***Georgia Academy of Science***

***Council Meeting Minutes***

*10/9/2015*

Via teleconference

**In Attendance**

Paul Arnold Susan Kirkpatrick-Smith Shane Webb James Nienow

Joseph Sloop Robert McDonough Jared Wood Barry Hojjatie

Linda Jones Al Mead Dave Bechler

Richard Schmude Charlie Swor Sandra Rucker

**1 Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 PM by the GAS President, Shane Webb.

**2 Approval of the 2015 Executive Council Meeting Minutes**

The Secretary distributed the 13 March 2015 Executive Council meeting minutes to conference attendees via email for review. A motion was made by the GAS President to adopt the minutes. The motion was passed and the minutes were accepted.

**3 Treasurer’s Report** (James Nienow)

The treasurer provided the formal treasurer’s report prior to the time of this meeting. The Academy budget is currently at about a $4519.21 greater balance because no hard copy issues of the Georgia Journal of Science have been published over the last several quarters. The treasurer stated that renewals and memberships were down compared to March 2015 (233 members, -41 members).

**4 Secretary’s Report** (Joseph Sloop)

The Secretary provided a draft of the minutes for the last GAS Council Meeting, which was approved by the Council.

**5 Committee Reports**

The President commented that we will have a meeting on 30 Oct 2015.

1. Academy Improvement Committee (Paul Arnold, Chair) – Postponed until the 30 Oct

2015 meeting.

1. Committee on Local Arrangements (Richard Schmude). Richard Schmude stated that

Committee has met twice for planning the upcoming meeting, scheduled for April 1-2 2016. Richard asked if there was a better date since several members indicated that they would be coming to the Annual Meeting late on Friday from another conference. After a discussion, the April 1-2 date was confirmed. The venue will be shared with the Teaching Matters group, adding about 70-80 people to the venue. Chad Davies has been enlisted to get a guest speaker, and Richard Schmude stated that he had a backup speaker identified if that did not work out. The subject of poster sessions was brought up. Bob McDonough stated the need for poster judging guidelines and to discuss timing of poster session for judging since some students could not make the poster session on Friday. Dave Bechler inquired about having students mail their poster in. It was pointed out that without a speaker present, judging can’t be done fairly. Susan Kirkpatrick Smith discussed the possibility of a travel award to offset the cost for some students to stay for the entire meeting. Al Mead noted that Friday night attendance for the speaker last year was excellent because the poster session was right before it. Another question which arose concerned who would judge the posters. Paul Arnold commented that he was looking at judging logistics and asked that each section could have a number of judges available. A rubric would be used to rate the posters. Richard Schmude will send out a query to Gordon State STEM faculty about possibly judging during the poster session. There was no final decision on where the poster session will be held, but Richard Schmude will try to finalize the location. As of now, the main speaker will deliver his talk Saturday at the luncheon.

1. Committee on Membership (Susan Kirkpatrick Smith, Chair): Proposed a travel award

plan – 10 awards at $100 each. Students attend the entire meeting. Students will apply for the award (form will be provided online) when they submit their abstract. Undergraduate and graduate students are eligible. We will try to do this for the 2016 meeting…section chairs will inform membership at the 2nd call for papers.

Membership drive – encourage sections to examine how they conduct their panels that would allow for short and longer presentations. Lightning sessions (5 minute presentation, 5 -10 min questions). Brochures describing the GAS could be distributed to schools, both 4 yr and technical schools. Institutional memberships (Like KY) need to be considered. Grant-in-aid to student –required to present. May need to discuss at the annual business meeting. The President brought up beginning an endowment (Like FL) that would allow for travel and/or research.

1. Dissolving of the Jr. Academy (Bob McDonough): The Jr. Academy can be dissolved by

a vote of the membership and written out of the Academy Constitution and by-laws. Monies can be folded into the general budget. Richard Schmude commented that the Jr. Academy funds should be sequestered for the time being and not absorbed into the general budget. The President asked Bob to draft a letter to the Academy requesting dissolution of the Junior Academy, asking the funds be kept separate for a period of 10 years (in case the Jr. Academy is reformed), at which time the Council will decide what to do with the monies.

1. Editor of the Journal (Dave Bechler): Dave stated that the Assistant Editor position

needs to be filled and that he was having difficulty getting section councilors to review articles. Section Councilor duties include the review of article submissions. Dave is working to get the journal on-line and discussed options. Bepress (www.bepress.com) uses Digital Commons ($7.6K/yr). Software can be used to send out papers to reviewers and notify them of deadlines. Can be published online immediately. Discussion was to eliminate the hardcopy editions to save money that could be redirected to fund the online journal. Suggestion that even Volume 1 each year be distributed electronically for the meeting.

1. Nominating Committee (Shane Webb): Nominations - Hassan Tavossi and Jennifer

Mook nominated. The President stated that an electronic voting device will be sent out before the annual meeting. Section Chairs must know which officers need to be replaced.

1. Elections Committee – nothing to report (voting to occur by online survey in early 2016).

**6 New Business**

1. Meeting Venue for 2017: Young Harris College is interested. Rollins Campus center

may be the meeting site. Will discuss the requirements with the College Facilities Manager. Will try to clarify uncertainties by the October 30 meeting and will update the Council at that time.

1. Website “redone” – Please check contact info (again) and links. A problem was noted

on the webpage where abstracts are to be submitted. The President stated that he will correct the issue.

1. GAS Endowment. Further discussion will be done at the 30 October conference call.

**7 Other business**

Postponed until the October 30th.

**8 Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:18 PM.