

Quarterly Council Meeting of the Florida Academy of Sciences
Orlando Science Center – 21 September 2013
Sanjay Sesodia, FAS President, presiding

1. **Present:** Tom Arnold, Jim Austin, John Baker, Meghan Buckley, Mark Chiappone, Iain Duffy, Stephen Dunham, Ana Jimenez, Rick Jimenez, David Karlen, Jeremy Montague (minutes), Sanjay Sesodia, Jack Stout, John Trefry, Richard Turner, Pat Zalo, and Kelli Zargiel (Guests present: FAS Office Manager Jenny Bouchard and Sonia Lavina)
2. **Present by Phone Conference Call:** Kym Campbell, Carmen Carpenter, and Dan Odell
3. **Call to Order, Welcome & Introductions** – Sanjay Sesodia
4. **Apologies for Absence** – lists from Jenny Bouchard and Jeremy Montague: Steve Arthurs, Chris Brown, Gil Ellis, Don Lovejoy, Laura Mudd, and Norine Noonan
5. **Approval of 15 June 2013 Council Minutes** – Jeremy Montague (Secretary)
 - a. The 6-15-2013 Quarterly Council Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved by Council.
6. **Status of Council Composition for 2013-2014** – Sanjay Sesodia
 - a. Sanjay introduced Iain Duffy from St. Leo University (prospective 2nd Appointed Councilor-at-Large, expected to serve 2013-2014 and 2014-2015), and Rick Jimenez from Barry University (prospective Chair for CMS). Both had received preliminary information on tasks and duties; Tom Arnold spoke briefly on behalf of Iain, and Sanjay spoke briefly on behalf of Rick. Council voted Yes to both appointments.
 - b. Sanjay discussed the matter of the current vacancy for Chair of the Finance Committee. He noted that this person is responsible for monitoring the FAS budget, and for assisting the Treasurer in the quarterly and annual financial reports to Council. Richard Turner noted that the Chair of the Finance Committee is appointed by the FAS President, and not elected by Council. Sanjay will seek guidance from Council on his appointment.
 - c. Council approved Sanjay's presentation on the current status of Council composition.
7. **Reports of Officers & Chairs of Standing Committees**
 - a. **President & Executive Committee** – Sanjay Sesodia
 - i. Sanjay discussed the current FAS budget (2013-2014, in progress), and he and Treasurer Stephen Dunham are both very cognizant of our finances.
 - ii. Sanjay noted that we have nine months to fill the current opening for Executive Director, and we are open for recommendations. Council is looking for a skilled person for outreach and fund-raising.
 - iii. Richard Turner noted that former Office Manager Julie Regier may know several candidates, but we should seek more; Sanjay noted that he has a written job description for the position of Executive Director.
 - iv. Jenny Bouchard thanked Richard Turner, David Karlen, and Stephen Dunham for their assistance in the transition of the FAS Office during this time; Sanjay Sesodia commended Jenny for her efforts as well.
 - v. Council discussed raising funds for a new FAS Office laptop.
 - vi. Sanjay noted the current dates for upcoming FAS annual meetings
 1. FAS 2014 (Indian River State College, Ft. Pierce): 7-8 March.
 2. FAS 2015 (St. Leo University, St Leo, FL); Iain Duffy is working on the dates.
 3. FAS 2016 (tentative: USF-St. Petersburg).
 - vii. Sanjay discussed the current status of the FAS eNewsletter; he will contribute a quarterly column, and he asked council members to submit photos and brief biographies.

