

Florida Academy of Sciences

Minutes of the Council Meeting



January 23, 2010

Indian River State College (IRSC)

Ft. Pierce, Florida

List of Attendees: Richard Turner, Dave Karlen, Barry Wharton, Ed Haddad, Jeremy Montague, Dan Odell, Pat Zalo, John Baker, Kathy Carvalho-Knighton, Eric Perlman, Mark Wade, Jack Stout, Sanjay Sesodia, Leslie Sue Lieberman, Kelli Zargiel, Gil Ellis, Mark Chiappone, Kym Rouse Campbell, and Julie Regier. Apologies for absences were received from Ramon Ruiz-Carus, Jacci White, Michael Reiter, John Trefry, Tom Manning, and Don Lovejoy.

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 September 19, 2009.

Motion: that the Minutes of the previous Council meeting, with one minor revision, be approved as written. Motion carried.

Richard noted that one report (from the Editors Emeriti) and one new business item (a proposed evolution in science education seminar as part of the annual meeting) were being added to the meeting agenda.

Reports

President's Report. Richard's report covered matters relating to the Academy's budget, the journal editorship (transition to the new journal editor and acknowledging the contributions of the newly past co-editors), the journal itself (digitization of past issues, sponsorship funding, putting the journal online), the Endowment (establishing the principal and developing a gift acceptance policy and a spending policy), the upcoming annual meeting, charter and bylaws revisions, and other topics. Of particular note, Richard noted that the proposal from Proquest to put the journal online looked promising and was under consideration.

Executive Director's Report. Ed reviewed membership trends from last year to present, noting a slight drop in members/subscribers who have renewed, a larger drop in individual/business members and journal subscribers, and an increase in student membership. The new and improved website is now up and running, thanks to the efforts of Dan Odell and Jaime Wharton. A grant application to help cover the cost of developing the Academy's 75th anniversary commemorative historical display was recently submitted. We are hopeful for approval. Florida Virtual School (FVS) asked the Academy to explore the possibility of developing a Marine Science curriculum for them. It is hoped this will mark the beginning of a mutually beneficial relationship between FVS and the Academy. Initiatives with the Orlando Science Center were also noted

(including the Orlando Science Café program and a proposed monthly “Science Happening” series).

Treasurer’s Report. Income exceeded expenses by a little over \$2500 over the last quarter of 2009.

Endowment Trustees Report. The portfolio assets at the close of 2009 grew slightly over \$65,000 over the past year, which includes \$25,670 in gifts. Given that the stock market underwent “one of its largest jumps in history,” we should not expect a similar appreciation for 2010.

Finance Committee Report. Due in part to multiple complications regarding website verification, the committee recommends we switch to PayPal for processing of credit card charges. The proposed 2010 Academy budget and a new spending policy for the Endowment were distributed to Council for its consideration. The policy was framed as nine recommendations, each in the form of a motion for Council’s deliberation.

The recommendations (motions) asked that the spending policy be approved (Motion 1); that the principal of the Endowment’s *Undesignated Fund* be established at \$205,709 as of 23 Jan. 2010 (Motion 2); that the Academy withdraw from this fund \$12,258 in general support of its budgetary needs for 2010 (Motion 3); that prior motions to withdraw money from this fund be rendered null and void (Motion 4); that the Academy establish an Endowment *Designated Fund* and named the Dr. Elizabeth A. Hays Travel Award Fund for students participating in the annual meeting (Motion 5); that the Endowment Trustees accumulate bequests from Dr. Hays’ estate separate from other Endowment funds until the fund accrues to \$10,000, whereupon monies from the fund may be withdrawn in accordance with the spending policy and the fund’s purpose (Motion 6); that the Awards Committee formulate procedures to award grants under the student travel fund (Motion 7); that the Academy advertise through its website, membership forms, and other Academy documents the opportunity for parties to make gifts to the student travel fund (Motion 8); and that the Council adopt the proposed 2010 Academy budget (Motion 9).

Note: given the importance and complexity of the recommendations of the Finance Committee, the results of Council voting on each recommendation (motion) are presented in this section and not reported collectively as done for the other Council reports presented at today’s meeting.

