

Minutes of Florida Academy of Sciences Council – September 17, 2016

Orlando Science Center
Orlando, FL

Call to Order, Council Attendance and Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 11:06 am by president-elect Kelli Hunsucker, with Jeremy Montague, joining at 11:20am by phone. 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, Ana Jimenez, Pat Zalo, Sanjay Sesodia, Jack Stout, Dr. Sessa Srinivasan, Jack Stout, Meghan Buckley, Richard Smith, Allysha Winburn, Katie Rubin, Dan Odell, Richard Turner, Geuorgui Bourov, John Baker, Carrie LeGarde, Kelli Hunsucker Laura Mudd, Alvan Karlin.

The following Council members sent apologies for being absent: Sumera Ackbarali, John Trefry, James Austin, Rick Jimenez, Carmen Carpenter, Allysha Winburn and David Karlen.

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

Reports of Officers and Committees

President's Report:

The president noted the passing of a longtime FAS member and Trustee of the FAS endowment, Dr. Don Lovejoy. He is in south Florida and will attend the memorial service. A new trustee will need to be appointed and he is waiting to hear back from the current trustees as to possible candidates. The Council acknowledged and recognized the contributions of Dr. Lovejoy to the organization and to science in Florida.

Dr. Montague thanked Drs. Turner and Trefry for facilitating the MOU with the Florida Institute of Technology which was signed on September 16, 2016. This will give FAS a permanent home at Florida Tech.

Dr. Montague worked with Kelli Hunsucker and Tom Arnold on a framework for duties and responsibilities for the FJAS Director position. Pat Zalo provided additional input from the Charter & Bylaws. See below for her report and discussion.

Treasurer's Report: The report was emailed. Some questions arose about the report but the Treasurer was not in attendance. Dr. Sesodia will contact her to get clarification. The report was accepted with reservation (pending responses to the questions raised about membership).

Endowment Committee: The last report was in June of 2016 from Dr. Lovejoy. The president will work with the remaining Trustees to find a replacement for Dr. Lovejoy. However, the Wells Fargo Bank executive noted that Dr. Lovejoy had “certainly left this account in good shape.”

Finance Committee: President Montague acting as interim chair reported that the transition to QuickBooks was completed.

Development Committee: No Report.

Florida Junior Academy of Science: Pat Zalo reported that a new FJAS Director should be selected very soon. She provided a list of items to be transitioned to the new director. The FJAS bank account has been closed, check for balance was given to Office Manager for safe keeping. Three individuals have expressed an interest in the FJAS Director position (Meghan Buckley, Leya Joykutty, and Kannan Nagarajan). A list of duties for this position has been developed and will be sent to these candidates. The Council named Drs. Montague, Arnold and Hunsucker to interview the prospective candidates (probably via Skype) with input from Drs. Bell, Sesodia, and Karlen. This will be done by mid-October with a selection immediately thereafter.

All FJAS records (2 cases) were also given to Jenny Bouchard for safe storage in FAS/Uhaul Storage Unit in Orlando, until new Director was selected.

Editor’s Report: The report was accepted.

Journal Business Manager: The report was accepted.

Charter and By-Laws Committee: John Trefry has asked to be relieved of this committee chairmanship. Dr. Montague will talk with Dr. Trefry. However, a Bylaws amendment was circulated to Council members for approval prior to being sent to the membership. See Old Business. Richard Turner suggested John be ask to remain as chairman until after the March Meeting!

Honors Committee: Dr. Sesodia reported that it was time to consider nominees for the 2017 Medalist. He will contact the Chief Academic Officers at Florida universities (public and private) to solicit nominations for this prestigious award.

Nominating Committee: No report.

FAS Delegate to NAAS/AAAS: No report.

History and Archives Committee: No report.

Membership Committee: No report.

Website: Dan Odell noted that he needed the address and PayPal information to update the website. In addition, Dr. Montague reported that the web host was optimistic about web submission of abstracts and the ability to download these as they are received to facilitate the creation of the program book for the 2017 Annual Meeting. The subject of the domain name ownership also was raised.

Awards Committee: No report.

2017 Program Chairman: Dr. Karlen was not in attendance, but he provided a report. The 2017 meeting will be held at Florida Polytechnic University on March 9 (Council), 10 (FAS), and 11 (FJAS), 2017. The Call for Abstracts is in review and will be finalized and posted to the web very soon. Fundraising is underway and several companies have already been approached. The report was accepted.

Local Arrangements Committee (LAC): Dr. Srinivasan reported on planning for 2017 Annual Meeting. All sessions will be held in the main building (oral sessions on the 1st floor, poster session on the 2nd floor). The Auditorium will be the site for the plenary and Business Meeting and the 2nd floor commons will be the site for the Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony. FPU president Dr. Randy K. Avent will keynote the plenary session.

Section Chairs: **[I have no information on these]**

Old Business

The Council approved the By-Laws amendment (see above). This amendment would change the makeup of the sections to combine Geology and Hydrology and Urban and Regional Planning into a new “Geosciences” section. The amendment will now be sent to the membership 30 days ahead of the Annual Business Meeting and will be voted on by the membership at that time.

New Business

The next FAS Council Meeting will be on Saturday, January 7, 2017 at Florida Polytechnic University. ***(Please note: I had Jan 21 as the date, but due to the discussion that followed after the close of meeting with Drs. Hunsucker & Srinivasan, Florida Polytechnic was not available on January 21st, so date was moved to Jan 7).***

Respectfully submitted,
Norine Noonan