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- viii. Sanjay discussed membership and FAS outreach efforts; as of 9-21-2013, there are 297 FAS members. He is looking into the design of our current 3-page color brochure. Sanjay hopes that now, timely notices on renewals will be sent out, and that our Access database will be updated on a regular basis.
- ix. Council stressed the need for better coordination between FAS and college/university campus departments, and for better understanding of the needs of student members. Rick Jimenez and Kelli Zargiel discussed the uses of social media with regard to student outreach. Dan Odell noted that the Marine Mammal Society two which he belongs also puts effort into the development of social media, but that few of the members actually use the media (availability of the social media links does not necessarily guarantee that members will take advantage of them).
- x. Sanjay asked Dan Odell to continue his good efforts in streamlining and updating the FAS website links and PayPal account. In regard to this, Tom Arnold noted that we should find ways to allow members to provide convenient invoice and payment information to their home institutions.
- xi. Richard Turner asked Dan about the possibility of developing a “Renew for 2014” 1-click button (and also to turn off the “2013” button by 1 October). Meghan Buckley asked if we could define/elaborate the online link for “Sustaining,” or “Lifetime” membership.
- xii. David Karlen discussed our current outreach with Great Minds in STEM; they continue to support FAS with a table at their meetings. Sanjay noted that FAS should also develop a presence at campus events such as the Barry University STEM Meeting & St. Thomas University STEM Meeting (both in April 2014).
- xiii. Report was approved by Council.
- b. Treasurer – Stephen Dunham
 - i. No action
 - ii. Stephen noted that the FAS financial condition is improving, but we have more to do. The decision to pull funding for the Executive Director position was helpful, but sooner or later, we must start up this position again.
 - iii. FAS has moved its financial accounts to Regions Bank, which does not charge fees for non-profit organizations; he is still in the process of closing all our old accounts at Sunshine Federal Savings & Credit Union.
 - iv. Pat Zalo is looking to change the FJAS accounts from Bank of America to Regions Bank.
 - v. Richard Turner noted that, from a budgetary point of view, FAS is doing quite well; the \$4,500 journal income from December 2012 is now accounted for. He also commended Barry University for its generous in-kind contributions to the FAS 2013 annual meeting.
 - vi. Report approved by Council.
- c. Florida Endowment for the Sciences Committee – Sanjay Sesodia for Don Lovejoy
 - i. No action items.
 - ii. Sanjay noted the distinction between the FESC 31 August Monthly Report, and the FESC 31 August Annual Report.
 - iii. Richard Turner noted that the endowment is doing well financially, and he commended the work of the endowment committee.
 - iv. Report approved by Council.

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- d. Finance Committee – Sanjay Sesodia
 - i. No report.
- e. Development Committee – Mark Chiappone
 - i. No report.
- f. Florida Junior Academy of Science – Sanjay Sesodia for Pat Zalo
 - i. Pat noted that if she is to continue as FJAS Director in 2014, she should be re-appointed by Council. Sanjay Sesodia and John Trefry consulted the by-laws, and Council is allowed to re-appoint; Sanjay and Council did so – Pat Zalo was re-appointed for 2014.
 - ii. Pat asked Council to consider using Elizabeth A. Hays Travel Scholarship funds to support FJAS travel to the American Junior Academy of Sciences annual meeting (February 2014). She noted that FJAS would be well within-budget, but for the AJAS expenses (housing, travel, registration, *etc.*).
 - iii. Pat will have a 1 October 2013 deadline for her decisions concerning FJAS participation with AJAS 2014.
 - iv. Richard Turner noted that the Hays Award Funds do make approximately \$600 available this year for all student awards (Stephen Dunham suggested that there may also be an additional \$500 available).
 - v. Sanjay Sesodia made the following motion: “Allow \$1,000 from the Elizabeth A. Hays Scholarship to be made available to FJAS in support of its travel to AJAS 2014.” Following discussion, Council voted “Yes” to this motion.
 - vi. James Austin suggested that we might contact FAS Council members with grant-writing abilities to help in the search for additional funds.
 - vii. Report approved by Council.
- g. Editor, *Florida Scientist* – Jim Austin (Editor) and Richard Turner (Interim Managing Editor)
 - i. No action items.
 - ii. James Austin announced that the upcoming issues are currently on track.
 - iii. James outlined his priorities for *Florida Scientist*:
 - 1. Reduce publication costs;
 - 2. Increase readership;
 - 3. Develop effective tracking of editorial decisions;
 - 4. Develop and sustain efforts to obtain a journal impact factor (not yet available);
 - 5. Discontinue the publishing of volume contents in the year’s final issue;
 - 6. Develop a “featured papers” component, a “commentary” component, a paper to be contributed by the FAS Medalist, and a “review paper.”
 - 7. Increase our diversity of papers outside of the biological and environmental sciences.
 - iv. Richard announced that the Interim Managing Editor has no additional recommendations to offer at this time.
 - v. Sanjay discussed the possibility of inviting socio-political commentaries to increase the visibility of the journal.
 - vi. James noted the editorial help and contributions of Mary Vallianatos (University of Florida); Mary advises against making large-scale changes to the journal during this time of

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editorial transition. But we also must be ready to modernize our policies, procedures, and format. It is a fine balancing act.

