

Quarterly Council Meeting of the Florida Academy of Sciences  
St. Leo University – 24 January 2015  
Sanjay Sesodia, FAS President, presiding

1. **Present:** Sumera Ackbarali, Tom Arnold, Darin Bell, Meghan Buckley, Carmen Carpenter, Iain Duffy, Kelli Hunsucker, David Karlen, Jeremy Montague (minutes), Kannan Nagarajan, Norine Noonan, Brian Pearson, Sanjay Sesodia, Jack Stout, Richard Turner, and Pat Zalo (Guest present: FAS Office Manager Jenny Bouchard).
2. **Present by Phone Conference Call:** John Baker, Ana Jimenez, Rick Jimenez, Laura Mudd, and Dan Odell
3. **Note:** Before the meeting began, Iain Duffy and Darin Bell led Council members on a brief campus tour to inspect the room locations and facilities for FAS 2015.
4. **Call to Order, Welcome & Introductions** – Sanjay Sesodia
5. **Apologies for Absence** – lists from Jenny Bouchard and Jeremy Montague: James Austin, Mary Vallianatos Don Lovejoy, and John Trefry.
6. **Approval of 27 September 2014 Council Minutes** – Jeremy Montague (Secretary)
  - a. The 9-27-2014 Quarterly Council Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved by Council.
7. **Status of Council Composition for 2015** – Sanjay Sesodia
  - a. No report.
8. **Reports of Officers & Chairs of Standing Committees**
  - a. President & Executive Committee – Sanjay Sesodia
    - i. Sanjay discussed the current vacancy for the Executive Director position. Two interested persons have inquired about the position; Council reviewed the CV of one of the persons (see New Business, section 10. item a., page 6).
    - ii. Sanjay discussed the current status for the 2015 budget, and he hopes to have a finished document for the March quarterly meeting (19 March 2015).
    - iii. Sanjay discussed the status for the currently vacant President-Elect position (This matter is also addressed in the Charter & Bylaws report, Section 9, item i, page 4). This vacancy is unprecedented. Jeremy Montague has expressed willingness to take on the role of President-Elect. Richard Turner, after consulting the Charter & Bylaws, suggested that Council may appoint a person now to fill this vacancy; this person would then inherit the position of President from Sanjay at the Annual Banquet (20 March 2015). Richard made a motion:
      1. Council should now appoint Jeremy as President-Elect. Council voted “Yes” to the motion.
    - iv. Richard Turner noted that we will need to nominate a new President-Elect at the next quarterly meeting (19 March 2015).
    - v. Sanjay noted that Jeremy’s position as President-Elect will create an up-coming vacancy for FAS Secretary; Norine Noonan expressed an interest in taking on the role of FAS Secretary.
    - vi. Sanjay discussed his 27 September 2014 meeting with J.T. Lessing (Orlando Science Center) concerning the ongoing relationship between FAS and OCS; Sanjay did not bring up the issue of asking OCS for expanded office space at this time. Council discussed the need for us to first identify areas of mutual interest and commonalities. In this view, we should ask the question: What can FAS contribute for the betterment of OSC? This is an important question for Council, as our existing 20-year Agreement with OSC expires in June 2015.
      1. Richard Turner suggested that Council review the text of our current agreement.

Quarterly Council Meeting of the Florida Academy of Sciences

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2. Sanjay suggested that FAS continue to offer the good services of FAS members for outreach activities, particularly in reference to the FAS Specialists Listing made available to OSC. Norine Noonan emphasized the importance of maintain and updating the current listing.
  3. Pat Zalo recommended that FAS avoid politics in any offer of contributed services.
  4. Kannan Nagarajan suggested that FAS might develop a series of FAS display posters to contribute to OSC; these could be designed around historical events and activities of FAS, similar to the “FAS History” display developed years ago by Dean Martin.
  5. Meghan Buckley noted that FAS should look into NSF programs that advance STEM learning for clues on how to engage OSC in outreach.
  6. Carmen Carpenter offered to develop and write a description of FAS contributions to OSC (past and future).
- vii. Sanjay noted that FAS 2016 is now confirmed for USF-St. Petersburg, to be hosted 17-18 March 2016 (Spring Break for USP-SP). FAS 2017 is still open, but UCF in Orlando has expressed some interest in hosting. Sanjay will contact our 2014 Medalist (Dr. Peter Delfyett, UCF) to ascertain UCF’s interest.
  - viii. Sanjay discussed the newly announced of several hotels in the St. Leo area for FAS 2015 (these are in addition to those currently listed in the Call for Abstracts).
  - ix. Sanjay discussed the matter of developing printed cards for FAS members.
    1. Meghan Buckley offered to look into the pricing for FAS business cards.
    2. She made a motion: Get bids for design and pricing on a pilot set of 500 cards.
    3. Council voted “Yes” on this motion.
    4. Meghan will follow up on this.
  - x. Kannan Nagarajan noted that FAS might consider the production of FAS Member Certificates in economical pdf formats, and he offered to design a sample.
  - xi. Brian Pearson offered to pick up the FAS 2015 program books from Next Generation Printing in Lake Mary by 18 March 2015.
  - xii. Report was approved by Council.
- b. Treasurer – Sumera Ackbarali
- i. Sumera noted that at this time we have a net balance of approximately \$4,400, but Richard Turner noted that the report shows an annual distribution of only \$9,977 from the endowment rather than the \$15,337 that was approved by Council last January. (This matter is pending a clarification between Sumera and FAS Endowment Chair Don Lovejoy). Sumera agreed to communicate with Don concerning this matter.
  - ii. Report as amended approved by Council.
- c. Florida Endowment for the Sciences Committee – Sanjay Sesodia for Don Lovejoy
- i. Council commended Don Lovejoy and the Endowment Committee for their faithful and competent stewardship.
  - ii. Richard Turner made four motions concerning the Endowment.

