lakeland, and Dr. Richard Smith, substituting for Brian Pearson from the University of Florida.

The following Council members were in attendance (either in person or by phone): Jeremy Montague, Sanjay Sesodia, Carmen Carpenter, Richard Turner, Norine Noonan, Sumera Ackbarali, Darin Bell, John Baker, Meghan Buckley, Iain Duffy, Kelli Hunsucker, Ricardo Jimenez, David Karlen, Alvin Karlin, Jeremy Montague, Tom Arnold, Laura Mudd, Brian Pearson, Jack Stout, Richard Turner, Pat Zalo. Also in attendance was Ms. Jenny Bouchard, FAS Office Manager.

The following Council members sent apologies for being absent: James Austin, Anna Jimenez, Donald Lovejoy, Dan Odell, John Trefry

President Montague noted that the Minutes of the March 19., 2015 meeting were provided via email. He moved approval with a second by Dr. Jimenez. The Minutes were approved.

Reports of Officers and Committees

President's Report: Dr. Montague reported that there were several openings in the Council list of section chairs and indicated that a full list with email addresses would be provided to all Council members. He reported that the financial state of the Academy was strong but that the organization had made little progress in seeking an Executive Director. He indicated that he would report on these issues in more detail under "New Business."

Dr. Turner moved to accept the report and Dr. Sessodia seconded the motion. The report was accepted.

Treasurer's Report: A technical correction to the report which covered the period of January 1, 2015 through June 19, 2015, was offered by Dr. Turner, namely, that the Library Subscriptions be moved to "Membership" category from the "Journal" category and that this former category be renamed "Membership and Subscriptions". This was agreed to by Council by affirmation. Dr. Sessodia noted the GoToMeeting charges for this meeting that were incurred even though the Council did not use those services for this meeting. Dr. Jimenez commented that the web hosting charges seemed high and it was unclear whether these charges included the upgrades to the website or were in addition to the fee for those upgrades. The Treasurer said that she would clarify this matter with Dr. Odell (not present). Dr. Montague moved to accept the report with Dr. Turner as a second. The report was accepted.

Endowment Committee: This report was submitted but will be returned to in New Business. However, Dr. Turner noted that the report listed the large donation as \$296,000 but the Treasurer's Report lists the same donation as \$302,000. Dr. Turner expressed concern that there was no explanation of the discrepancy. The Treasurer will contact Dr. Don Lovejoy (not present), chair of the Endowment Committee, to clarify this issue.

Dr. Turner moved to accept the report.

Finance Committee: Dr. Sessodia, the Interim Chairman, reported that the Academy's finances look positive and this will be further discussed under "New Business."

Development Committee: No Report

Florida Junior Academy of Science: Pat Zalo expressed her appreciation for the assistance at the 2015 Annual FJAS Meeting. She commented that she needed some guidance with regard to selecting her successor as FJAS director as she approaches her retirement in 2016. There are two individuals who have stepped forward at this time and expressed interest in assuming this role. Neither candidate is optimal, however, one does have some experience as a faculty sponsor of FJAS students. The strengths and weaknesses of both individuals were discussed. The conclusion of the discussion was that Ms. Zalo should assign both individuals specific tasks for the 2016 Annual Meeting so that their ability to "follow through" could be assessed more directly. Ms. Zalo will draft a letter to both individuals and she will provide the draft to president Montague for review by the Executive Council by early July. Ms. Zalo will then contact the individuals with the plan which will include monthly task lists and contact. It was noted that the FAS Council must approve the selection of the FJAS Director but that there did not need to be a specific position description or list of qualifications to guide this approval. Ms. Zalo was tasked by the Council to draft a "job description" for the FJAS Director.

Dr. Turner moved that the FJAS Report be accepted, with Dr. Laura Mudd seconding. The report was accepted.

Item Out of Order: Dr. Turner asked to return to the Treasurer's Report. He noted that the contribution that the Council approved from the Hays Travel Award Fund for FJAS was not made, therefore, he moved that the \$381 from the Hays endowment that was not used for FJAS be allocated back to FAS for the 2016 Annual Meeting to support travel awards.

Dr. Montague seconded Dr. Turner's motion and it was approved.

Editor's Report: One correction was noted in the report as submitted, namely, that the special issue referenced in the fourth paragraph should have read "Charlotte Harbor" not "Harbor Branch."

