

Quarterly Council Meeting of the Florida Academy of Sciences
Orlando Science Center – 7 June 2014
Sanjay Sesodia, FAS President, presiding

1. **Present:** Sumera Ackbarali, Tom Arnold, Iain Duffy, Ana Jimenez, Rick Jimenez, Jeremy Montague (minutes), Brian Pearson, Sanjay Sesodia, and Pat Zalo (Guest present: FAS Office Manager Jenny Bouchard).
2. **Present by Phone Conference Call:** Meghan Buckley, Carmen Carpenter, Stephen Dunham, David Karlen, Laura Mudd, and Kanen Nagarajan (Richard Turner called in at 10:30 am to consult briefly with Council members Sanjay Sesodia and Jeremy Montague).
3. **Call to Order, Welcome & Introductions** – Sanjay Sesodia
4. **Apologies for Absence** – lists from Jenny Bouchard and Jeremy Montague: James Austin, Don Lovejoy, Norine Noonan, Dan Odell, Jack Stout, John Trefry, Richard Turner, Mary Vallianatos, and Kelli Zargiel.
5. **Approval of 6 March 2014 Council Minutes** – Jeremy Montague (Secretary)
 - a. The 3-6-2014 Quarterly Council Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved by Council.
6. **Status of Council Composition for 2014-2015** – Sanjay Sesodia
 - a. No report; particular Council discussions concerning the current status of the FAS Executive Director, Treasurer, Finance Committee Chair, Councilors-at-Large, President-Elect, and FJAS Director are noted below in the FAS President’s Report (Section 7.a, pp. 1-3).
7. **Reports of Officers & Chairs of Standing Committees**
 - a. President & Executive Committee – Sanjay Sesodia
 - i. Sanjay discussed the current status of the Executive Director position; it remains unfilled. Although a search for a new Executive Director is not currently underway, it is something we will have to begin soon, as the unfilled position will ultimately result in an untenable condition for the Academy. The FAS Office Manager should not be out of the FAS Office operating temporarily in the role or capacity of the Executive Director. Stephen Dunham noted that although FAS is currently in the black financially, we are not yet ready to pay an Executive Director at the rate expected for the position.
 - ii. David Karlen agreed to design a formal written contract for the Executive Director position; he recommended that we use the template for that of an independent contractor.
 - iii. Sanjay noted that Council may hire a new Executive Director by majority vote, as per Section 5, page 6 in the FAS Charter and Bylaws (last updated March 2013, and currently posted on Floridaacademyofsciences.org).
 - iv. Sanjay reviewed the expected duties of the Executive Director (as an action item, Ana Jimenez agreed to formally write these into a document):
 - a. Represent FAS in locations and venues outside of the FAS Office;
 - b. Seek and obtain external funding for FAS operations;
 - c. Work an average of 10 hours/week (40 hours/month).
 - v. Sanjay presented a motion for action at the 4th Quarterly Meeting (27 September 2014): Council will review the formal contract for the Executive Director position at the 27 September 3rd quarterly meeting, and vote on approval. Council voted “Yes” on this motion.
 - vi. Sanjay discussed the current status of the position of FAS Treasurer. Stephen Dunham resigned his position in May 2014, but agreed to continue his duties until Council finds a replacement. Sanjay noted that there are currently two candidates: (1) Ms. Sumera Ackbarali from Barry University; and (2) an unnamed person from Ave Maria University. The Ave

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Maria candidate has no prior record of FAS Council activities or services, while Sumera has served previously as a Session Moderator at the FAS Annual Meeting, and as a judge for FJAS. She is currently an Instructor for the College of Nursing and Health Sciences at Barry University, and she has experience as a Lab Director with budgetary responsibilities.

- vii. Sanjay made a motion: Call for a vote for the new FAS Treasurer. Council voted “Yes” to this motion.
- viii. Council voted unanimously for Sumera Ackbarali as new FAS Treasurer.
- ix. Sanjay declared his willingness to continue serving as Interim Chair for the FAS Finance Committee.
- x. Sanjay discussed the current status of our Councilors-at-Large:
 - a. Elected Councilor-at Large (one year left): Carmen Carpenter
 - b. Elected Councilor-at-Large (two years left): Meghan Buckley
 - c. Appointed Councilor-at-Large (one year left): Iain Duffy
 - d. Appointed Councilor-at-Large (two years left): currently vacant

With regard to the vacant appointed position, Sanjay made an action item: He will contact Darin Bell (Chemistry Department, St. Leo University) to gauge his interest in FAS Council activities.

