

# Kansas Academy of Science Council Meeting

22 October 2004

Bethany College Campus, Lindsborg, Kansas

Members present: Mike Everhart, Joanna Foster, Sam Leung, Pieter Berendsen, Greg Liggett, Steve Palubicki, Larry Skelton, and James Taylor

The meeting was opened around 5:30 PM by President James Taylor. Minutes from the Council Meeting of 9 July 2004 were approved.

There was no formal treasury report due to an oversight, but according to James Taylor, the account balances have not changed significantly from the last report, although a few bills had been recently paid.

Pieter Berendsen reviewed the membership. An exact count was not then available, but it was reported that there were around 245 regular members. In addition, a number of organization and library members receive the Transactions on a regular basis, for a total of about 300 Transactions being mailed regularly.

There was discussion about promoting membership to the participants of the annual meeting of Kansas Junior Academy of Science. Also, about ways to promote the KAS to members of the Science Olympiad group. James Taylor will discuss these issues with Amy Strong, who is connected with both, before the next meeting.

A long-time friend of the KAS, Eugene Dehner, recently passed away. Pieter Berendsen moved, and Mike Everhart seconded a motion to place an obituary in the next issue of the Transactions specifically for Eugene Dehner. Motion carried. Berendsen will contact colleagues of Dehner to write a brief obituary, and Berendsen will edit it to be sure it includes statements about Dehner's significance to the KAS.

Dave Saunders provided a report, through James Taylor, about the KAS Grant Program. The deadline for grant submissions was extended to 1 December to encourage more applications.

James Taylor received a request from the AAAS for the KAS's position statement regarding the teaching of evolution in public schools. The KAS had a statement about evolution from the last time the Kansas Board of Education de-emphasized the teaching of evolution, but the Academy did not have a general position statement. Greg Liggett volunteered to draft a statement for the Academy.

A motion was made and seconded that the Academy give an honorary lifetime membership to Alex Kotoyantz, Kotoyantz has aided the Academy in many ways over the years, particularly with regard to the sale tax issues the Academy faced. The motioned carried.

Sam Leung distributed a web page count for the Academy's webpage. The web page visitation continues to grow.

Larry Skelton reviewed several issues from the next Bulletin with the council. Included were statements in the Bulletin about the low attendance at the fieldtrip, the distinguished lecturers program, and information about 4-H and a new journal called Great Plains Research from the University of Nebraska.

The council discussed the speakers program and several suggests for changes were made. It was agreed that Academy-sponsored presentations made available for general education was a valuable program, but in its current form, the program is being under used. Therefore, a possible direction would be to seek individuals willing to provide science-based presentations. Those individuals could sign up as potential speakers through the web page, indicating topics and titles of their presentations, their willingness to travel, age levels of the audience they were interested in speaking to, special requirements such as fees, and other similar information. People wanting speakers could consult the web page and then contact the prospective speakers directly for arrangements. Mike Everhart and James Taylor will further outline some of the considerations for such a web-based speakers form for the next meeting.

Joanna Foster discussed issues related to the next annual meeting. Several deadlines were agreed to, including 1 February 2005 as the abstract submission deadline and early registration as 4 March 2005. Abstracts would only be accepted electronically over the web page. The planning for the meeting is progressing, and various council members volunteered to help with aspects of the event.

Larry Skeleton reported that he has been unable to reach the contacts at Wichita State University to begin the preparations for the 2006 annual meeting. Mike Everhart also said he was unsuccessful in that regard, but both would continue to try contacting them.

The council again needs to appoint a representative to the AAAS. James Taylor will see if Galen Neufeld will continue to serve. If not, Steve Palubicki volunteered.

AAAS will give 2 honorary student memberships through the Academy and several options were discussed. James Taylor will submit names presented to him from the discussion.

Mike Everhart briefly discussed the current situation of having a bonded treasurer. He was able to find an insurance company to continue the bonding, but it would require some change in the current operation. Detailed discussion was put off for the next meeting.

The next meeting will be around January 14<sup>th</sup>, under the leadership of the next President, Mike Everhart. Specific time and location of the meeting will be announced.

Meeting was adjourned around 9:00 PM.

Submitted,  
Greg Liggett  
Vice President