Dr. Stout moved approval with Dr. Turner seconding. The report was accepted.

Journal Business Manager: Dr. Turner commented that all 77 volumes have been shipped to India to be placed into JSTOR and he noted that the journal is already included in the Biodiversity Heritage Library. Dr. Turner noted that the invoice noted in the report as “unpaid” has now been paid. He also moved (recommended) that Option 3 be adopted with regard to providing PDF’s of articles to authors (see the report for details). Dr. Sessodia seconded. The motion was approved. Dr. Integlia from Florida Polytechnic asked a question about the database listings for the journal. Dr. Turner noted that 10 copies of the Indian River Lagoon special issue were provided to a recent workshop held at Florida Tech for teachers in Brevard and Indian River Counties. Pat Zalo commented that she uses the journal issues in her classroom to teach students about the primary literature in science. Dr. Hunsucker commented that a technical symposium will publish its findings in the journal as a special issue. This effort is being coordinated by Dr. John Windsor (Florida Tech) who is knowledgeable about publication operations. Either Indian River Lagoon Research Institute or the Marine Resources Council will fund this special issue and discussions are continuing.

Ms. Zalo moved that the report be accepted and Dr. Stout seconded. The report was accepted.

Charter and By-Laws Committee: No Report

Honors Committee: Dr. Karlen reported that the FAS Medal was presented to the 2015 medalist, Dr. Paul Sanberg of the University of South Florida, at a ceremony which was part of USF’s recognition of AAAS Fellows elected in 2015. He commented that the photos from that event were still needed. Drs. Karlen and Montague were invited to the October 2, 2015 National Inventors Hall of Fame ceremony. Dr. Bruce McFadden (a former medalist) will again serve on the selection committee for 2016. Other members include: Dr. Sessodia (chairman), Dr. Karlen, Dr. Turner, and Dr. Montague.

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Nominating Committee: This committee is normally chaired by the FAS president-elect. However, this position is currently open. No report.

FAS Delegate to NAAS/AAAS: Dr. Noonan reported that she visited all of the posters of the students from FJAS who attended this meeting and took photos of all but one. However, she did not get signed releases for photographs to be posted on the FAS/FJAS website. Dr. Zalo will contact the faculty sponsor at Pine Crest School (all of the students were from this school) to try to get waivers. Dr. Noonan will also check the AAAS rules which may include a “blanket” waiver for photographs at the event. Dr. Noonan will attend the 2016 AAAS Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

I don’t have a record of who moved/seconded acceptance of this report.

History and Archives Committee: No report

Membership Committee: chairmanship is currently vacant. This will be discussed further under “New Business.”

Website: Dr. Odell submitted his report but was unable to be present at the meeting. Ms. Zalo moved to accept the report with Ms. Buckley seconding the motion. The report was accepted.

Awards Committee: Dr. Karlen thanked the Session Chairs for their diligent work at the Annual Meeting that enabled the awards to be made at the banquet on Friday evening. Awardees were also notified within one week of the meeting with a copy to their advisors. Dr. Karlen mentioned that the winner in the Agriculture and Natural Resources division was disqualified due to ineligibility (winner was a high school student, not an undergraduate). Dr. Sessodia noted that the physical certificates were late but have been mailed out and that there had been a delay in posting to the FAS website. The awardees will also be mentioned in an upcoming issue of *Florida Scientist*.

The report was accepted.

2016 Program Chairman: Dr. Hunsucker reported that she and Dr. Noonan, local arrangements chairman for 2016, will meet either by phone or in person within the next couple of weeks. Dr. Hunsucker commented that she was asked by the webmaster for additional payment for the annual meeting website updates. She will update the list of section chairs for the Council as there have been changes (an Excel spreadsheet will be provided).

Dr. Stout moved to accept the report and Dr. Turner seconded. The report was accepted.

Local Arrangements Committee: Dr. Noonan commented that her report was submitted but apparently had not been distributed. She commented that plans for the meeting were proceeding well. The venues for the major parts of the meeting at USF St. Petersburg have been reserved and catering has been arranged for the banquet. She and Dr. Hunsucker will meet within the next two weeks to discuss further steps. Posters will be on poster boards inside the USFSP University Student Center. (Note for the Minutes: subsequently, the report was found and distributed).

