

Minutes of the Kansas Academy of Science Autumn Board Meeting October 18, 2023

Present: Mark LaBarge, Hank Guarisco, Erika Martin, Sam Leung, Jill Fisher, Amanda Yamasaki, Joanna Gress, Erin Morris, Lynette Sievert

The meeting began at 11:10 AM

Mark moved that the revised agenda be approved. Hank seconded the motion. The agenda was approved unanimously.

Mark moved that the minutes of the summer meeting be approved. Hank seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Reports

Treasurer's Report

Shaun was not able to attend and will send the Treasurer's report by email. We can have an on-line vote to approve the report.

Secretary's Report

Sam sent the Secretary's report before the meeting. The number of memberships (216) is normal for this time of year. No questions or concerns about the report were voiced. Mark moved to approve the report. Hank seconded the motion. The Secretary's report was approved unanimously.

Committee Reports

JKAS Report

Jill is checking whether in 2024 JKAS can have their student presentations as part of the Kansas Science and Engineering Fair (KSSEF). This has been the venue for JKAS presentations in recent years. Specifically, she is checking whether KSSEF will allow there to be a special award for JKAS presentations. To this point, she has not received a response to her inquiry.

Joanna said that JKAS presentations could occur at the 2024 annual KAS meeting in Emporia State, but the meeting planners would need to reserve a larger space for poster presentations.

Mark asked whether JKAS posters would be inter-mixed with KAS posters or would be segregated?

Jill said that there typically are not a large number of JKAS posters. Jill will think about the logistics of having JKAS posters at the annual KAS meeting and coordinate with Joanna. It is still possible that she will receive a positive response from KSSEF.

Transactions Report

Producing the spring issue of the Transactions with Sheridan Press was a mess, according to Erika. She now has a new contact at Sheridan Press, Jessica, and the fall issue went much more smoothly. The proof for the fall issue have already been

approved. It contains 6 articles and is about 75 pages in length. Three papers have already been submitted for the spring 2024 issue.

Allen Press used to upload Transaction issues to BioOne. Oddly, nobody at Sheridan Press had heard of BioOne, so Erika is now dealing directly with BioOne. Meredith is the regional representative for BioOne and Jasmine, also at BioOne, is doing the technical work of setting up the Transactions account. The cost to upload to BioOne is \$200 / issue. We will get the spring and fall 2023 issues of the Transactions on BioOne, assuming the board feels that we can afford this cost.

Erika revised Randy Miller's one-page proposal for a special issue of the Transactions dedicated to tardigrade research. Randy proposed a special issue that only featured the NSF-funded research of his research team. The board felt that there would be other topics related to tardigrades that would be of interest and proposed that the issue include work by other authors as well. Erika will put out a call for papers for the special issue in the spring and fall 2024 issues and the publication date for the special tardigrade-focused issue would be summer 2025. Randy will use NSF funding to pay for publication of the issue. Erika feels that it is important for her to remain the editor for this issue, so KAS would pay her for the special issue. Members of the board complimented Erika on her revision of Randy's proposal. We will conduct outreach to the tardigrade research community to try to generate submissions from other tardigrade researchers. We could share .pdfs of the call for special issue papers on social media. Erika will lead the effort to disseminate information on social media. The call for tardigrade-related papers will be broad from genetics and molecular biology to ecology and biogeography. We will see what we get in submissions. No more than 25 total papers will be included in the special issue. We expect perhaps six articles by outside (non-Miller lab) researchers.

The board was unsure whether we needed to vote to approve Erika's revision of Randy's special issue proposal. However, Mark moved that we approve the revised proposal, Hank seconded the motion, and the revised proposal was approved unanimously.

KAS Bulletin (newsletter)

The board complimented Hank on the book reviews in the bulletin. Hank said he had found two more great books to review; one that is a field guide to bacteria and archaea and one that focuses on rare trees of the world. Hank said he would welcome any contributions to the newsletter. Hank said that he would advertise how people could submit an article to the newsletter. Hank will advertise the spring 2024 KAS annual meeting in the newsletter. He will get the details from the KAS website.

Grants Coordinator

Erin has extended the deadline for undergraduate grant proposals. The date seems to have crept earlier in the semester over time. Erin requests that we maintain the deadline in mid-October. We only have received one undergraduate grant proposal to this point. Proposal numbers have been low for the past couple of years. We need to remind everyone of this opportunity. Erin said that we would still consider undergraduate grant proposals that are received in the next week.

Erin informed the board that we have received a grant proposal from a high school student whose sponsoring teacher has no connection to KAS. This submission does

not fit into any of our established grant categories. We have grant opportunities for undergraduate research and for K-12 educators. The K-12 educator grants make smaller awards (\$500.00) and we had envisioned these as grants for classroom improvements. This is truly a research proposal from a high school student. Sam asked if the teacher was listed on the grant to ensure that the student completed the research that was outlined. Erin said the teacher was on the grant. Erin has some hesitation in funding the proposal because we did not open the competition to all high school students, regardless of KAS connection.