- xi. Council expressed concerns with regard to the level of participation in Council affairs shown recently by the current President-Elect; as an action item, Sanjay will contact the President-Elect to inquire about his interest in (and commitment to) FAS.
- xii. With regard to the current President-Elect, he is expected to assume the Presidency at the FAS 2015 Annual Meeting. Should the current President-Elect decline, Council will need to find a replacement as soon as possible. Jeremy Montague declared that, in the absence of a viable and willing candidate, he would offer his service immediately to FAS as Interim President-Elect, and with Council and Academy approval, fill the position of President in 2015.
- xiii. Pat Zalo discussed her long-range plans concerning her current position as FJAS Director; she hopes to recruit and mentor her replacement. Pat proposed the creation of a two-year transitional position, i.e., FJAS Director-in-Waiting, and she named a Broward County teacher (Kanen Nagarajan) as a person interested in working with her in this capacity (see additional discussion in Section 7.f, p. 3).
- xiv. Sanjay and Jenny Bouchard discussed the current FAS Office operations at the Orlando Science Center (OSC). They reported that things are running smoothly at the moment, though the absence of an Executive Director has temporarily added some items to Jenny’s lists of daily tasks. Jenny now has a new PC for the office; Rickey Jimenez is coordinating with her on its set-up and software installations, and she will report back at the 27 September 2014 3rd quarterly meeting concerning progress with her computer records.
- xv. Sanjay discussed the current status for FAS 2015; it will be held 20-21 March at St. Leo University. Iain Duffy (St. Leo University) is the Local Arrangements Chair, and David Karlen has generously volunteered to assist Iain.
- xvi. Sanjay reported the FAS 2016 is tentatively planned for UF-St. Petersburg (Norine Noonan is the current Provost at USF-SP). University of Central Florida in Orlando has expressed

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- some interest in hosting a FAS Annual Meeting. Pat Zalo noted that Council should make early inquiries concerning host institutions' policies on charges for room & facilities usage.
- xvii. Sanjay discussed current activities in the areas of membership and outreach, noting that our 2014 Medalist (Dr. Peter Delfyett, University of Central Florida) might be able to usher in a new era of UCF participation with FAS. Iain Duffy noted that UCF might be a good base on which to build a forensic sciences component in FAS. Sanjay also high-lighted our recent communications with the National Academies of Inventors, based at USF-Tampa, and he hopes to establish a productive partnership with this organization. Another potentially fruitful relationship FAS might nurture involves the co-sponsorship of an Annual STEM conference in Miami-Dade County between Barry University and St. Thomas University (hosted for the past six years at the Barry University Miami Shores campus).
 - xviii. Sanjay hopes to soon complete his next issue of the FAS eNews Letter, and he requests input from Council concerning content for upcoming issues.
 - xix. Sanjay reviewed ideas and suggestions concerning the current number of FAS Council positions, particularly in light of the relatively broad geographical expanse of Florida. There was a general consensus that the number of representatives on our current FAS Council might be too low to adequately serve the various components in all our state regions (e.g., Miami, Tampa-St. Pete, Tallahassee, etc.). He recommended the formation of a subcommittee within the Development Committee to address this issue.
 - xx. Report was approved by Council.
- b. Treasurer – Stephen Dunham
 - i. Stephen reported that in April we had a net balance of \$12,581 in our bank account, and that this balance places us in good financial condition at this time.
 - ii. Stephen reported that the FAS annual budget is still in the planning stages.
 - iii. Report approved by Council.
 - c. Florida Endowment for the Sciences Committee – Sanjay Sesodia for Don Lovejoy
 - i. Don reported to Sanjay that the endowment's financial condition looks good; at its current rate of growth it is adding approximately \$10,000 each month. Although such a growth rate may fluctuate over time, it bodes well now for FAS.
 - ii. Report approved by Council.
 - d. Finance Committee – Sanjay Sesodia
 - i. No report; as noted in Section 7.a.item ix, p. 1, Sanjay will continue to serve as Interim Chair.
 - e. Development Committee – Sanjay Sesodia for Mark Chiappone
 - i. No report.
 - f. Florida Junior Academy of Science – Pat Zalo
 - i. Pat discussed her efforts to arrange for FJAS judges in the area of the physical sciences, and asked Council members to be on the look-out for good candidates.
 - ii. Pat expressed her gratitude for the contribution of \$1,000 from the Elizabeth A. Hays Student Travel Awards fund.

