

Minutes of Florida Academy of Sciences Council – June 25, 2016

Orlando Science Center
Orlando, FL

Call to Order, Council Attendance and Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 am by President Jeremy Montague. Ms. Jenny Bouchard, FAS Office Manager was recognized as a guest.

The following Council members were in attendance (either in person or by phone): Jeremy Montague, Tom Arnold, Norine Noonan, Darin Bell, Iain Duffy, Ricardo Jimenez, Ana Jimenez, Pat Zalo, Sanjay Sesodia, Jack Stout, Dr. Kathryn Miller for Dr. Sesha Srinivasan, Jack Stout, Meghan Buckley, Richard Smith, Allysha Winburn, and Katie Rubin, David Karlen, Alvan Karlin.

The following Council members sent apologies for being absent: Sumera Ackbarali, Dan Odell, Donald Lovejoy, John Trefry, James Austin, Geuorgui Bourov, John Baker, Carrie LeGarde, Laura Mudd, Kelli Hunsucker, Carmen Carpenter, and Richard Turner.

President Montague noted that the Minutes of the March 17, 2016 meeting were provided via email. These Minutes were approved.

Reports of Officers and Committees

President's Report: The president recapped the results of the Council meeting and Annual Meeting of March 2016. Dr. Kelli Hunsucker is president-elect and she will also serve as the Awards Chairman. The Program Chair (3-year term) will be David Karlen. The new chair for the Agriculture section is Richard Smith and the new Co-chairs for the Anthropology section are Allysha Winburn, Carrie LeGarde and Katie Rubin. The new Co-chairs for the Atmospheric and Ocean Sciences section are Kelli Hunsucker and Meghan Buckley. The Councilors –at-Large are as follows:

- Carmen Carpenter – 1st elected
- Meghan Buckley – 2nd elected
- Laura Mudd – 1st appointed
- David Karlen – 2nd appointed

The president reported that the Orlando Science Center is terminating its relationship with FAS due to changing priorities and space needs as of July 1. The Academy will be able to continue to use the OSC email servers for about 30 days (until about August 1). A proposal for siting the corporate offices at another location will be discussed under New Business (please see New Business for more discussion).

The president reported that he had received a proposal for web design and hosting from OptFirst in Miami Shores, FL. However, the proposal had a very high cost associated with it. See further discussion under New Business.

The president reported that the QuickBooks files were completely up to day except for the PayPal entries. This required a lot of effort on the part of the office manager and the president and treasurer. The president reported that the bid by Florida Polytechnic University to host the 2017 Annual Meeting. The site of the 2018 Annual Meeting has not been determined. In May of 2016, president Montague made a formal request to the Provost of Barry University (Miami Shores, FL) to consider hosting the 2018 Annual Meeting. The report of the president was accepted.

Treasurer's Report: The report was distributed by email and accepted.

Endowment Committee: The report was accepted.

Finance Committee: President Montague acting as interim chair reported that the transition to QuickBooks would be completed before September.

Development Committee: No Report.

Florida Junior Academy of Science: Pat Zalo reported that the FJAS meeting went smoothly. She noted that students who competed at FJAS won significantly more placements (awards) at the State Science and Engineering Fair of Florida. She proposed that the Council convene an ad hoc committee to interview the three individuals who have expressed an interest in the FJAS Director position (Meghan Buckley, Leya Joykutty, and Kannan Nagarajan). The report was accepted.

The Council named Drs. Montague, Arnold and Hunsucker to interview the prospective candidates with input from Drs. Bell, Sesodia, and Karlen. A question arose with regard to transitioning the FJAS financial accounts. In addition, Ms. Zalo noted that FJAS was continuing to lose memberships and that the cost to send the winner to the AJAS meeting was approximately \$1,500. Current membership consisted of about 140 individual students from 6 schools. It was pointed out that the Lakeland Schools might be a good target for recruitment given that the Annual Meeting is in Lakeland next year. Dr. Miller (FPU) agreed to assist in communication and outreach to these schools to try to build interest and attendance. Other strategies could include reaching out to the AP Research/AP Capstone teachers to enlist their support in sending their students to the FJAS meeting. Ms. Zalo agreed to scan and send the Charter and By-Laws to president Montague.

