

Kansas Academy of Science
Board Meeting
Baker Wetlands Discovery Center

Present: Erin Morris, Lani Witters, Kim Simons, Keri Maricle, Brian Maricle, Hank Guarisco, Duane Hinton, Erika Martin, Mike Everhart, Pam Everhart, Scott Kimball, Stewart Gardner, and Mark LaBarge in person. Sam Leung, Shaun Schmidt, and Dustin Wilgers on Zoom.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM.

Opening remarks: Thanks to our hosts Scott and Erin. Introductions of participants. There were no minutes from the Fall or Summer meetings to approve.

Reports

Treasurer's report: Shaun Schmidt:

- Currently, there is about \$90,000 that will change to about \$70,000 after things are published.
- Members' dues are doing well due to the last annual meeting.
- Discussion of this year's budget (Allan Press fees will be going up)
- The budget was approved.
- Discussion of moving some of the endowment money (about \$60,000) from current Money Market account into rotating 3 year CD's (with \$20,000 in each). Motion to move the money was passed.

Secretary's report: Sam Leung

- Membership numbers are doing well, they should go up at the annual meeting (meeting registration covers the membership dues for non-members each year).
 - Discussion of having an option for current members to renew membership with meeting registration. Make sure that we are ready for walk-in registration at the meeting this year.
- Report was approved.

KJAS report: Jill Fisher not in attendance

- An email from Jill was read that reported: "I don't have much to report, other than the science fairs have started. The state science fair in Wichita will be the last Friday and Saturday in March. The AJAS meeting is going on right now in Seattle. None of the KJAS students could make it to the conference this year."
- The question was asked if the KJAS still need their \$3,000 budget.

Transactions report: Mike Everhart, Pam Everhart, and Erika Martin

- 23 manuscripts have been submitted and 5 were rejected.
- We are getting more "long" papers, so this issue may have over 300 pages.
- The question was asked about opting out of hard copies and receiving a pdf copy instead. It was suggested that this issue be added to the next meeting's agenda. A suggestion was to ask people at the annual meeting who would like a digital copy.
- The question was asked about the rejected manuscripts and the explanation was that usually a rejection is due to a consensus of the reviewers that the manuscript should not be accepted.
- Mike and Pam were thanked for their years of service.

Newsletter report: Hank Guarisco

- Thanks to the Assistant Editor
- Hank has received two positive comments on the newsletter.
- Please pass along anything you would like included in the newsletter to Hank

Old Business

Student Research Grants: Erin Morris

- The last few years the number of applicants have equaled the number of grants (3).
- Suggestions were made to increase advertising of the grants: Mention on Facebook, the website, and add to the newsletter.

New Business

2020 Annual Meeting: Scott Kimball

- Friday activities will be in the Baker Wetlands Discovery Center. The planned speaker for Friday just declined. Planning a few field trips, including a walking tour of the wetlands, that is now an official field station.
- Saturday's meeting will be at Baker University in Baldwin City, KS. Still planning the poster displays. Robb Krumlauf from Stowers Institute will speak at the campus auditorium and the plan is to open his talk to the public.
- Ideas for a Friday speaker: Albert Lynn (spoke at Pittsburg State recently), Jonathan Balcombe, and Jennifer Gleason
- Registration and the website are planned to roll out this week
- Lani Witters led discussion on the scoring rubric used for the annual meeting's poster competition. Ideas discussed involved brief descriptions on a grid style rubric, having judges rank the posters that they judge, and giving students feedback after the meeting. It was also brought up that we do not currently have an evaluation form for student grants and that may be good to have for consistency and to give students feedback on their applications. It was also mentioned that awards checks should be ready and handed out at the meeting.

2021 Annual Meeting

- Last year there was a tentative agreement with Newman to host.
- There was a request to add McPherson into the rotation (perhaps for 2022 or 2023).

McPherson Museum Proposal

- Discussion of the proposed statute to allow Mill Levy tax to maintain community museums. It was noted that the KAS bylaws restrict activities that are designed to influence legislation. However, it was noted that we may support this cause as individuals even though we cannot do so as an organization.

Looking ahead

- Discussion of ways to become more visible and relevant. We were encouraged to reach out and increase KAS's visibility to students. Then ideas were discussed of things we can do. It was suggested to find ways to get our name out there. Perhaps spend some money of sponsorships on things like podcasts or lectures. Also, having a social media presence in addition to the current

Facebook account was suggested. Perhaps send annual meeting advertisements out to schools across the state. Additional discussion of outreach outside of academia led to suggestions to give libraries a list of potential speakers. The idea of doing a BioBlitz using a phone App and involving KJAS more effectively were also suggested. It was decided to have a strategic meeting, perhaps in June in conjunction with the Board Meeting, which Brian will schedule. It was encouraged to invite Erin and Seid and include bulletin editor and the grants coordinator to the board email list.

The next meeting will be at the Annual Meeting on Friday, April 3rd at the Wetlands Discovery Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 PM.