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- iii. Pat discussed FJAS plans for participation with the upcoming Florida State Science Fair (31 March 2015), and she encouraged interested Council members to contact her with regard to judging.
- iv. Council listened to a greeting by phone from Kanen Nagarajan and engaged in a discussion concerning Kanen's interest in the newly proposed position of FJAS Director-in-Waiting (Section 7. A. item xiii, p. 1); Council members were pleased to hear Kanen's input, and they encouraged Pat to pursue the development of this new position.
- v. Report approved by Council.
- g. Editor, *Florida Scientist* – Sanjay Sesodia for James Austin
 - i. James reported that submissions and reviews are coming in good numbers, and that things are currently going well with the remaining 2014 issues.
 - ii. Report approved by Council.
- h. Journal Business Manager – Sanjay Sesodia for Richard Turner
 - i. Richard's reports noted a need for Council discussion of the matter of access to pdf files from our journal issues. It is hoped that we can make these files in uniform quality and in easily accessible formatting. Current policy is that pdf articles are available only by way of FAS. Richard made a motion: That pdf articles may be obtained either from FAS or by way of the Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHI).
 - ii. Council voted on the motion, and approved the change in policy, and to authorize access to pdf articles by way of BHI.
 - iii. Report approved by Council.
- i. Charter & Bylaws Committee – Sanjay Sesodia for John Trefry
 - i. No report.
- j. Honors Committee – David Karlen
 - i. David noted the 2014 Medalist (Dr. Peter Delfyett, see Section 7.a. item xv., p. 2); Dr. Delfyett will present the Banquet Address at FAS 2015.
 - ii. David suggested that the Academy Medal should now consider including an appropriately decorative neck ribbon for the medal, and he will look into the design and pricing for this.
 - iii. At present, the Honors Committee consists of David, Sanjay Sesodia, Richard Turner, and Dan Odell; a former Medalist, Dr. John Lawrence, has stepped down from the committee. David recommended that Council contact Dr. Bruce McFadden (University of Florida-Gainesville) and ask him to consider joining the Honors Committee on a two-year basis.
 - iv. Report approved by Council.
- k. Nominating Committee – Jeremy Montague
 - i. No Report.
 - ii. Action item: As per the vacant position of 2nd Appointed Councilor-at-Large (Section 7.a, item x., p.2), Jeremy will coordinate with Sanjay Sesodia before the 27 September 4th Quarterly Meeting on the progress with contacts and communications with Darin Bell.
- l. FAS Delegate to NAS/AAAS – Norine Noonan
 - i. No report.
- m. History and Archives – John Baker
 - i. No Report.

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- n. Membership Committee – Mark Chiappone
 - i. No report.
- o. Website – Sanjay Sesodia for Dan Odell
 - i. Dan reported that the FAS website continues in its good performance.
 - ii. Report approved by Council.
- p. Awards Committee – David Karlen
 - i. David noted that all 27 award certificates went out by mail immediately after the meeting. The award winners are posted on the FAS website, and also printed in the *Florida Scientist*. (Volume 77).
 - ii. David discussed the process of collecting judges' ballots during FAS 2014 (IRSC, 7 March); in David's view, the process was efficient, and he had the list of award winners ready to announce at the evening banquet. However, limitations in on-campus printing and copying prevented the dissemination of printed copies during the banquet. Iain Duffy said he will look into this matter for FAS 2015 at St. Leo University.
 - iii. Report approved by Council.
- q. Program Committee – Sanjay Sesodia for Kelli Zargiel
 - i. No report.
 - ii. Sanjay and Jeremy Montague commended Kelli for her strong efforts in the inaugural year of her service; Council also congratulated Kelli, both for the completion of her doctoral dissertation and Ph.D. degree, and for her recent marriage.
- r. Local Arrangements Chair FAS 2015 – Iain Duffy.
 - i. No report.
 - ii. Iain noted that planning is well underway at St. Leo University.
- s. Section Chair Reports:
 - i. AGR: Steve Arthurs and Julian Bourne Smothers stepped down as Co-Chairs after their FAS 2014 session; Brian Pearson accepted the Chair's position at the AGR Section Business Meeting (7 March 2014).
 - ii. ANT: Jeremy Montague will continue to serve as Interim Chair for ANT.
 - iii. AOS: Kelli Zargiel (no report).
 - iv. BIO: Laura Mudd (no report).
 - v. CMS: Rick Jimenez (no report).
 - vi. ENG: John Baker (no report)
 - vii. ENV: Eric Steimle stepped down as Chair; at present, there is no replacement.
 - viii. GHS: Jeremy Montague will continue to 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 stepped down as Chair; at present, there is no replacement.
 - xiv. URB: Jim Barnes (no report)

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8. Old Business

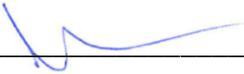
- a. None.

9. New Business

- a. Sanjay Sesodia discussed a recent email from Ed Brogie on the matter of FAS inclusion (or lack thereof) in Florida State governance. FAS is a not-for-profit corporation having no direct affiliations with local, state, or federal governments, but Council should consider ways and means in obtaining government funding.
- b. Council discussed concerns of Jeremy Montague, the Program Chair, and several Section Chairs about the wording to be used in acceptance or rejection of submitted abstracts for FAS 2015. There is strong and unanimous consensus among those Council members in witness both at FAS 2013 and FAS 2014 that submitted abstracts for FAS 2015 presentations must be specifically and directly relevant to Florida sciences. Further, each submitted abstract must be reviewed by both the Program Chair and the prospective Section Chair(s) to ensure that abstracts will be of acceptable quality. The FAS 2015 Call for Abstracts will clarify our policies on acceptance and rejection of submitted abstracts, with specific reference to language already printed in the Editor's policies in the *Florida Scientist*.
- c. Date for the next quarterly meeting: 27 September 2014, at the Orlando Science Center.

10. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Montague, Secretary  6 September 2014