

Minutes

Kansas Academy of Science Spring Board Meeting,

Cargill Learning Center, Sedgwick Co. Zoo, Wichita: April 4, 2025

In attendance: Mark LaBarge, Erin Morris, Sam Leung, Lani Witters, Hank Guarisco, Jennifer Frazier, Shaun Schmidt, Jim Aber, Leland Russell, Patrick Mathews, and Kayla Eschliman

Called to order at 8:18 pm.

Approval of minutes from the Winter 2025 meeting, approved.

Reports

Treasurer's Report:

Shaun Schmidt provided the Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Budget report (as of March 30, 2025) for all to view and discuss as needed.

A suggestion was made that money from the KAS accounts should be used to support annual meetings. The point was made that not all colleges and universities can afford to wave the cost of a meeting like larger schools often can. This money could be used to help pay for building rentals, bringing in keynote speakers, and finding ways to lower the cost to students attending. An agreement by all was made that a new 2025 budget line should be created for \$2000 to pay the deposit for the 2026 meeting at KU Memorial Union. The 2026 budget will contain a line to cover the rest of the meeting (approximately \$3-4000.00).

In addition, it was decided that a committee of four will be formed to address budgetary concerns this summer. A motion to approve the modified budget with newly added budget line was made and approved.

Secretary's Report:

Sam Leung submitted the KAS Membership Report which indicates the total KAS membership is 138 (as of April 1, 2025). A motion to accept the Secretary's Report was made and approved.

Research Grants: Erin Morris reports that the K – 12 Science Teacher Grants should be kept the same \$500.00 amount as last year. She further informs the board that there is no interest in a Social Media position and the cost for this can be removed from the budget.

The Graduate Student Research Grant Report dated April 2nd was submitted by Seid. This report lists the names of four graduate students who were awarded research

grants, their advisors, and school affiliation. A motion to accept this report was made and approved.

2026 Annual Meeting: Erin Morris provided information about Baker University and University of Kansas co-hosting the annual meeting in 2026. This meeting will be held at two locations, Baker University (Friday activities) and the University of Kansas (Saturday activities). She found that the best date will be April 10th and 11th. This date was agreed upon by all. Details will be shared as planning continues.

Transactions Editors Report: no report

KJAS Director's Report: no report

Newsletter Editor's Report: Hank Guarisco, *KAS Bulletin* Editor, introduced Jennifer Frazier, Assistant editor to the group. They discussed the upcoming newsletter and potential content. A request for additional ideas for this issue was made.

New Business:

2026 WEALTH DAY at the Capital

Hank Guarisco submitted a proposal for KAS involvement with the WEALTH DAY, 2026. "WEALTH" is an acronym for Water-Energy-Air-Land-Transportation-Health and was held Feb of 2025 at the Kansas State Capitol.

Participating organizations can set up a table in the rotundum for the cost of \$100. This is a way for the academy to educate and inform legislators and public as to our existence and the role in the dissemination of scientific information that we have. Hank further emphasized that our participation would meet Article II, the Purpose of the KAS from the KAS Constitution.

It was agreed that this topic should be taken up again later in the year and that the cost can be budgeted for.

What is the Purpose for Having A Large Endowment fund?

Jim Aber initiated a discussion concerning the large amount of money that the academy has in its accounts and for what purpose does maintaining an investment portfolio have. He provided a brief history of KAS going back 25 years, followed by a discussion of what to do with the large sum of money in KAS accounts. According to Jim, 25 years ago participation in KAS was much greater with membership near 400. However, the academy was almost broke with very little funds coming into our account. Over the last few years, our membership has dropped considerably (138 members) but the KAS account has grown substantially. As of March 30, 2025 there is \$132,440 total assets from savings, checking, money market, and CD accounts. This increase in revenue is also due to money raised from fees charged to online journal companies who pay for access to the *Transactions*.

This fact led to the discussion of the purpose of maintaining a large and growing endowment. What should we do with the KAS wealth? Keep saving and allowing the endowment to grow? Spend this money on worthwhile projects, like the Annual Meeting? A committee consisting of Lynnette, Patrick, Shaun, and Hank was formed to consider these questions. They will report what they have considered with potential uses of this money by the summer meeting.

Annual Meeting Committee

Patrick Mathews submitted a proposal for the creation of an Annual Meeting Committee. This committee will assist meeting organizers in the planning of annual meetings. The committee must include at least 1) a point-person (primary organizer) from the upcoming meeting's host institution 2) a point-person (primary organizer) from the previous year's annual meeting 3) one or two additional KAS members who volunteer.

A FAQ's list and other useful documents could be placed on the KAS website for use by upcoming meeting organizers. These docs can be made secure.

A motion was made to form this committee and was approved.

STARBASE

Patrick Mathews provided information concerning STARBASE, a federally supported DoD program that creates opportunities for school aged children engage in STEM topics. This statewide program is meant to connect children with knowledgeable individuals from military units (Kansas Air & Army National Guard) to participate in hands on activities relating to STEM. The funds to support this program were cut early this year and the program suspended.

The question – does the academy wish to take over financial support of this program?

At this time, the KAS Board does not see fit to support this program.

Adjourn at 9:40 pm