Quarterly Council Meeting of the Florida Academy of Sciences  
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1. Motion 1: Re-establish the principal amount for the Undesignated<sup>1</sup> Endowment Fund as \$259,994 as of 1 January 2015 (the current total value of the Endowment is \$378,121). Council voted “Yes” to this first motion.
  2. Motion 2: Leave the principal in the Elizabeth T. Hays Travel Awards Fund at the amount of \$10,250 as of 1 January 2015 (the current total value of the fund is \$13,628). Council voted “Yes” to this second motion.
  3. Motion 3: Withdraw \$18,906 (5% of \$378,121) from the Undesignated Endowment Fund for 2015 FAS operating expenses. Council voted “Yes” to this third motion.
  4. Motion 4: Withdraw \$681 (5% limit of \$13,628) from the Elizabeth T. Hays Travel Awards Fund for the student travel awards for FAS 2015. Council voted “Yes” to this fourth motion.
- iii. Report approved by Council.
- d. Finance Committee – Sanjay Sesodia
    - i. No report.
  - e. Development Committee – Sanjay Sesodia for Mark Chiappone
    - i. No report.
  - f. Florida Junior Academy of Science – Pat Zalo
    - i. Pat expects approximately the same number of participants this year as FJAS 2014. She asked Council for volunteer judges to assist with the preliminary judging of papers (due 1 February). She hopes that preliminary judging results will be returned to her by 13 February.
    - ii. Pat noted that the State Science Fair is scheduled for 1 April 2015 in Lakeland; Council members are encouraged to participate in judging, and they can contact Pat for details.
    - iii. Pat emphasized that FJAS presentations are entered in competition, while the AJAS and AAAS presentations are not entered in competition.
    - iv. Richard Turner asked Pat if FAS might contribute \$1,000 to FJAS to assist in expenses (as was done in 2014. Pat said no, at this time, as she is monitoring her expenses closely to see if FJAS is sustainable without additional funds from the Senior Academy. She will report back to Council on the issue at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarterly Meeting in June 2015.
    - v. Report approved by Council.
  - g. Editor, *Florida Scientist* – Sanjay Sesodia for James Austin
    - i. James is interested in developing short publications in the form of “Commentaries” (limited to 1,000 words or less). By current page-charge policy, only academy members are offered any free-pages (no page charges for up to ten pages) in accepted articles. Richard Turner suggested that Council grant James flexibility in selecting commentaries from non-members.
    - ii. Sanjay Sesodia made a motion:
    - iii. Allow the editor discretion in permitting non-members to publish without membership and associated page charge policy. Council voted “Yes” to this motion.
    - iv. James noted that there have been relatively few submissions of manuscripts recently; Council members are asked to consider sending suitable manuscripts in for review.
    - v. Report approved by Council.

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<sup>1</sup> Contains funds not specified for a particular use by a donor.

