

MAS Board of Directors Meeting - April 9, 2010 4 pm, Montana Tech Student Center

Minutes - Laurie Henneman

Attending: Nate Bickford, UGF; Jim Barron, MSU-B, Dan Gretch, Carroll College, Phil Jensen, Rocky; Tom Lewis, MSU-B; Rick Douglass, Montana Tech; Jim Berardinelli, MSU-Bozeman; Laurie Henneman, UMW; Carmen Houck, Jr Academy, Missoula; Keith Parker, UM; George McRae, UM. Late: Doug Coffin, UM.

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

2. Budget review

a. Treasurer's report: Keith gave last report. Apparently \$500 check for small grant at MSU-B did not get cashed, even though awardee is coming to present. We will inquire tonight about why check did not get cashed.

b. Tom Lewis is taking over as Treasurer now from Keith Parker. There is roughly \$500 left in Keith's account, which we plan to cash out after the meeting, and a new account will be opened in Billings for MAS.

c. Jim reported on trust and money market. Until we get the next checking account going, we will write checks for this meeting (~\$1800) directly off the money market account. Last year we pretty much broke even with the meeting.

3. Annual Meeting

a. Sponsorship -Rich Bridges is paying for Friday dinner, up to \$500. Frank Gilmore is sponsoring Friday drinks via Rick Douglass. Tasneem Khaleel is covering \$250 for lunch. The sponsorships all seem to be covered

b. Mershon award has been awarded to Jim Berardinelli.

c. Science Mentor of the Year - awarded to Brandon Honzel, nominated by Carmen.

d. Award committee for this meeting - Anyone who will be here the whole time should help evaluate. Nate, Keith and Jim will cover oral presentations - undergrad and graduate, and Jim, Phil and Laurie will do posters.

e. Jr. acad business (Carmen) - Best student speaking first (Rodolfo Villarreal-Calderon) will not attend due to appendectomy. Jim Harkins will not be able to come either. Brandon Honzel also will not attend. Nice thank you letter received from Katie Michels for funding for trip to JAS meeting in San Diego. Meeting was a success. Carmen attended an NAAS forum at increasing Jr. academy participation across the country. There is an opportunity from NAAS to get money for us to administer to the Jr. Academy to increase participation, Carmen is looking into it further. Need to update our contact info at the national level. Carmen distributed list of student awardees for this year. She will work on getting information about Jr. Academy presenters earlier to the board for meeting planning purposes. Also working on keeping up support for Jr. Academy at Missoula schools, because it is waning due to budget issues. EPSCoR has funded Jr. Academy in the past, but now funding comes from field trip money and is more uncertain.

4. Board Membership and Officers

a. Officers and terms - Barron's term is up in 2011. Henneman is recording secretary, up in 2011. Treasurer is Lewis until 2011. Bickford goes until 2012, Dan 2011, George 2012, Jim

Berardinell 2012, Rick 2011, Jim Harkins 2011, Phil 2012; Carmen indefinite. Still no section VPs because we don't have enough talks for break-out sessions.

5. Mini-grant program

Deciding who to fund out of 12 applicants. We need a subcommittee for mini-grant program in the future, so that we can make sure the awardees show up to the meeting. (Rule is that if they don't, mentors cannot sponsor another student for three years.) Five out of last years' 6 awardees will be presenting.

Discussion: Do we fund sociological studies? Do we consider them low significance for our mission? Problem is that we don't have a strict procedure for evaluating grants. Should we use Intermountain Journal specifications, which include a sociological division? McRae - thinks we should use relevance to Montana as a criterion. Coffin - If we use strict criteria including significance, then likelihood of funding year to year might change. Parker - we should widen the tent for areas that may not have a lot of funding options.

Should previously funded students get bumped?

Committee - needs to come up with a rubric that involves scoring the small grants, and publish the criteria on the web site. Draft due in October for review by board. Committee will be Bickford, Berardinelli, and Henneman.

Based on overall discussion of all candidates - we will fund McLaughlin, McCosh, Fenger, Tate, Ferro-Botero, Schleier, Lim.

6. Other business

Angela Des Jardins from space grant - should we coordinate in any way? It was generally decided that we should keep the meetings separate but continue to communicate, and consider multiple ways in which we could both have meetings in April but continue to interact. This also dovetails into our discussion about possibly moving the meeting to October, which needs to be tabled due to lack of time. The plan now is to decide on whether to shift to October at the next October meeting.

Rick Douglass - discussion of Intermountain Journal of Sciences. Should we require subscription to the journal as part of MAS membership? Coffin: problem is that nonbiologists don't really want the journal. Should still have the option. Let's discuss that in more detail in October. But reminder that the journal is good for Montana students to submit to, especially Masters students who may not publish in other journals - it is a peer-reviewed, abstracted journal. Jim will try and push the journal during the sessions tomorrow.

Travel forms for board members were filled out at the board meeting, and Keith provided reimbursements.