Recommendation 1. With respect to the spending policy, the rate of withdrawal would be between 3% and 5% of the principal providing that asset appreciation is not less than 3% of the Endowment’s year end value. Procedures for withdrawal will comply with bylaws.

Motion: that Motion 1 be approved. Motion carried.

Recommendation 2. After some discussion regarding the value of the principal and the inability to determine the amount of gifts the Endowment has received over the years, it was agreed that the current principal of the Endowment’s Undesignated Fund would be set at \$205,709 (at the close of 2009).

Motion: that Motion 2 be approved. Motion carried.

Recommendation 3. After much discussion about whether gifts should be included in the principal, the Council agreed that it would withdraw \$12, 258 to support the Academy's budgetary needs.

Motion: that Motion 3 be approved. Motion carried (with one opposed and two abstentions).

Recommendation 4. Council discussed whether it should retain previously carried motions regarding withdrawal rates from the Endowment. Most felt it best to start afresh and render null and void the previous motions.

Motion: that Motion 4 be approved. Motion carried (9 in favor, 5 opposed).

Recommendation 5. The Academy was bequeathed 2% of Dr. Hays' remaining estate so the question arose regarding the use of these funds. The family of Dr. Hays asked that the Academy use the money for a specified purpose, which the Finance Committee subsequently identified (grants for student travel to participate in the annual meetings). It was decided that "participation" would include oral and poster presentations. The Awards Committee will need to establish criteria for eligible students ("needy students") and the award amount.

Motion: that Motion 5 be approved as amended. Motion carried.

Recommendation 6. Council was opposed to the notion of accumulating bequests from Dr. Hays' estate until the fund accrues to \$10,000 and thereafter withdraw monies consistent with the spending policy and the Endowment Fund's purpose.

Motion: that Motion 6 be approved. Motion did not carry.

Recommendation 7. This recommendation elicited no further discussion.

Motion: that Motion 7 be approved. Motion carried.

Recommendation 8. This recommendation elicited no further discussion.

Motion: that Motion 8 be approved. Motion carried.

Recommendation 9. Council requested and received clarification on selected items in the proposed 2010 budget. Ed noted that the Academy was in need of an LCD projector (which was considered but dropped in the version presented to Council). Private sector monies would need to be solicited to underwrite its purchase.

Motion: that Motion 9 be approved. Motion carried.

Development Committee Report. No report.

FJAS Report. Pat reported that the number of junior academy chapters and members had remained approximately the same as last year's. She needs judges to read and evaluate student papers during preliminary and annual meeting competitions and provided instructions and milestones for prospective judges.

Journal Editors Report. In Tom Manning's inaugural report as the newly-installed journal editor, he acknowledged receipt and acceptance of several papers for publication, reported that an interdisciplinary editorial board had been assembled and that he has been

coordinating with Richard Turner and Allen Press to ensure logistics are running smoothly.

Journal Editors Emeriti Report. This is first and last report. Final proofs of Volume 73, Issues 1 and 2 have been submitted to Allen Press. Dean and Barbara extend their appreciation to the Council members and office staff for their support and specifically commended Dan Odell, John Trefry, Richard Turner, and Tom Manning for their efforts.

Journal Business Manager's Report. Richard reports that the journal is doing well, noting that Issue 4 was fully paid for by the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program. Council's advice was sought regarding how best to pursue one unpaid author invoice. Given the costs involved in retaining a bill collection agency, Council generally agreed to waive the unpaid invoice but to send a letter to the author indicating that no future manuscripts would be accepted for publication until the invoice is paid. Council's position was that failure to pay legitimate publication costs was a breach of professional ethics.

Awards Committee Report. Barry Wharton is in the process of updating and expanding the student awards evaluation forms. The new forms will include a series of additional questions, the responses to which are intended to facilitate the selection of the winners of the various academy-wide awards. Judges from the various sections will be asked to evaluate oral and poster presentations. For the poster presentations, a winner and runner-up for each section will be identified. Jeremy will email poster entrants to instruct them to mount their posters Friday morning (March 19).

Program Chair's Report. The count of papers for the various sections are down from last year at this time and hopes to extend the drop-dead abstract submission to Feb. 5. Edited abstracts are being sent to the respective section chairs and he has asked them to determine if any abstracts are not accounted for. He anticipates having the Advance Program ready for distribution by Feb. 8 or 9 and the Program Book ready for the printer by Feb. 15. Richard asked that Jeremy prepare a document to link to the web announcing the time slots for each oral presentation, to which Jeremy agreed.

Membership Committee Report. Ed Haddad had already summarized the 2009-2010 FAS membership data earlier in today's meeting.

Webmaster's Report. Dan Odell thanked Ed Haddad and Julie Regier for checking all the links for the new FAS website and asked all Council members to contribute suitable photos of lab and field research activities to replace or supplement the pictures currently on the website.

Local Arrangements Committee Report. Mark Wade introduced Council to Casey Lunceford (IRSC Assistant Dean of Arts & Sciences), who led Council on a brief tour of Building V – Kight Center, and Building H – Health & Sciences), the venue for the meeting rooms for upcoming annual meeting. The poster presentation session will be held in the main 1st-floor atrium area of Building V. The Marriott-Fairfield Inn still has a few rooms remaining in the block reserved for the annual meeting participants and noted that the new Holiday Inn (opened two months ago near the SR-70/Turnpike) also has rooms available. Dr. Edie Widder (President, Ocean Research and Conservation

Association [ORCA]) was invited to be the Plenary Speaker and Richard Aronson (FIT) our Banquet Speaker.

Charter and Bylaws Committee. Five amendments to the Bylaws were proposed. The amendments added the Agriculture and Natural Resources and Atmospheric and Oceanographic Sciences sections (Article II, Section 2), rescinded the Executive Director's voting rights on all Standing Committees (Article IV, Section 8), authorized Council to appoint a website administrator (Article V, Section 3), authorized the Executive Director to hire (upon Council approval) and supervise additional Academy office staff as needed (Article V, Section 5), and granted the President-Elect voting rights as a member of the Finance Committee and Executive Committee (Article VII, Section 1).

NAAS/AAAS Liaison. No report.

Nominations Committee. No report.

History and Archives Committee. A grant was submitted to the Florida Humanities Council (FHC) for \$22,000 with a \$30,000 match to construct a travelling exhibit on the history of the Academy. Also anticipated is a symposium. Amy Foster (historian/engineer) will open the exhibit. A decision from FHC is expected by Feb. 1.

At the conclusion of each report (with the exception of the Finance Committee Report), a motion was made to accept the report and in each case the motion carried.

Section Chairs. Several section chairs were in attendance and provided brief remarks, including advertizing strategies to beef up abstract submissions. Councillor-at-Large Kathy Carvahlo-Knighton volunteered to serve as an Interim Chair for the Science Teaching (TCH) Session, and offered to submit two abstracts for TCH oral presentations.

Old Business

There was no Old Business to report.

New Business

Richard Turner asked for all Council members to submit written reports prior to the March 18th Council meeting but only present action items at the meeting. The meeting agenda items should focus on 2010 annual meeting program updates and the Awards Committee activities.

Richard Turner announced that the Provost at Florida Institute of Technology has formally agreed for that institution to host the Academy's 75th Annual Meeting in 2011. Leslie Lieberman asked for two weeks' time to inquire if the University of Florida might also be interested in hosting the 2011 FAS meeting. Council agreed to table any further discussion or decision concerning the venue for the 2011 annual meeting until the Council's quarterly meeting on March 18

David Karlen discussed the upcoming meeting of the Florida Citizens for Science (FCS) which is scheduled for IRCS on Saturday, March 20, 2010 (1-3 p.m.) and noted that FCS has played a major role in developing a position statement on science teaching standards

in Florida's public schools. He recommended that the Academy co-sponsor the FCS meeting. Pat Zalo, expounding on the role FCS has played this year in shaping the State of Florida's science teaching standards, concurred with David's recommendation. Council agreed to co-sponsor the FCS meeting and invite FCS members to attend any of the 2010 annual meeting sessions, provided they pay the Academy registration fee. Jeremy Montague agreed to place notice of the FCS meeting and co-sponsorship in the Program Book.

Next Council Meeting

The next Council meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., March 18, 2010, at Indian River State College in Ft. Pierce, one the eve of the 2010 annual meeting.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

Barry Wharton

Barry Wharton, Secretary