Quarterly Council Meeting of the Florida Academy of Sciences  
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- h. Journal Business Manager – Richard Turner
  - i. Richard noted that the financial condition of the journal remains good. We have moved in the direction of publishing fewer articles per issue, and higher costs per page.
  - ii. Richard reported that the journal’s relationship with JSTOR is now firm; it is similar to our arrangements with EBSCO. JSTOR is now scanning issues from Volume 1 of Florida Scientist.
  - iii. Council discussed the possibility that an issue for the Charlotte Harbor Symposium is in the planning stages; at least one other journal (Southeastern Naturalist) is interested in this symposium. The Charlotte Harbor Symposium may have up to \$19,000 available to contribute to the publication costs.
  - iv. Norine Noonan suggested that we might develop a special issue (similar to the Charlotte Harbor Symposium issue) with interested groups involved with the Gulf oil spill. The Florida Institute of Oceanography (FIO) might be one such group. FIO might fund a special issue, perhaps in conjunction with FAS 2016. Norine will pursue this idea and report back to Council in March.
  - v. Report approved by Council.
- i. Charter & Bylaws Committee – Richard Turner for John Trefry
  - i. Richard noted there are particular actions undertaken by the corporation that must be approved by voting at the Annual Business Meeting (March). However, By-laws V, Section 3 (specific duties of Council) allows the corporation to undo action taken by the corporation without waiting for the annual meeting. Richard made a motion to add “r” to this section:
    - 1. To add: (r) removing an officer for cause or for failure to perform the duties of the office. Council voted “Yes” to this motion.
  - ii. As the motion carried, Richard asked Jenny Bouchard to mail out notice at least one month in advance that a vote on adding “r” to V, Section 3 will take place at the March meeting.
  - iii. Report approved by Council.
- j. Honors Committee – David Karlen
  - i. David noted that the current Honors Committee consists of himself as chair, with Richard Turner, Bruce McFadden, Dan Odell, and Sanjay Sesodia.
  - ii. The Honors Committee has selected the winner for the 2015 Medalist Award. The award winner will be announced at the FAS 2015 Annual Banquet, and this person will give the address at the FAS 2016 Annual Banquet.
  - iii. David reported that the mold used to strike the FAS Medalist’s medal has deteriorated, and a new one must be purchased. He found an artist who will make a new mold for \$190; Council approved this expenditure and asked David to follow up on this matter.
  - iv. David also is looking into the matter of purchasing an appropriate chain or ribbon for the FAS Medal.
  - v. Report approved by Council.
- k. Nominating Committee – Jeremy Montague
  - i. No Report.

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- l. FAS Delegate to NAS/AAAS – Norine Noonan
  - i. Norine noted that the 2015 NAS/AAAS Annual Meeting is scheduled for February in San Jose, CA, and she will be in attendance.
  - ii. Norine will coordinate with Pat Zalo to set up her locate and visit with any Florida student presenting at the meeting.
  - iii. Report approved by Council.
- m. History and Archives – John Baker
  - i. No Report.
- n. Membership Committee – Mark Chiappone
  - i. No report.
- o. Website – Dan Odell
  - i. Dan continues to work with Lonnie Braden to maintain and update the FAS website.
  - ii. Dan asked Council members to be vigilant and report any web-related problems.
  - iii. Report approved by Council.
- p. Awards Committee – David Karlen
  - i. David reported on his plans to print the student award certificates before the banquet; to do so, he will need the vigilance and assistance of the section chairs and session judges.
  - ii. David announced that only three applications for Elizabeth T. Hays Travel Fund Awards were received. He made a motion:
    1. That \$381 of the \$681 distribution from the Hays Travel Fund support FJAS student travel (see 8., c., ii., 4. page 3). Council voted “Yes” to this motion.
  - iii. Report approved by Council.
- q. Program Committee – Kelli Zargiel
  - i. Kelli reported a slight increase in the number of abstracts accepted for FAS 2015 (N = 164) over FAS 2014 (N = 153); her totals to date include 95 orals and 69 posters.
  - ii. Kelli is planning with Lonnie Braden to convert the Call for Abstracts to an entirely online (paperless) process. To upgrade the FAS website for abstract submission, Lonnie requested \$600 (\$300 up front to begin, and \$300 upon delivery). Kelli made a motion:
    1. Have the Treasurer approve the \$600 expenditure for the upgrade of the FAS abstract submission web-site. Council voted “Yes” to this motion.
  - iii. Report approved by Council.
- r. Local Arrangements Chair FAS 2015 – Iain Duffy.
  - i. Iain and Darin Bell reported we are on track for FAS 2015, 20-21 March at St. Leo University.
  - ii. Report approved by Council.
- s. Section Chair Reports:
  - i. AGR: Brian Pearson (no report).
  - ii. ANT: Jeremy Montague (Interim Chair, no report).
  - iii. AOS: Kelli Zargiel/Meghan Buckley (no report).
  - iv. BIO: Laura Mudd (no report).
  - v. CMS: Rick Jimenez (no report).

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- 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: TBD.
- xiv. URB: Jim Barnes (no report)

**9. Old Business**

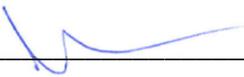
- a. None.

**10. New Business**

- a. Sanjay Sesodia circulated a CV submitted by a person interested in the position of Executive Director; Council agreed that the person seems inexperienced and unsuited for the position.
- b. As regards the vacant position for Executive Director, Norine Noonan recommended that we have the expectation that the successful candidate will have the abilities in professional fund-raising, sufficient to at least off-set the cost of the FAS Annual Meeting (approximately \$10,000).
- c. Jack Stout recommended that we conduct a professional search for successful candidates.
- d. Date for the next quarterly meeting: Thursday evening, 19 March, at St. Leo University (campus location TBD).

**11. Adjournment**

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Montague, Secretary  12 March 2015