

Minutes
Kansas Academy of Science
Fall Meeting: November 13, 2020
Zoom meeting, 4:00 pm

In attendance: Brian Maricle, Stewart Gardner, Mark LaBarge, Adem Seid, Keri Maricle, Erika Martin, Jill Fisher, Erin Morris, Pam Everhart, Mike Everhart, Sam Leung, David McKenzie, Kim Simons, Shaun Schmidt, Lani Witters, and Dustin Wilgers,

Called to order at 4:02 on 11/13/2020

Approval of the minutes from the summer meeting, approved.

Reports

Treasurer's Report Shaun Schmidt: We have money. Getting ready to pay the Allen Press bill soon, CD's are making interest. Dues are low, but the notifications will go out soon. Not too much spent on KJAS presentation awards. We are still paying taxes. Working with Gary Knowl to get back into good graces with the Treasury and recoup our taxes paid. 501C3 stays in place as long as we file taxes. Kansas we are still good with (we pay \$40/year for that). Gary will recommend another, non-profit oriented, accountant. The accountants have been preparing our taxes, 1099's, etc. We have already paid for the finishing of the 501C3. Report approved

Secretary's Report

Membership by Sam Leung. Members are now 167, up just a few since July. Dues notice will go out in the first week of December. A few people did not get the Fall Transactions, why not? They were on the mailing list, but it happens every year (a few people don't get the issue). Report was approved.

Committee Reports

Junior Kansas Academy of Science Jill Fisher: AJAS Meeting in February will be all virtual, 3 students are eligible to go at \$100 each. We won't need the full amount budgeted to cover those costs. We can't pay upfront, only offer reimbursements. Is there an actual JKAS entity? Perhaps we should directly pay out those reimbursements? Perhaps make it a "travel grant" and not a reimbursement? We should be careful to not open us up to any tax issues. Perhaps ask our lawyer about implications of grants vs. reimbursements and liabilities?

Transactions by Pam and Mike Everhart: We got it out, largest issues since about 1978.

Newsletter Hank not in attendance. Costs have gone down since we switched to predominantly email.

Grants coordinators: Erin Morris: Three undergraduate award recipients have been chosen. The budget shows \$2,000 left, but we're giving away \$3,000? Probably due to checks sent out this year for last year's awards. We can send checks directly to students for free (from the Credit Union). Seid Adem: Nothing to report.

Old Business

Grants to K-12 teachers: Do we want to pursue this idea? Erin is still excited to provide money for lab/teaching supplies. Workshops are up in the air with the current issues of the pandemic. There is most likely reasonable interest. How do we get the word out? We could contact some of the teachers' associations. Jill Fisher is making a database of Kansas teachers that she is willing to share. We could adapt our current grant applications. Will we get an excess of applications? We could have a rotating focus (Chemistry, Biology, etc.). What are our expectations for grant recipients? Perhaps divide the program with Elementary separate from Secondary education. Erin is happy to work with others to prepare a proposal. Let us make sure that this is more than just funding basic supply needs. Also, let us include a diversity/inclusion emphasis. Perhaps look at a proposal at our January meeting.

2021 Annual Meeting – Newman University hasn't responded to an email sent in early fall. An in person meeting does not appear possible. We can reassess this in the spring to see if the outlook is brighter. Move Newman University back to 2022, perhaps. What thoughts do we have about the March/April 2021 meeting? Do institutions have in place the resources for a virtual meeting? Ft. Hays hosted the Kansas Herpetology meeting recently that went well. Most institutional Zoom accounts should enable for a virtual meeting. Virtual seems to be the best option. We can get together a working group to think about what tasks are needed. Volunteers: Dustin Wilgers, Brian Maricle, Keri Mericle, Kim Simons, and David McKenzie. They will get together and come with a crude plan in January.

McPherson College willing to host another meeting in the future, but flexible as to what year.

Grants coordinators as appointed officers (for clarity purposes)? It would be good to list the contact information in the web page so that people with questions know who to reach out to. Sam will do that after the meeting. Suggestion that Erin writes up a description and we can discuss at the January meeting, but by-law changes have to be voted on by the general membership for approval.

New Business

Print/digital format for journal (poll results showed a 50/50 split on preference). Should we consider that further or table it for the future? Mike Everhart gets a file (about 80MB) each time we publish and he can send it on to whoever would like. Could we have a selection on the annual membership form for preference? There does not seem to be a minimum number that Allan Press has. This could help our mailing cost. Allan Press does not send out pdfs, the Editor would have to do that. Perhaps we could send out a password to people so they could download it from the website. If 50% were digital, it would cut our costs in half, roughly. We would have to figure out the logistics of how to do this. We could do a test run in the spring to see what we think.

Looking ahead: Strategic planning ideas? It is hard to get people together at this time. How do we reach our audience? We may want to table any "getting together" activities for the time being.

We need at least one more "at-large" board member to vote on. Pam Everhart volunteered, if that is allowed if she stays as an Editor.

Winter meeting: Dustin will be the President next year and will let us know.

Adjourn at 5:13