The report was accepted.

Section Chairs

Biology- the chairman commented that there was a lot of “crossover” between biology and medical science so that presenters for 2016 might be encouraged to send their proposed presentations to medical science to reduce the large volume of papers/posters submitted to biology.

Environmental Sciences – some crossover with Geology and hydrologic sciences. The chairman noted that Florida Gulf Coast University has never participated in the FAS Annual Meeting so that might be

fertile ground for recruiting both new faculty and students. Dr. Stout noted that UCF had just hired three new faculty with research interests in GIS.

Old Business

Dr. Jimenez noted that the submission form for the FAS meeting includes a waiver such that no photo releases are needed for adults (over 18) if the photos are not being used for commercial purposes. However, minors (under 18) still need parental permissions.

New Business

Dr. Montague commented at greater length on the financial sustainability of the Academy which the large donation made in February has made possible. He made the following observations:

- Typically the endowment payment to the general fund is calculated on a rolling three-year average. In this case, that average is approximately \$455,000. This means that 5% of that amount is about \$22,770 (starting in January of 2016).
- With these funds, the Academy could support two contractor positions
- In addition, the Academy should consider an annual corporate membership or sponsorship for the Orlando Science Center (OSC) as a gesture of both goodwill and commitment to this relationship. While the Academy leadership can and should encourage members to join OSC, a greater organizational contribution may be warranted. Dr. Montague noted that he will contact Ms. J.J. Lessing (OSC) for information about corporate/institutional sponsorships.

Dr. Turner commented that before the Academy commits endowment funds, it will be necessary to create an annual budget. He questioned how it was possible to know whether the Academy was in the red or the black (from a financial standpoint) without the contribution from the endowment. He noted that the Academy should rely only on dues/subscriptions/journal income for annual expenses rather than relying on the endowment distribution to meet annual operating needs. Among the items discussed were journal costs, annual meeting costs (it was noted that the meeting essentially breaks even). Dr. Turner also noted that there had been an annual budget process previously but it had languished. Dr. Montague committed to providing a budget for the September Council meeting.

Dr. Montague also provided an update on membership. FAS is losing members slowly each year. Unfortunately, the database of members is not very useful in tracking new members and/or renewing members (how many years have they been members, level of membership, etc.). Dr. Montague commented that he will work through the existing data with an eye toward moving forward rather than spending significant time trying to recover historical information. The consensus of the Council members present was that moving forward was the optimum strategy. Dr. Jimenez offered his professional services to assist in this task. The goal is to have a more accurate count of total membership and more information about the categories of membership.

Dr. Montague updated the Council on the recruiting efforts for an Executive Director of the Academy. His plan is to try to have an advertisement prepared for the September Council meeting along with a job

description and a strategic process for recruitment. A suggestion was offered to see whether Orlando Science Center would permit a posting of this position on its recruitment website (with the goal of casting a wider net for candidates). Other comments were that the prospective Executive Director should be prepared to travel and to work 40 hours per month.

Dr. Montague also updated the Council on the discussions with the Orlando Science Center regarding the renewal of the FAS' lease for space in OSC. Drs. Montague and Noonan and Ms. Bouchard met with Ms. JJ Lessing of the OSC Senior Leadership Team in May to discuss the future of the relationship. The upshot of that meeting was a very positive and enthusiastic attitude from Ms. Lessing and a commitment to move forward with a new agreement. Dr. Montague will follow up with Ms. Lessing to assess the progress of OSC's review of the draft renewal document.

Lastly, Dr. Montague updated the Council on the advance planning for the 2017 Annual Meeting. There has been a tentative commitment from the University of Central Florida to host this meeting, but the representatives from Florida Polytechnic offered to backstop that commitment should it not be finalized, and, if the meeting does go to UCF in 2017, to host the meeting the following year.

Dr. Integlia from Florida Polytechnic noted that there are opportunities for fundraising that the Academy might consider in the future, including GlobalGiving.com, a crowdsourced funding pool (donations are matched by corporations then aggregated). He also mentioned that www.Idealist.org is a website aimed at non-profit recruitment of key positions.

The next meeting of Council will be September 19, 2015 at Orlando Science Center. (this is a change from the original date of September 12, 2015 as OSC was not available on 9/12/15).