

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of The Montana Academy of Science

September 20, 2014

Pintler Room, Student Union Building, Montana Tech in Butte, MT

The meeting began at 10:39 AM

In attendance were: Jim Barron, Jim Berardinelli, Chrissie Carpenter, Stella Capoccia, Dan Gretch, Phil Jensen, George McRae

- 1) It was moved by Jim Berardinelli and seconded by Jim Barron that the minutes of the April 2014 meeting be approved as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.
- 2) Finance Report – Jim Barron for Tom Lewis
 - a) There was discussion regarding the cost of having the Trust managed. The current cost for management is \$1000 per year. The cost is likely to increase to \$1100. It was moved by Jim Barron and seconded by Jim Berardinelli to continue with no changes to the management of the Trust. The motion carried unanimously.
 - b) The approval of the budget was tabled until the end of the meeting because several items up for discussion may require a change to the budget.
- 3) Old Business
 - a) Fundraising
Jim Barron pointed out that there has been strong support by college/university sponsors to help offset the cost of the spring meeting
There was discussion about approaching science-related industries to seek sponsorship for the meeting. Jim Barron suggested that Board Members forward contact names to him.
 - b) Other Old Business – none
- 4) Board of Directors: Terms of Membership
 - a) Officers and Terms
Jim Berardinelli nominated Dan Gretch to serve as the Recording Secretary for the Board. The nomination was seconded by Jim Barron. The vote was unanimous in favor of Dan Gretch serving as recording secretary.
It was noted that Tom Lewis would be willing to step aside as the Finance Officer if anyone else is willing to serve in that position.

b) Board Membership and Turnover

There was a lengthy conversation regarding the composition of the Board and how to recruit enthusiastic participants

The possibility of enforcing the bylaw requiring that Board Members who miss 3 consecutive meetings be removed was discussed

It was noted that the Board is biology-heavy

The possibility of creating shared Board positions was discussed. This idea led to discussion of having one Board position per school, but with no specific person being appointed. It was brought up that the challenge is recruiting members who are engaged and enthusiastic

Jim Barron mentioned the idea of having two Board Members per school where new members would be appointed to three year appointments during which they would receive \$100/fall meeting attendance and \$200/spring meeting attendance.

The possibilities of other incentives were discussed including research incentives, helping new Board Members with the cost of professional meeting attendance, and helping new Board Members with professional association dues.

Phil Jensen encouraged the Board to actively recruit enthusiastic colleagues prior to the Board implementing a pay per service policy.

The issue was tabled for later discussion.

c) Including other scientific disciplines

It was suggested that the Board should look into the existence of local chapters for various scientific disciplines. If they exist, they should be contacted to determine whether they would be willing to hold their meetings in conjunction with the MAS spring meeting. Perhaps officers of such local chapters could become MAS Board Members.

It was agreed upon that Board Members should investigate the potential interest of other disciplines in greater involvement in MAS.

5) New Business

a) Discussion of Constitution and Bylaws

There was extensive conversation about needed corrections to the constitution and bylaws. The Board discussed several changes.

The following directive was agreed upon:

The Executive Director will incorporate the changes recommended by the Board and will distribute those proposed changes to the Board for a period of review and discussion. Presentation of the proposed changes to the general membership of MAS will occur once three Board Members, or the majority of responding Board members (whichever is greater) approve the draft. The presentation to the general membership will occur at least one month prior to the spring meeting. The posted changes will then be voted upon by the membership at the spring Board of Directors meeting.

b) Research Grant Program

i) Number and size of grants for 2015

Jim Barron suggested that the award amounts should increase

It was moved by Jim Berardinelli and seconded by Dan Gretch that \$7000 be dedicated for grants for 2015. \$4000 of that should be used for \$1000 grants that will be subject to open competition. The remaining \$3000 should be allocated to \$500 grants to be reserved for undergraduate competition. The motion passed unanimously.

ii) Grant review committee

The committee shall be comprised of Jim Berardinelli, Jim Barron, Phil Jensen and Christie Carpenter. Collectively, they will secure 2 reviewers per grant by contacting appropriate prospective reviewers. It was suggested that mentors of past award winners be contacted to review grants.

c) Discussion of the 2015 annual meeting

i) The date of the spring meeting has been set for April 10th and 11th at MT Tech

ii) It was noted that every 4 year college in Montana should be encouraged to attend

iii) It was agreed upon that the format of the meeting should be planned on a year-to-year basis.

iv) The timeline for the annual meeting will remain as it has been

v) The Board discussed the possibility of creating a memorial in the name of Laurie Henneman in recognition of her outstanding dedication and service to MAS. Two principal ideas were discussed. One was to name the undergraduate and graduate poster presentation awards after Laurie. The second idea was to provide an annual grant award specifically to a UM-Western student in her name. Both ideas will be further discussed by the Board via email.

d) Junior Academy Business

A motion was made by Christie Carpenter with a second by Jim Barron that Phil Jensen discuss with Doug Coffin how the Board should best utilize the \$700 balance that remains from the \$2000 gift that was made to MAS by Doug. The motion passed unanimously.

e) Other New Business

Jim Barron presented an idea that the MAS construct a semi-annual newsletter to be sent to all members in good standing. A question was raised regarding if we need a company to manage our web page and/or to send out such a newsletter. Jim Barron and Phil Jensen agreed to investigate the potential cost and logistics of such a newsletter.

2) Finance Report part b) revisited

A motion was made by Jim Barron and seconded by Jim Berardinelli that the budget be approved as submitted with the following amendments: \$7000 be allocated to the 2015 grant program and \$7,334.41 be transferred from the Trust to the checking account. The motion passed unanimously.

Jim Berardinelli moved that the meeting be adjourned. Jim Barron seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM

Respectfully submitted: Dan Gretch