

**VIRGINIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE**  
**Minutes of the Council Meeting**  
**May 24, 2002**  
**Hampton University**

**Attendance**

Carolyn Conway	Bob Fisher
Tom Haas	Walter Witschey
Robert Willis	Gerald Taylor
Frank Kozusko	Rao Chaganty
Martin Zahn	R. Edward Barker, Jr.
Jim Martin	Lisa Martin
Ali Mohamed	John Hess
Paul Homsher	Susan Booth
Rosemary Barra	Marion Lobstein
Dean Decker	Werner Wieland
Ertle Thompson	Art Burke
Michael Bass	Judy Niehaus
Jim O'Brien	

**Call to Order**

President Ali Mohamed called the meeting to order at 7:54 a.m. The President encouraged the Councilors of the Sections to attend the Council meeting or send another section officer as a substitute.

**Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes of the March 23 Council meeting at Hampton University were approved with corrections.

**Local Arrangements Committee**

Donald Whitney from Hampton University reported that about 650 students accompanied by approximately 200 adults pre-registered for the VJAS meeting and another 10 registered on-site. The senior academy pre-registered 228-230 participants and another 120 registered on-site. The total number of people attending the meetings was 1210, of which 750 stayed on campus. In addition, there were judges who did not register for the meeting. Dr. Whitney offered to list the names of the schools from which students came in the final report to avoid confusing schools with similar names.

Frank Kozusko, also of the Local Arrangements Committee from Hampton University, added that arranging future meetings could be expedited by providing written documents and project reports to the host school. We also need a Plan of Action and a check list of milestones. Examples of questions that came up are: Who schedules the Fellow's Breakfast? What is the cold room for? What is needed for the Judges' Room, and are there any other special rooms needed? The persons at the registration desk need to be briefed on expected procedures and changes to the schedule. Parents and guardians could be allowed to hear their student's paper by giving them a hall pass for a given room, time, and date. Someone from the Academy should be at the registration desk to handle membership dues as well as on-site registration.

President Ali Mohamed charged the Long Range Planning Committee with the task of compiling a template for the annual meeting for future local arrangements chairs.

Bob Willis made a motion that “**council expresses their appreciation to Hampton University and the Local Arrangements Committee for hosting the May 2002 meeting.**” The motion was seconded and passed by unanimous voice vote.

### **Officers Reports**

*President Ali Mohamed:* Guests from Puerto Rico paid registration and membership dues to VAS and presented posters at the meeting. The guests would like to develop something similar to the VAS in Puerto Rico. More such outreach efforts are being considered for the future. The section meeting for Aerospace Science was cancelled. If last minute cancellations are made in the future, the Academy officers need to be notified so that alternate arrangements can be made for presentation of papers from the Junior Academy. President Mohamed suggested using mini-symposia and workshops to bolster attendance at sessions that are less well attended.

*Vice President Marion Lobstein:* Preparation for the Program booklet went well. Appreciation was expressed for the cooperation and assistance of the section secretaries, Don Whitney and other members of the Local Arrangements Committee, and Jim and Lisa Martin. The information sent out to section secretaries is being updated to reflect the transition from paper to electronic forms. These changes will be available on a CD-ROM for the 2003-20—4 vice president. Approximately 850 participants were in attendance for the 2002 Annual meetings.

*Virginia Flora* Because the Symposium on the Flora of Virginia Symposium was to be conducted from 9:00 to 12:00 on the day of the meeting, Marion Lobstein made all her reports at once. The symposium is cosponsored by the Virginia Flora Committee, the VAS Botany Section, and the Foundation of the Flora of Virginia Project, Inc. The Foundation has recently received 501(C)3 status and will launch an intensive fund-raising campaign for the Flora of Virginia Project. Funding for the Flora will be requested in the 2003 budget.

*Botany Section* The Botany Section had a successful meeting. There were 15 papers and 3 posters presented. Up to 35-40 people were in attendance. The VJAS presentations were excellent.

