

Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting – MAS – 10/15/11

Agenda: Board of Directors Meeting – Montana Academy of Science

Attending: Jim Barron, Jim Berardinelli, Rick Douglass, Tom Lewis, Phil Jensen, George McRae, Carmen Hauck

October 15, 2011 Pintler Room, Montana Tech, Butte

1. Review of minutes from April 2011 meeting

Minutes approved as written.

2. Budget Review

a. Treasurer's Report – Tom Lewis

We made \$2000 from last year's meeting, which was more than it cost us -- ACS kicked in as well. Budgeted 6 \$500 last year, but spent \$3500 because one recipient did not cash her check the previous year. We now have \$1855.58 in our checking account. Projections of 2.6 % real return over the next year, with spending of \$3000 looks to remain stable, while expenditures of \$10,000 would result in a loss. If we have 5.7% with \$7000 we would be able to sustain our trust, while an expenditure of \$10,000 would also result in a net loss.

b. Update on Vanguard Account

The Vanguard account balance as of September 30 was \$129,557.66. Discussion about this year's proposed budget ensued. Barron motioned to accept the proposed expenditure amount, but to transfer \$7000 from the Vanguard account to the checking account. Douglass seconded the motion. Berardinelli proposed an amendment to pay any unspent monies up to \$700 to IJS to make them searchable. Douglass agreed to the amendment. Motion passed unanimously.

c. Discussion on current award quality ensued. Are we awarding grants to projects that may not be of adequate quality? The sense was that we did not award grants to marginal proposals, and encouraged prior applicants who were not funded to apply again.

d. The proposal to combine our meeting with Tech's undergraduate research symposium may result in reduced cost to MAS.

- e. Another savings may be realized if we award monies needed rather than the full \$500 for each grant.
3. Board membership and officers
- a. I think we're all OK until June 30, 2011 or 2012...
Jim Barron, Laurie Henneman, Dan Gretch, Rick Douglass and Jim Harkins' terms all expire in 2011. Rick Douglass moved that all terms be re-upped for two more years. Berardinelli seconded and all voted in favor.
 - b. New BOD member from UGF – Chrissie Carpenter
 - c. Laurie Henneman is not here today due to the return of her cancer and current treatment. She would like to remain active on the board as long as she is able. She is still working on the website for us.
4. Mini-Grant Program Review
- a. Funded 6 at \$500 each in 2011
 - b. Grant Committee – Berardinelli, Bickford
Phil Jensen agreed to join this year.
 - 1. Nate's concerns
 - a) Berardinelli will add a check box to denote graduate vs. undergraduate proposal. A concern was brought up about students submitting proposals that are largely written by their mentor or major professor. How can the board determine whether the work is truly done by the student? Barron suggested adding a statement to the guidelines that we expect the proposals to be written primarily by the student in consultation with their mentor advisor. The grant committee will refine the statement then send the proposal to the rest of the board for acceptance.
 - b) A solid due date should also be set. Friday February 17, 2012 at 5:00 PM will be the deadline. The proposal announcement will be sent before Thanksgiving, with a reminder to be sent January 16. The proposal will be sent to all board members as well as the members who attended the meeting last year.

c) We should try to get a list of reviewers from all over the state that we could send proposals to. Barron suggested asking previous reviewers if they would be willing to do it again, as well as asking faculty if they would be interested. Send names to Barron, who will compile it and send it to the board. The reviewers will be given 10 days to rank and make comments. The awards will be announced at the banquet.

2. See minutes from April meeting (#5)

3. Douglass moved we grant the amount requested, rather than the full \$500. Barron seconded, and the proposal passed unanimously. A statement will be added to the guidelines that the award will be up to \$500.

c. Announcement date/deadline?

d. Other concerns?

5. Junior Academy Business – Carmen Hauck

a. MEA/MFT Convention October 20-21, Missoula. Brandon Honzel and Jim Harkins will be presenting a session on high school research and MJAS during the MSTA sectional. Student Catharine Witt will make a poster about student research and MJAS for the presentation.

b. AJAS trip to Vancouver, BC, February 15-19. Students Mackenzie Enich, Stacia Hill, and Michelle Nemetcheck will attend with chaperone Brandon Honzel.

Cost breakdown:	Student	Chaperone
Registration	360	420
Housing	275	500
Travel	<u>576</u>	<u>576</u>
Total	\$1211	\$1496

Mackenzie and Stacia will each receive \$800 from MAS, as will Brandon.

Mackenzie and Stacia's families, as well as Big Sky Science Department, will have to contribute \$411 for each of them, \$896 for Brandon, and the full \$1211 for Michelle.

c. Recruiting efforts are still slow. Last year Jim Harkins sent emails to the MSTA list serve, as well as the directors of all Montana science fairs and any other contacts we had received over the past year, but to no avail. I believe

transportation and registration costs are still the big limiting factor, as plenty of student research is happening in the state. I'll continue to try to reach out – any and all contacts would be appreciated. Board members have agreed to continue to reach out to high school teachers in their towns.

- d. I will be presenting a poster this year for my Murdoch research and will be contacting other Murdoch recipients in the state about sending students to the Spring Meeting. I will also encourage the teachers to present their research as well.

6. Annual Meeting Preparation

- a. Date

MAS Spring Meeting will be held April 13-14, 2012 at Montana Tech in Butte.

- b. Combining with M.Tech's undergrad research symposium

The director of the undergrad research symposium is flexible in scheduling and should be able to work with the April 13-14 date. Approximately 50 students will present. Undergraduates will be separated into breakout sectionals according to discipline. Board members will need to be moderators at each sectional.

- c. Symposium

We would like to do a symposium again this year if an organization is available and interested in organizing one. Phil Jensen has agreed to organize and speak at a symposium on Science and Society. Topics may include Creationism in the Science classroom, Climate Change, Rhetoric, Environmental Issues. Board members are asked to reach out to faculty at their campuses who may be interested. Please have commitments established by December 1.

- d. Award Nominations (Mershon/Science Mentor of Year)

Please email Barron any nominations and/or ideas for a keynote speaker prior to the spring meeting.

- 1. Plaques/Certificates

- e. Keynote Speaker

- f. Abstract publication in IJS – not done yet, STILL needs to be done (STILL my fault)

Barron will send abstracts in soon. Abstracts should be submitted in a Word file if possible.

7. Other Business:

- a. The American Fisheries Society is threatening to pull its support from IJS because it is not searchable through Google or other search engine. IJS is considering implementing a search function. Barron suggested contacting member agencies to contribute some funds toward updating technology and volunteered a contribution from MAS.