



**Minutes, Montana Academy of Sciences Board of Directors Meeting
September 28, 2013; 10:30 A.M.
Pintler Room, Student Union Building, Montana Tech, Butte, MT**

In attendance: Phil Jensen, Doug Coffin, Jim Barron, Jim Berardinelli, Tom Lewis, Nate Bickford, George McRae, Carmen Hauck.

1. Review/Approval of Minutes from Board Meeting on April 12, 2013
Bickford motioned to approve the minutes. **Coffin** seconded. Meeting minutes approved as written.

2. Board Membership and Officers
 - a. Officers and terms
Laurie **Henneman** has resigned her position on the board and has nominated Eric **Dyerson** to replace her. **Dyerson** is interested in taking over the website management as well. Discussion of membership and officers will continue at our spring meeting as terms expire in June. **Bickford** suggested using a Skype format for our fall BOD meeting. **Coffin** agreed to look into teleconferencing options available at campuses across the state.
 - b. Ideas about if/how we want to make an effort to include other scientific disciplines.
Bickford asked about involvement of those in the social sciences; they are welcome.

3. Finance Report – Tom Lewis, Treasurer and Jim Barron, Executive Director
Due to one-time payment of \$2500 to the IJS web abstract service, we had to pull an extra \$3000 from the trust last spring. Discussion about travel awards and whether they are still necessary now that we have implemented the research grants. **Jensen** suggested we discontinue travel stipends for board members and cover meeting attendance instead. Board agreed to this proposal. Most of the expense for last year's annual meeting was to cover food and beverage service, as we did not actively seek sponsorship. **Barron**, as part of his new role as Executive Director, agreed to ensure food sponsorship prior to the meeting next spring.
This year we spent \$12,683.47 and were -\$9950.92 at the end. Without the \$2500 IJS fee, we will be approximately -\$7000 which is our average withdrawal from our trust. If we can cover food costs we will be closer to -\$5000, which is more sustainable. Increasing the undergraduate attendance at the annual meeting will not greatly increase our income, as most of their registration is spent on food. **Barron** proposed the board not attach money to annual awards. The Mershon award was funded by Sally Visser, who established it. **Bickford** suggested the board make the Mershon \$100 and discontinue payment for the other faculty awards.

Discussion ensued about the current level of funding for the MJAS, which is \$2400 for travel awards. The board agreed they would prefer to shift the funding to grants for schools to increase research programs. **Coffin** suggested drafting a letter to Denise Juneau at OPI to ask for \$10,000 to cover cost of attendance at the AJAS meeting. **Lewis** proposed the board write a \$1000 check to the Junior Academy to distribute as they see fit for research projects around the state. **Jensen** recommended seeking sponsorship from businesses and hospitals on behalf of the Junior Academy. **Barron** agreed to seek sponsorship and asked **Hauck** to provide him with PR materials. **Bickford** motioned to write a check for \$7000 from the trust to the account to cover our current deficit.

Barron seconded. Motion passed.

Bickford moved to change the Junior Academy funding to \$1000.

Also moved to eliminate the monetary payment for faculty awards, with the exception of reducing the Mershon award to \$100.

Also moved to eliminate all travel awards.

Friendly Amendment (**Jensen**): Annual meeting budgeted at \$2500.

Research grants stay at \$3000, continuing our practice of funding the amount requested up to \$500 for 6 grants with the possibility of funding more projects if funds remain.

IJS fee will be \$300 annually.

Financial planning will be \$1000, accounting \$250.

Undergraduate and graduate oral and poster awards will remain the same at \$200.

Miscellaneous will be set at \$200.

Beverage service will be rolled into the cost of the annual meeting.

NAAS Membership is \$75.

MT Secretary of State \$15.

Bickford accepted friendly amendment; motion now includes \$8640 total for the annual budget. **Berardinelli** seconded. Budget approved.

Bickford motioned to amend the budget to include an additional \$400 for the Junior Academy to cover a scholarship awarded last spring. **Barron** seconded. The budget amendment passed, which changed the total budget to \$9040.

4. Research Grant Program

a. Number and size of grants for 2013

The grant program is built into the budget as 6 at a maximum of \$500, to fund additional grants if money remains.

b. Formation/Expansion of committee

Bickford will continue to help with organization and **Berardinelli** now has an adequate system in place. As we could use a few more reviewers from U of M **Coffin** agreed to recruit them.

c. Deadlines and establishment of timeline for planning

The current submission deadline of February 15 is fine if we stick to it. We will aim for about a month at the reviewer level and look to get reviews back by mid-March.

Jensen will contact **Dyerson** about getting the information on the website.

d. Eligibility questions

The current system works well.

e. Other discussion

Bickford asked if the grants are working to increase attendance. **Lewis** said the meeting income has gone up steadily since the grants were established. **Coffin** volunteered to sponsor two more grants so the board can fund eight grants. **Jensen** recommended we change the grant distribution to 2 for PUI schools, 3 for undergraduate open, and 3 for overall open. **Coffin** agreed to this proposal.

5. Junior Academy

- a. Tristan Isakson has chosen to forfeit his \$800 travel award, which means that the teacher travel award will not be given this year either. Rachel Dickson has elected to receive the \$400 scholarship in lieu of the travel award.
- b. **Hauck** would like the help of the board to reach out to OPI or other sponsors for funding to send high school students to the annual AJAS meeting.
- c. The Junior Academy will develop a competitive grant program for research in high schools across the state.
- d. Discussion about incorporating Junior Academy talks into the rest of the sectionals if we move to topic based sectionals. It was agreed this would possibly decrease attendance by university participants who do not want to hear high school talks.

6. Annual Meeting

- a. Date: Weekend of April 12, 2014? (MSGC is Monday, April 7; Easter is April 20.)
Weekend of April 11-12 was agreed upon.
- b. Schedule
 - i. One-day vs. two-day?
 1. Without a symposium, do we want to do a one-day meeting?
Discussion about the merits of both. **Bickford** suggested staying with a two day meeting in order to give sufficient time for posters. **Barron** stated from the board perspective it would be very difficult to have a one-day meeting. **Jensen** suggested taking care of the grant awards via email in advance and then to meet as a board at some point on Saturday. **Coffin** motioned to continue with a two-day meeting, **Bickford** seconded. Motion passed. **Jensen** proposed we have the board meeting during breakfast or perhaps a half-hour before, rather than in the evening. Board members agreed with the proposal. **Bickford** moved to authorize the board to approve the announcement of the grant awardees prior to our next meeting. **Berardinelli** seconded. Motion carried.
 - ii. Keynote structure?
Keynote speaker will present during lunch, if we locate a speaker. Keynote must be decided by February 1.
- c. Space to accommodate a growing poster session Friday night?

Jensen has spoken to Tech facilities about this issue and additional space has been reserved.

- d. Establishment of timeline for planning: speakers and abstracts
7. Other Business
- a. NCSE Statement
Jensen asked if the board's statement should include climate science language as well as evolution. Board agreed. Question about style – should it be formal or a lay form? The consensus was for a lay statement. Jensen will have a draft for board approval by the April meeting.
 - b. Other Discussion

Barron motioned to adjourn, **Lewis** seconded. Meeting adjourned at 12:45 PM.