Jill asked whether a high school student who is taking college courses would count as an undergraduate? Hank suggested that we discuss the conditions under which a high school student might be considered an undergraduate at a future board meeting. Jill asked whether the student was participating in CAPS, in which case this might fit into the K-12 grant program.

Although this high school student grant proposal does not fit into any established grant category, we decided to fund it as an exceptional case. Erin will award \$500.00 to the student's teacher. We will discuss modifying the focus of the K-12 grant program for the future.

Old Business

2024 KAS Annual Meeting

The 2024 Annual Meeting at Emporia State will take place Apr 5-6, 2024. Joanna is working on getting logistics arranged. She is designing a meeting logo and will print stickers advertising the meeting.

We have a tentative commitment for Friends University to host the 2025 KAS Annual Meeting.

Audit of KAS Finances by President Elect

Lynette finished the audit and sent it to Shaun and Sam.

This is just the second year in which a President Elect has been responsible for conducting an audit. We asked what we will do with these annual audits? For now, Shaun and Sam will just file the audit in the society's records.

Update on Cengage Issues

At the summer meeting we made a few changes in the 'cease and desist' letter to send to Cengage. Shaun sent the letter to Cengage through certified mail, and we have not heard anything subsequently.

Shaun is not cashing the \$10 royalty checks that Cengage sends us to avoid implying that we approve of their use of material from TKAS.

Social Media Director

Erin has advertised / announced the Social Media Director position at the past two annual KAS meetings and received no expressions of interest. Hank asked the daughter of the assistant editor of the Bulletin if she was interested in the Social Media Director position, but she was not. Joanna may have an Emporia State student who would be interested in the Social Media Director position.

We last discussed expectations and compensation for the Social Media Director position at the spring 2023 board meeting at McPherson. At that time, we were offering

to pay \$250.00 / month for 10 hours of work per week. We envision starting with a three-month trial period. At the end of the trial period, we could increase the pay to \$500.00 / month if we are happy with the director's performance. So, thereafter, we would be committing to \$6000.00 / year.

Hank asked what we are hoping to get from increasing our presence on social media? One goal is an increase in student membership

How will we measure progress? We could measure progress based on levels of student engagement with KAS programs, such as number of grant proposals, participation in meetings and field trips etc.

We think that the Social Media Director should try a number of different social media platforms.

Fall field trip

There will not be a fall field trip in 2023. Mark was unable to pursue organizing it because of other on-going activities.

Should we try to do a fall field trip in 2024? If we start planning early enough in the year, then it might work. Ideas that we considered for this year included Kanapolis SP (Horse Thief Canyon). Hank suggested that there are several new state parks that we could visit, including one near Iola KS.

Winter 2024 Board Meeting

For the winter board meeting we could meet through Zoom again. Historically, the winter board meeting has occurred at the site where the KAS annual meeting will occur later in the spring. We did not make a decision.

New Business

Upcoming KAS Elections

We currently have six candidates for five positions. There are three candidate for two Council-at-Large positions; Dustin Wilgers (McPherson), David McKenzie (Emporia), Kayla Eschliman (Friends). Sam Leung is the candidate for Secretary. Shaun Schmidt is the candidate for Treasurer. Patrick Mathews (Friends) is the candidate for Vice-President. The candidates should send their biographies to Mark. Sam needs the biographies by the end of the first week of November.

Will we do paper or on-line ballots this year? Decided to do on-line ballots again this year. We can make this an official option by voting to change the by-laws at the all-member business meeting at the 2024 annual meeting. On-line membership renewal will have a link to the electronic ballot. Sam will send paper ballots to the few members who do not pay membership on-line.

Currently, the KAS by-laws state that officers are elected by a plurality of mail vote. Shaun and Sam have suggested that this wording be changed by dropping the word "mail" to allow a variety of voting options, including both on-line, mail and unforeseen future options. The change in wording should be sent to Mark. Hank will advertise the change in the by-laws in the Bulletin.

Ad Astra Day

Jill informed the board that The Ad Astra Foundation, which primarily focuses upon astronomy, is trying to have the Kansas legislature pass a 'STEM Day' in the state of Kansas. They have a legislator who will sponsor this bill. The proposed day is April 24.

The Ad Astra Foundation is trying to recruit support from other science organizations in the state of Kansas. Would KAS support establishing a STEM Day in Kansas? Jill will send the relevant information to everyone.

Is there are deadline for us agreeing to support this designation? We don't know. We will address this at the winter board meeting, which is usually at the end of January or start of February. Lynette said that in other societies the board usually will vote on an endorsement.

Meeting adjourned 12:32PM

Minutes prepared and submitted by Leland Russell