



Board of Directors Meeting Montana Academy of Sciences

Pintler Room

Student Union Building, Montana Tech, Butte, MT

10:30 A.M., Saturday, October 7, 2017

Minutes

Call to Order - Jim Berardinelli 10:39 AM

Roll Call – Jim Berardinelli

In attendance: Jim Berardinelli, Jim Barron, Dan Gretch, Matt Queen, Chrissie Carpenter, Khalid Miah, Jennifer Swanson, Mike Gilbert, Jim Battisti, Brandon Sheafor, Carmen Hauck, Jessica Tuberty

Approval of the Agenda – Jim Berardinelli

Motion to approve the agenda made by Dan Gretch, seconded by Jim Barron. The motion passed unanimously.

Review and Approval of the Minutes from April 2017 BOD Meeting – Jim Berardinelli

Motion to accept the minutes made by Chrissie Carpenter, seconded by Mike Gilbert. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director’s Report – Jim Barron

The value of the trust at the end of June was \$144,500. The trust has grown consistently despite the Board’s regular use of funds to support the goals of the Academy.

Board of Directors: Terms and Membership

Jim Berardinelli will be retiring from MSU at the end of the academic year. He encouraged Board members to consider the opportunity to serve in a leadership capacity. The President and Executive Director terms expire this spring. Jim Barron suggested that Board members consider assuming these positions before the spring meeting (i.e., by December 15th) so they can transition into the responsibilities.

Finance Report – Matt Queen, Treasurer

Matt Quinn provided the treasury report. The major points of discussion involved the anticipated/incurred costs through fall 2018. The Board discussed MJAS costs of \$1000 and \$475, research grant costs of \$7,500, webhosting costs of \$2,000 (one time upgrade) and \$752 (maintenance), AAS dues for the President of \$90, and Blue Pay fees of \$500. The anticipated debt would be \$8696.00. Chrissie Carpenter will research alternatives to Blue Pay as our electronic payment processing provider. Pay Pal may be free. There may be discounts available to non-profits.

Old Business

Fundraising for Annual Meeting: There was a brief discussion about approaching science-related businesses to solicit sponsorships.

Publication of Annual Meeting Abstracts in IJS: Jim Barron described the history of the association between IJS and MAS. The Board discussed appropriate elements of a submitted abstract that meet the requirement of MAS vs IJS. MAS will continue with abstract submission as before but will add keywords and prompt the submission of abstracts that include background, methods, results and implications.

Newsletter: Jim Barron and Jim Berardinelli. The newsletter will reflect the 2017 spring meeting, keynote address, award winners with photos, plus information from the Jr. Academy.

Web site: Jessica Tuberty showed the winning design for the MJAS logo. She presented ideas for updating the website including dynamic graphics and social media integration. Jessica advocated for \$2000 to upgrade the website to reflect a modernized and more appealing web presence.

Discussion ensued about integration of donation opportunities for the Jr. Academy. This raised the question of whether the Jr. Academy should have its own checking account. This may require a change in constitution and will be discussed via email.

Jim Barron moved that we accept a Shortgrass proposal of \$2000 - \$3000 to update the website to make it mobile responsive. Mike Gilbert seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

New Business

MAS Student Research Grant Program: The Board discussed \$7500 in funding (3 x \$1500 for open awards and 4 x \$750 for undergraduate awards). There was discussion regarding change of requirements which would mandate awardees to give oral presentations the following year. Jennifer Swanson, Brandon Sheafor, Khalid Miah and Jim Battisti will serve as the grant review committee. Discussion ensued about modifying the submission form so there is consistency in proposal format, and how best to acquire appropriate reviews. The committee will work on those issues with Jennifer Swanson serving as chair.

Timeline for grants will be: Announcement January 19th, submission March 9th.

2018 Annual Meeting : April 6th and 7th 2018. Jim Berardinelli will forward to Mike Gilbert the contact information and approaches for reserving facilities and making meeting arrangements. There was discussion about construction of a Facebook page for the event.

The Board discussed the idea of an institutional recognition award for oral presentations to increase participation (perhaps a plaque with student names engraved). The challenges of judging were discussed. Perhaps grant recipients can be asked to help judge.

Jim Berardinelli asked the Board to consider candidates for the keynote speaker, the Mershon Award, and the Brumley Family Award. Deadlines for nominations will be March 9th.

Don Jordan NAAS: We will forward our state newsletter to the national organization.

Junior Academy Business: Jessica Tuberty provided a report on the Jr. Academy. Students enjoyed the Annual Meeting and have expressed the value of the meeting to them as students and as scientists. Jessica presented ideas for advertising including the use of Facebook and stickers to be distributed at science fairs. She has reached out to school principals to relay information to science teachers. She suggested that MAS could be the central resource for science opportunities in MT including science tourism. Jessica relayed that students would appreciate opportunities to see more at the meeting beyond the presentations. Jessica presented the idea of admission being free to Jr. Academy members. Jennifer Swanson made a motion which was seconded by Brandon Sheafor to set up registration to be through the MJAS with payment to the MAS to be made by the Junior Academy. The motion was expanded to include the establishment of a checking account for the MJAS and to allocate funds for the following: \$400 for meeting advertisement (stickers), \$75 for a Facebook booster, and \$1000 for standard MJAS allotment. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

Jim Barron moved that \$10,000 be transferred from the trust to the checking account to cover anticipated expenses for the upcoming year. Chrissie carpenter seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Adjourn Moved by Jim Barron, seconded by Chrissie Carpenter. Unanimously agreed upon at 2:55 PM

Business by electronic vote:

11/8/17: Promotional pen and paper: It was proposed by Jim Berardinelli and seconded by Jim Barron that we allocate \$268 for promotional pens (Alpha pen) and pad/paper to promote the MAS. The motion passed.

11/15/17: Checking account for MJAS: The officers of the MAS completed paperwork establishing a checking account for the MJAS.

1/11/18: Electronic grant applications: The Board approved an expenditure of \$650.00 to be paid to Shortgrass Web Development for generating a fillable template for electronic grant applications.

1/19/18: Pre-payment to Shortgrass: The Board voted to pre-pay a block of 30 hours to Shortgrass (\$50/hr discounted rate) for web development work (total = \$1500)