

Kansas Academy of Sciences Council Meeting  
18 March 2005  
Johnson County Community College

**Members Present:** James Aber, Transactions Co-Editor; Pieter Berendsen, Secretary; Mike Everhart, President; Johanna Foster, Member at large; Greg Liggett, President Elect; Brenda Oppert, Treasurer; James Taylor, Past President

Meeting was called to order by Mike Everhart.

### Reports of Officers

**Treasurers Report:** Brenda Oppert provided a handout on the current fiscal status of the Academy. Monies of the Academy are presently in checking (\$32,321.05) and savings (\$8,935.73) accounts as well as in a certificate of deposit (\$15,240.58) for a total of \$56,497.36.

Brenda reviewed the student awards for the annual meeting, and made a proposal for award amounts for first and second place student posters and oral presentations. The total amount for student awards to be given at the annual meeting was recommended to be \$950, slightly higher than last year. After discussion, James Taylor moved and Greg Liggett seconded a motion to allocate a total of \$975 for the following student presentations and poster awards at the 2005 annual meeting:

Undergraduate

Oral	First Place	\$100
	Second Place	\$75
	Third Place	\$50
Poster	First Place	\$100
	Second Place	\$75
	Third Place	\$50
Graduate Posters	First Place	\$100
	Second Place	\$75
Graduate Oral—Masters Students	First Place	\$100
	Second Place	\$75
PhD Student Oral Presentation	First Place	\$100
	Second Place	\$75

Motion passed.

**Secretary's Report:** Pieter Berendsen provided a handout on the current membership. Two additional members are now 50-year members, three members have passed away in the last year. Current membership stands at 205, down from 2004's total of 258.

Pieter noted that he has been managing T-shirt sales. The Academy purchased shirts a number of years ago, and he has been selling them. The number of shirts is running down, but thinks there is enough money to re-print shirts if there is a desire to do so.

Pieter also noted that in the near future he may have to step down as Secretary, especially depending on how much support he can continue to receive from the Geological Survey for office space and clerical help. He suggested that the council begin to put out feelers for a replacement in the next few years.

**Webmaster's Report:** The webmaster, Sam Leung, was not present, but Mike Everhart reported that hits to the web site were up over last year's numbers. The web site was moved to a new server just before the annual meeting and this caused some broken links, but that overall Sam did a good job of making the transition smooth. In addition, Sam set up a list server for board members to facilitate communication among them.

There was some discussion on posting a highlighted link for membership on the main webpage. No formal action was taken.

**Meeting Report:** Johanna Foster gave an overview of the upcoming annual meeting. The number of abstracts submitted for the 2005 meeting (47) was lower than the 2004 meeting (63), but the number of participants at the meeting was expected to be about the same as the previous year.

## **New Business**

**Review of KAS Constitution and By-Laws:** Mike Everhart reviewed some points within the Constitution and By-Laws that might need up-dating or addressing. For example, he suggested that we add the position of Webmaster to the Constitution as a formal position. Also, the positions of Junior Academy of Science Director and Newsletter Editor need to be listed as appointed rather than elected offices. Also, the current Constitution requires that the Treasurer post a bond, and this could perhaps be changed. Among other things, Mike suggested that it is not clear in the Constitution what constitutes a quorum of the Council and what are the consequences of not having one

It was suggested that all the Council members review the Constitution for more discussion at the next Council meeting.

**Approval of the KAS Student Grants:** After some discussion, Johanna Foster moved and Greg Liggett seconded a motion to increase the total number of graduate student awards being offered for a total of 5 graduate and 1 undergraduate research grants. This move was to address the fact that several grant applications were very competitive and of

high quality, and two grants were right at the cut off. Rather than arbitrarily pick one to fund, it was deemed better to expand the total number of grants given this year.

There was discussion about the disbursement of grant awards. James Taylor moved and Pieter Berendsen seconded a motion to not disburse the award to one student whose project was dependent upon other funding until we got assurance that the other funding came in. After discussion, the motion failed, but it did bring up concerns for refinement of the guidelines for future grant programs.

**Approval of KAS position statement regarding evolution:** Greg Liggett drafted a position statement for the Academy expressing strong support for science and the teaching of evolution as a corner stone of biology in Kansas public schools. Some discussion included strengthening the statement's section on peer review, but overall, the Council approved of the statement. James Aber moved and Mike Everhart seconded a motion to prepare the statement in a form to be published in the fall issue of the Transactions, as well as to be posted on the web site. Motion carried.

**Report on the TKAS:** James Aber noted that the spring issue of the Transactions was soon to be published with a total of 82 pages. The abstracts from KAS members presented at the 2004 annual meeting were published in this issue of the Transactions in order to make them available to participants of last year's meeting, but also to take advantage of having them be listed in the BioOne abstracting service. Mike Everhart moved and Johanna Foster seconded a motion to publish future years' abstracts, beginning with those from the 2005 spring meeting, in the fall issue of the Transactions. Motion carried.

Also, the current co-editors of the Transactions, James Aber and David Saunders, need to retire from their positions. Currently, Mike Everhart and Roy Beckemeyer are training to take over the editors positions at the end of 2005.

Mike moved and Greg Liggett seconded to up the current order of the spring issue of the Transactions by another 50 copies in order to have copies to use as promotional pieces for the Academy. Motion passed.

**2006 Annual Meeting at Wichita State University:** Mike Everhart has been in contact with several people from WSU to begin planning the 2006 annual meeting. A representative of WSU was attending the 2005 meeting to learn about the format and gain insight into the planning process. One issue that Johanna Foster mentioned was the on-going struggle to find judges for student presentations. She suggested that maybe one person could take on the task of being judge coordinator for the meetings.

## **New Business**

Mike Everhart mentioned that in learning about the position of editor, he had a chance to visit with the current printer/publisher of the Transactions and had some ideas about

updating the look of the Transactions. Such updating might include changing the color and paper of the cover to allow better image reproduction and color graphics on the front.

Appointment of new officers: Mike Everhart noted that the constitution allowed for the President to appoint vacant officers to the Council. Mike appointed Chris Bennett at Vice President. Roy Beckemeyer was appointed to serve as Member at Large in the 2007 class. James Taylor has other suggestions for Member at Large in the 2006 class that he will pass to Mike.

JSTOR has offered to digitize and archive all past issues of the Transactions and would provide some compensation anytime one of the articles is accessed online. Full discussion will take place at a future meeting.

The next Council meeting will be set sometime in July perhaps.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Greg Liggett, President Elect