Editor's Report: No report (report was subsequently received).

Journal Business Manager: The report was accepted.

Charter and By-Laws Committee: No Report

Honors Committee: Dr. Sesodia reported that it was time to consider nominees for the 2017 Medalist.

Nominating Committee: Dr. Montague reported that Ms. Ackbarali had agree to have her term extended for one additional year. The Council approved this extension. The report was accepted

FAS Delegate to NAAS/AAAS: Dr. Noonan reported that she will attend the NAAS annual meeting as part of the AAAS Annual Meeting in Boston, MA. The report was accepted.

History and Archives Committee: No report

Membership Committee: No report.

Website: See New Business

Awards Committee: Dr. Karlen reported that 36 students received awards at the Annual Meeting and all had now been notified. He thanked the Section Chairs and the judges for their efficient and timely work. The list of winners is posted on the FAS website and certificates were delivered to awardees. The report was accepted.

2017 Program Chairman: Dr. Karlen reported that the 2017 Annual Meeting will occur on March 9 (Council), 10 (FAS), and 11 (FJAS), 2017. Fundraising is underway and several companies have already been approached (Pasco Scientific, Mettler Toledo, Ocean Optics, and MakerBot) The report was accepted.

Local Arrangements Committee (LAC): Dr. Miller reported on behalf of Drs. Srinivasan and Integlia and as a member of the LAC. She noted that hotels were being identified and preparations for the banquet were in process. She is also planning to work with FJAS (see above) to build interest at schools in and around Lakeland. The report was accepted.

Section Chairs

There were no reports from Section Chairs, but the Council welcomed the new section chairs in AGR and ANT.

Old Business

The Council members continued the discussion of the organization of sections for the 2017 Annual Meeting. The Council agreed to authorize the merger of the Geology/Hydrologic Sciences section with the Urban and Regional Planning section to create a new section, Geosciences (GEO). This change will require an amendment to the By-laws. The Council will begin the process of this change at the September meeting with a vote by the membership in March 2017 at the Annual Meeting. In the meantime, for purposes of the Call for Abstracts for that meeting, the two sections will be combined and papers/posters will be solicited under the "Geosciences" name.

New Business

As noted in the president's report, the Orlando Science Center is terminating its relationship with the Academy as of July 1, 2016. Councilors Trefry and Turner brought forward a proposal to host the corporate offices of the Academy at the Florida Institute of Technology. It has the support of the new president of Florida Tech, Dr. T. Dwayne McCay, however, the formalities of executing the Memorandum of Understanding will likely not be completed before August 1 (which is the nominal cutoff for the OSC email and phone service). The Council discussed possible backup plans should there be additional delays in executing the agreement with Florida Tech. OSC will permit the continued use of its email servers and phone service through July 31, 2016, but the office has been relocated to Ms. Bouchard's home (with most of the files and other items placed in temporary storage).

Dr. Montague reported on behalf of the ad hoc Website Development Committee (Dr. Montague, chair, Alvan Karlin, Ricardo Jimenez, Jim Austin, David Karlen, Sessa Srinivasan and Dan Odell.) The committee solicited a proposal from a web design and hosting company, OptFirst. Dr. Montague reported that in discussions with the current webmaster, it appears that commitments have been made for functionalities such as downloadable abstracts for the 2017 Annual Meeting. Dr. Montague noted that the current webmaster owns the FAS domain name (Network Solutions) and we may have to purchase it from him should the FAS choose to move in another direction with regard to web hosting. However, the OptFirst proposal was very expensive so the choices were not optimal. The Council agreed to "stay the course" with the current webmaster **IF** he delivers on his promises as described to Dr. Montague.

Dr. Montague raised the issue of compensation for Ms. Bouchard, the FAS Office Manager. Based on the additional work involved with relocating the FAS corporate office and running the office from her home for the month of July (at least), Dr. Montague proposed a one-time bonus of \$2500 to be paid in six (6) equal installments. The Council will discuss a permanent increase in compensation for Ms. Bouchard in January.

The next FAS Council Meeting will be on Saturday, September 17, 2016 at the Orlando Science Center (last time).