

MAS fall meeting 30 October 2010, 10:30 am

In attendance:

Jim Barron (MSU-B), Carmen Hauck (Jr. Academy) , Rick Douglass (Montana Tech), Doug Coffin (UM), Keith Parker (UM), Tom Lewis (MSU-B), Nate Bickford (UGF), Laurie Henneman (UMW), Jim Berardinelli (MSU), Dan Gretch (Carroll College), George McRae (UM) (*arrived @ 11:00*)

1. Review of the minutes from October Meeting: Accepted.

2. Budget Review

a. Treasurer's report: **Lewis** left printed treasurer's report behind, so from memory: took in roughly \$1800 in annual meeting fees and dues, paid out about \$3000. Account had \$3500 from trust, plus \$600 from **Parker** (including unspent previous \$500 award). Took in overall \$2400, expenses \$6200. Money to cover the deficiency comes from the income from the trust.

Doug brought up possibility of Montana Shares (payroll deduction) as a source of income. Got started but needs to be followed up. Discussion followed on necessity of a thank you letter to go along with this and a newsletter also to go to Montana Shares donors, and to have available at annual meeting. **Phil Jensen** was volunteered to help with the newsletter project.

Parker provided financial data to **Barron** in order for accountant to finish 2009 taxes.

b. Update on Vanguard Account: \$135,433 balance today (an increase of about \$8000 over the last quarter). Expenses out of this account (4 checks): \$2000 fall 2009 to Big Sky; \$1000 Dec 2009 for investment managers; \$1612 Tech catering 2010 meeting; \$3500 May 2010 to cover awarded grants. (Roughly breaking even at this time.)

Discussion about who on the board has access to Vanguard statements - Executive Director and President currently have "account manager" status. Barron likes the idea of everyone on the board having access to view statements (or at least additionally the treasurer). **Coffin** is going to work on that.

Barron wants to change procedure so that only one check is written to the checking account per year from the money market account from now on, to cover projected expenses for the year.

Barron will talk to our accountant Cathy Haynor (at McGuire and assoc.) about whether or not we need to show a zero balance at the end of the year (so that as a nonprofit we are not showing income that could be considered profit, and taxed).

Parker will send old financial records to the archive at MSU. **Berardinelli** will look into exactly how to access archive and add to it with the librarian.

3. Board membership and officers: everyone on the board now is current with their terms (until June 20, 2011)

4. Mini-Grant Program Review:

a. All but one grantee (out of 6) from 2009 presented at the 2010 meeting; the mentor of the one who didn't called Barron over the summer to apologize and hoped it would not prejudice her next student who wants to apply this year. Discussion ensued about whether or not her other student should be eligible this year. Decision: if the mentor comes to present the work at the next meeting, her next student will be eligible for funding this year.

Seven students, required to present at the 2011 meeting, were funded this year at \$500 each.

b. Grant committee (Henneman, Berardinelli, Bickford) report: **Berardinelli** passed out draft of criteria and evaluation form developed by the committee. Discussion ensued about how to refine the plan.

Point of discussion: Do we get more specific about what fields are relevant to the MAS mission, and thus eligible for funding? (We funded a good social sciences proposal last spring.) There is some argument that our mission does encompass behavioral and social sciences (which are included in the state science fair). We decided to leave as is.

What about factors such as level of student and other funding? Will be asked on RFA, not part of the evaluation of science. These criteria are dealt with at the administrative level, separate from the science. Point ranges for scientific criteria will be 1-5.

Repeated submissions - we reserve the right to adjust award levels at the time of decision about what proposals to fund, based on this and all the other criteria. (We already have "up to \$500" on the RFA so that we can reduce awards if it makes sense.)

What about a specific rubric about how points should be awarded (e.g. what constitutes a 5, a 4, etc.). It was decided to leave the review sheet as is for now with option to adjust next year.

Later: Board decided that student OR mentee should be a member of MAS to apply for funding - this requirement will be added to the RFA.

c. **Berardinelli** and **Bickford** agreed to form base of proposal committee (**Henneman's** schedule this year means she will help can't fully commit) - sending out announcement, collecting proposals, finding reviewers, etc. Reviewers should be kept in an Excel database from now on so that we don't have to find a lot of new people every year. Plan this year is to send the announcement out in early December so students can work on proposals over break.

5. Junior academy - Annual meeting in D.C. Feb 16-20. Top two students funded, one

accepted \$400 scholarship instead of support for meeting. The other is taking the travel award (from Vassar college). Third place student (still in H.S.) wants to attend - can she use the rest of the \$400 award not being used? Board approved granting the third place student \$400.

Previously funded students are being tracked, and are still in science.

What other sources for H.S. research and travel money? **Bickford** has talked to superintendent in Great Falls and he is interested in getting more students in science. **Hauck** wants to get further involvement outside of Missoula, by soliciting teachers around the state. Any teacher contact information welcome. Travel money is more the problem issue, rather than research, since some schools have research money but can't afford to send kids to the meeting.

6. Annual meeting

- a. Date this year will be April 15-16, 2011
- b. Symposium? Once again, we have to find someone to plan, organize, and hopefully fund. Call for symposia proposals? Would AAS sponsor it? Main issue is someone has to organize it.
- c. Award nominations - we need to come up with nominees. Last several winners form a committee to nominate Mershon award. Send suggestions to **Coffin**. There is a criterion that they have contributed to MAS, but that isn't as important as their contributions to science.
- d. Keynote speaker? Send suggestions in asap.
- e. Sigma Xi? **Barron** will make Sigma Xi groups aware of the meeting and try to recruit more Sigma Xi members for joint meeting (they would pay meeting fee but not dues). It would be nice to get a better relationship between MAS and Sigma Xi
- f. Abstracts from 2010 not yet published in Intermountain Journal of Science, but **Barron** will do it. Discussion ensued about how to get abstracts formatted consistently. There was general agreement that an online form would be useful if we can do that.

7. Other business

- a. National Associations of Academies of Science - their website is completely out of date, and they are disorganized. We are paying dues but won't get kicked out if we don't.
- b. Website development - **Coffin** is passing website off to new webmaster **Henneman**, who is going to work on a new Wordpress website that will be more user friendly, making it easier for anyone on the board to post updates in the future.
- c. **Bickford** - 3 credit course through UGF in May to Costa Rica is available. \$2000 includes everything for 10 days. He would like to have students attend from other campuses, so spread the word.

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm.