

Florida Academy of Sciences

Minutes of the Council Meeting



March 19, 2009
Saint Leo University
Saint Leo, Florida

List of Attendees: Barry Wharton, Dave Karlen, Ed Haddad, Ramon Ruiz-Carus, Leslie Sue Lieberman, Dean Martin, Barbara Martin, Patrick Draves, Julie Regier, Jeremy Montague, Sanjay Sesodia, Dan Odell, John Trefry, Richard Turner, John Baker, and Susan Bambo. Apologies for absences were received from four members.

Meeting was called to order. Minutes of the previous Council meeting held on January 9, 2009, were approved (with amendments).

One order of new business was moved to the front of the agenda, that being to task Barry Wharton with preparing the meeting minutes. Betty Hays, the current secretary, had recently passed away.

Reports

Reports by the Executive Director (Ed Haddad), President (Dan Odell), Treasurer (Ramon Ruiz-Carus), Journal Editors (Dean and Barbara Martin), Journal Business Manager (Richard Turner), Awards Committee (Barry Wharton), Charter and Bylaws Committee (Leslie Sue Lieberman), Endowment (read in absentia), Medalist Committee (John Trefry), Nominations Committee (John Trefry), Finance Committee (Ed Haddad), AAAS/NAAS Delegate (Leslie Sue Lieberman), Membership Committee (Ed Haddad), FJAS (read in absentia), Local Arrangements (Patrick Draves), Program Chair (Jeremy Montague), and Section Chair Coordinator and Section Chairs (Jeremy Montague et al.) were presented and approved by Council. Key portions of these reports are summarized as follows:

President's Report: the revised Academy website will be rolled out sometime after the annual meeting.

Treasurer's Report: The Academy is still operating at a deficit and anticipates need to tap the Endowment to cover the shortfall.

Finance Committee's Report: the Committee recommended withdrawing \$10,000 from the Endowment to cover operating costs.

Journal Editors' Report: The co-editors are hoping to that the new editor will be selected soon.

Journal Business Manager's Report: Richard asked that the new membership dues increases presented and approved earlier at the January meeting be revised downward slightly. He proposed the student rates be increased from \$15 to \$20, the regular members' rate from \$30 to \$35, and the sustaining members' rate from \$40 to \$45. These rates would be effective 2010. Council passed the motion.

Medalist: The Medalist Committee announced that there will be no Medalist selected for this year. However, last year's Medalist, John Lawrence, is all set to present the Medalist lecture tomorrow.

Nominations Committee Report: Two Council positions need to be filled - President-Elect. Dave Karlen was presented as the Committee's nominee for that position. Mr. Karlen's name will be placed in nomination at tomorrow's annual business meeting. No names for the soon-to-be-vacant Councilor-at-Large position were presented. Council was urged to help identify potential nominees and share the names with the Nominations Committee before tomorrow's business meeting.

Local Arrangements Committee Report: Arrangements for the annual meeting are complete. Three buildings have been set aside for the proceedings (the Student Community Center for the Business Meeting, Plenary Session, poster sessions, and banquet; and Crawford and Lewis Halls for the various sessions). Food venues (both on- and off-campus) and other support services were identified.

Program Chair's Report: The number of oral presentations is down from last year (dropped from 114 to 96) but poster presentations increased (from 47 to 49).

Other Discussion

Leslie Sue Lieberman presented details on E-Girls program and a plan to create a TV drama called "E-Girls in O-Town." The E-Girls program is devoted to providing educational and training opportunities for girls interested in careers in engineering and science. She is asking for funding from the National Science Foundation.

Ed Haddad presented the latest on the Life Star awards initiative. That program's focus is on regenerative medical and life extension research. Ed will look at the Academy's and Junior Academy's papers for extent of relevance to Life Star's mission. Criteria and mechanisms for awards have not been set; he hopes to have them in place in time for next year's annual meeting.

The Editor's Search Committee (as reported by John Trefry) has identified four candidates for the new editor of the *Florida Scientist*. One of the candidates was considered quite viable. The Committee hopes to make its final recommendation to the Council in June 2009.

New Business

Following an initial motion to approve withdrawal of \$10,000 from the Endowment that failed for lack of a second, a second motion to limit the withdrawal to 5% of the Endowment's current value (which at present is approx. \$7,000) was made. The motion passed.

Discussion ensued about creating an Academy "tag line" or slogan. Ed Haddad proposed "Where Science Happens." Council agreed that, if appropriate, the tag line should be registered.

Dan Odell related to the Council Barry Wharton's willingness to serve Betty Hays' remaining term as the Academy's secretary (which runs to 2011). Council approved the appointment.

Council expressed a desire to make some form of tribute or memorial on behalf of Betty Hays. However, Council thought it prudent to wait until Betty's family has time to sort things out. Jeremy agreed to prepare on behalf of the Academy an "in memoriam" statement for Betty. John Baker agreed to do the same for Al Hall, who passed away on May 3, 2008. Both memorials will be published in a forthcoming issue of the *Florida Scientist*.

Dave Karlen and Barry Wharton presented a prepared statement urging the state legislature to oppose Senate Bill 2396, which mandates "critical analysis" of the theory of evolution in the required instruction statutes. The statement expressed concern that the bill "leaves the door open for the introduction in the public school curriculum of nonscientific and covertly religious doctrine [and] would be damaging to the quality of science education of Florida's children and the scientific literacy of our citizens." With minor editorial changes, Council approved the statement and directed Ed Haddad to mail the prepared statement to appropriate state legislators.

The date of the next Council meeting is scheduled for June 13, 2009, at the Orlando Science Center.

At the close of the meeting, members of the Council drank a toast of wine to the late Betty Hays. Sanjay Sesodia, Jeremy Montague, and Barry Wharton each offered a few words in her memory.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barry Wharton".

Barry Wharton, Secretary