***Georgia Academy of Science***

***Council Meeting Minutes***

*10/30/2015*

Via teleconference

**In Attendance**

Paul Arnold Susan Kirkpatrick-Smith Shane Webb Neal Chesnut

Joseph Sloop Robert McDonough Barry Hojjatie Ron Mickens

Linda Jones Al Mead Dave Bechler Mike Sakuta

Richard Schmude James Nienow

**1 Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 PM by the GAS President, Shane Webb.

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

The treasurer provided the formal treasurer’s report during the 9 October GAS Council conference call. No additional update was provided. Jim informed the Council that the dues notice would be distributed in the next few weeks.

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

The Secretary provided a draft of the minutes from the 9 October 2015 GAS Council Meeting, which was approved by the Council.

**4 Committee Reports**

1. Academy Improvement Committee (Paul Arnold, Chair) – Submitted recommended

changes to the Constitution and Academy by-laws (Encl 1), a standardized poster grading rubric (Encl 2) and Academy Institutional Membership.

1. The AIC Chair briefly discussed the proposed changes to the GAS Constitution

changes and By-laws. A motion was made by the President to adopt the proposed Constitution changes and By-law adjustments. The changes were voted on and approved by the council.

(2) Standardization of poster judging criteria – a rubric was sent out for review prior to the meeting. The rubric will be posted on-line for students submitting posters to understand the judging criteria. The council also discussed how to delineate between graduate and undergraduate posters so that judges can identify them when evaluating. A list of undergraduate and graduate student poster presenters will be provided by the Technical Program chair to Richard Schmude, who will determine how best to mark the posters as either undergraduate or graduate as the poster presenters arrive. Dr. Schmude stated that the judging should be completed by Friday evening and that it did not look like institutional faculty would be available for judging. We talked about a few different options for coming up with judges, but no mechanism was formally decided.

(3) Institutional memberships/Corporate Membership - Two models were presented by Paul Arnold. Dr. Arnold indicated that one benefit to the Academy might be that this type of membership could help increase interest of the science faculty. Likewise, some institutions might like to be affiliated with GAS and this could lead to increased attendance at annual meeting. It was pointed out that there might also be an increase in political influence that could be exerted by the Academy. The President asked if we could consider institutional membership and individuals who join would be given a pro-rated membership discount. A discussion ensued regarding how we would determine the membership fee – based on student enrollment, total number of faculty or number of STEM faculty. A hybrid approach was suggested where institutional membership would give a faculty discount. This number (whichever number was decided upon) could be used to determine the amount of pro-rating of fees. Corporate membership could also increase Academy impact. The President charged the AIC to go back and look at impacts and benefits of these memberships to the institutions and report back by the January 2016 meeting.

1. YHC hosting of 2017 annual meeting update – met with facilities manager and spoke with

the President Cox and she is excited to host the annual meeting. Spoke with local arrangements chair and are getting pricing. Richard said that last meeting expense estimate of $35/person for 200 people= $7K. Facilities expense at YHC needs to be waived or greatly reduced…Paul Arnold will revisit. Catering is more expensive. IT representative should be available for meeting.

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

that the committee had solidified much of the food arrangements: coffee would be available from 12:30 Friday, snacks would be available Friday 5-6pm, a continental breakfast would be available Saturday morning from 7:30-10:30 am, with lunch provided in a special room in the cafeteria where the Annual Business Meeting could be conducted. A coffee bar would be available until 4 pm. Dr. Schmude stated that the Guest Speaker (UCLA) is Dr. Scerri (http://www.chem.ucla.edu/dept/Faculty/scerri/)– topic would likely be Science and Education. An honorarium would be needed – $1000 + purchase plane ticket. The Treasurer stated that we had not previously offered honoraria to Guest Speakers. Dr. Schmude stated that he had a less expensive, local backup speaker – whose topic would likely be about Writing grant applications and how to be successful. Richard Schmude will get some additional information on the speaker and provide it to the Treasurer.

1. Georgia Journal of Science/EBSCO indexing (Dave Bechler, Editor): Dave discussed

options to get the journal on-line via Bepress (www.bepress.com) (Digital Commons) at a cost of

~ $7.1K/yr. The Digital Commons is well regarded and would enhance the journal’s exposure and would likely increase readership and journal submissions. Bepress would allow for automated control of the manuscript review process. The Treasurer stated it would probably be a break even venture since we normally pay between $5-12K/year on publication of the journal at present. Motion was made to approve moving the journal to the on-line platform, voted on and was passed by the Council. EBSCO indexing was tabled for now.

e. Update from Membership Comm (Susan K.-S.) Information to include about travel awards: Document provided in advance of the meeting, that defines student requirements to apply for the award. Ten awards ($100 each) will be granted based on merit review by Travel award committee. Students submit the application when the abstract is submitted to the committee chair. Motion was made to approve the travel award procedure, voted on and was passed by the Council.

**5 New Business**

1. Associate Editor vote – The President had sent a short bio on Frank Corotto, and stated that he had been acquainted with him for a long time. Frank has experience with on-line publishing. He presented Frank Corotto for nomination. The Journal Editor concurred with the President and stated that his assistance would be instrumental. A motion was made to accept Dr. Corotto as the Journal Associate Editor. The motion was voted on and passed by the Council.
2. Passing of Lucille Garmon – The President sent out a short email about Ms Garmon’s passing.
3. Meeting Venue for 2018: Tabled until next meeting.

**6 Other business – None.**

**7 Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 PM.