- vii. Richard noted that Florida Scientist is now linked on the “Biodiversity Heritage Library.”
- viii. Richard also offered a brief historical review: prior to 1972, it was named “*Quarterly Journal of the Florida Academy of Sciences*.” Al Miller (an expert in mosses and bryophytes) was Editor in 1972-1973, and re-named the journal as “*Florida Scientist*.”
- ix. Both reports approved by Council.
- h. Journal Business Manager – Richard Turner
 - i. Richard noted all invoices for Issue 1 (2013) have now been paid.
 - ii. Report approved by Council.
- i. Charter & Bylaws Committee – John Trefry
 - i. No report.
 - ii. John noted that the movement of endowment funds is now more expedient and efficient, and that Council should continue searching for flexibility in fiscal decisions.
- j. Honors Committee – David Karlen
 - i. No report.
 - ii. David suggested that we add the Mote Lab in Sarasota to our list of contacts concerning Medalist nominations.
- k. Nominating Committee – Jeremy Montague
 - i. No Report.
- l. FAS Delegate to NAS/AAAS – Norine Noonan
 - i. No report.
- m. History and Archives – John Baker
 - i. No Report.
 - ii. John continues his work with Dan Odell and Jenny Bouchard in search of historical photos.
- n. Membership Committee – Mark Chiappone
 - i. Mark noted that attracting new students continues to be a challenge.
 - ii. Council commended Jenny Bouchard for her efforts in repairing and maintaining the FAS Access database.
 - iii. Stephen Dunham suggested that we advertise the next annual meeting’s location and dates prior to the release of the Call for Abstracts; this might increase the likelihood that students will pay attention (particularly, students at the host institution).
 - iv. Report approved by Council.
- o. Website – Dan Odell
 - i. Dan is working on the fee schedule details for FAS 2014, and he continues his monitoring of web links to remove, repair, and/or upgrade.
 - ii. Dan and Jeremy Montague discussed progress on porting of the Abstracts Submission Web site from Barry University to FAS.org.
 - iii. Report approved by Council.
- p. Awards Committee – David Karlen
 - i. No report.

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- q. Program Committee – Kelli Zargiel
 - i. Kelli is now waiting for submissions from the new website; she has been working with Past Program Chair Jeremy Montague.
 - ii. Meghan Buckley discussed plans to create an interactive plenary session for the 4:30-5:30 pm time slot; the theme will be science communications in the public eye, with input from the Centers for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence (COSEE).
 - iii. Report approved by Council.
- r. Local Arrangements Chair FAS 2014 – Meghan Buckley for Casey Lunceford.
 - i. Meghan continued discussions from the Program Committee report (see 7.q above) and noted progress on the banquet arrangements.
 - ii. Report approved by Council.
- s. Section Chair Reports:
 - i. AGR: Steve Arthurs and Julian Bourne Smothers (no report).
 - ii. ANT: Gilbert Ellis has resigned his position; Jeremy Montague will serve as Interim Chair for ANT.
 - iii. AOS: Kelli Zargiel noted that Meghan Buckley (IRSC) will co-chair the AOS section.
 - iv. BIO: Laura Mudd (no report).
 - v. CMS: Rick Jimenez (no report).
 - vi. ENG: John Baker (no report)
 - vii. ENV: Eric Steimle (no report)
 - viii. GHS: Chris Brown has resigned; Jeremy Montague will serve as Interim Chair for GHS.
 - 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. FJAS tabled discussion on Elizabeth A. Hays Scholarship Funds (resolved: see 7.f, p. 3).
- b. With regard to tabled items, Council discussed the need for FAS Quarterly Meeting minutes to be made current and disseminated at least one month before the next quarterly meeting. Jeremy Montague (Secretary) agreed on this need, but noted the many contingencies involved in the preparation and maintenance of FAS records.

9. New Business

- a. Sanjay Sesodia discussed the Council-at-Large status of Kathy Carvalho-Knighton. Kym Rouse-Campbell's Councilor-at-Large term will expire in March 2015.
- b. Sanjay discussed a recent proposal by the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame (based at the University of South Florida) to have the FAS President serve on their FIHOF board. Although there would be no financial obligation on the part of FAS, Council debated whether there would be any benefit to such an association. David Karlen and John Trefry noted that the FIHOF has prestigious membership, and this might be a positive thing for FAS.

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- c. Council discussed our current standing with OSC (Orlando Science Center) in light of the recent elimination of the position of FAS Executive Director. Jack Stout agreed to serve as temporary liaison with OSC concerning our office space and facilities.
- d. Sanjay updated Council on the issue of a new PC/laptop; currently, FAS is using a loaner from OSC. Should Council find the funds, Jenny Bouchard has a friend who will help her with set-up and software purchases. Rick Jimenez cautioned Council that laptops (as opposed to desk-top PC's) carry certain security risks (loss, theft, *etc.*).
- e. John Trefry and Jeremy Montague made pledges of personal donations to fund the purchase of a new FAS office computer, and Council agreed to leave the actual purchase details in Jenny's hands.
- f. Date for the next quarterly meeting: 25 January 2014, Indian River State College, 3209 Virginia Ave, Ft. Pierce, FL 34981.

10. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Montague, Secretary _____ 21 January 2014