*President-elect Walter Witschey:* The mission of the Science Museum of Virginia is to have a hands-on science center within a 50-mile driving distance of every Virginian. At the present time 52% of Virginians live within a 50-mile radius. With the \$80 million building of a science center in Northern Virginia in 2005-06, 85% will be within the desired distance of a science center, and when centers planned for Harrisonburg and Bristol are completed, 97% of Virginians will live within a 50 mile radius of a hands-on science center.

*Secretary Judy Niehaus:* As the outgoing secretary suggested, it would be helpful if members of the committee give the new secretary copies of reports so that these can be included in the minutes of the meeting.

*Treasurer Sherry Baldwin:* No report.

### **Directors and Academy Representatives Reports**

*VJAS Director Susan Booth:* The following points were made with respect to the VJAS spring meeting costs: UVA needs to set costs with Juniors by August to be posted on website. Many concerned members could not participate due to the high costs of this year's meeting. However, it would be better to leave the cost at \$125 per

student in following years, rather than raising and lowering costs. VAS supports one VAS Journal to be sent to each school member in the fall. The newsletters for the junior and senior academies could be combined. VAS supports a VAS newsletter (with VJAS President's column to be sent to each school member throughout the year. In order to recruit sufficient judges, VAS chairs are requested to submit at least 5 names of those willing to judge. Of the 500 persons who agreed to judge, only 225 actually showed up. The attendance at the Hampton University VJAS meeting was approximately 850. This year the Jeffers Lecture was moved from Wednesday to Tuesday, and the traditional dance was cancelled to permit students to visit the museum. The meeting in 2003 will be at UVA Lewis and Clark Observatory. The 2004 meeting will be at VCU and the Science Museum of Virginia (SMV). There will be a meeting at the SMV on July 20. The Virginia Environmental Business Council supported the VJAS with research funds for students; the Council will hold a trail race on Saturday, September 28, 2002 starting at 9:00 a.m. at Pony Pasture Rapids. Donations, sponsorships, and participation are requested. The VJAS committee and Sponsors will meet to discuss concerns about the Proceedings. Students were polled to determine whether they preferred hard copies of the Proceedings or CD-ROMs. Most preferred CDs. It was recommended that a few hard copies be made for the Archives. The VJAS will make a list of high school graduates attending colleges and universities in Virginia available to the institutions for tracking students.

*Visiting Scientist Report, Bob Fisher:* Dr. Fisher has been officially named as co-director. A video developed with VSRN will be distributed through PBS. The VSRN internship program, with pays \$250 for sending teachers to the annual meeting was successful. It was recommended that the Web page be made more user friendly. VSRN is also interested in the Puerto Rican model of inviting guests to observe a meeting to inspire similar organizations in their home countries. Bob Willis will contact the group at an upcoming meeting in Orlando. **Bob Fisher moved that Bob Willis approach the Puerto Rican delegation.** The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Jerry Taylor made a motion **that the Academy express its appreciation for the continued support of the Science Museum of Virginia in these hard financial times.** The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

*AAAS Representative Ertle Thompson:* AAAS is reviewing for fellows.

*Science Museum of Virginia Walter Witschey:* The Association of Science and Technology Center will hold its annual conference in October 2005 at the Richmond Convention Center. For further information, please consult the web site at [ASTC.org](http://ASTC.org).

*Jeffress Memorial Trust, Tom Haas:*

The Allocations Committee of the Gwathmey and Jeffress Memorial Trusts met at the Greenbrier, White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia on May 11, 2002.

The Gwathmey Memorial trust supports projects in the arts and humanities, education, the environment, health, services and historic preservation. At the meeting, the Committee allocated approximately \$350,000 to requests for support in these areas.

The Jeffress Memorial Trust supports grants in chemical, medical and other scientific fields such as biology, botany, materials science, neuroscience, pharmacology, etc. as well as psychology, biomedical engineering and chemical engineering. At the meeting, \$316,927 was allocated to the renewal of such projects and an additional \$323,400 was in support of new proposals for funding.

The trusts are managed by Bank of America.

VAS Past President, Richard Brandt, is advisor to the Trusts.

The next Allocations Committee meeting is in November 2002.

Tom Haas' tenure on the Allocations Committee of the Gwathmey and Jeffress Memorial Trusts is now complete. The Academy should make an appointment of a new VAS representative for 2002-2003.

**Old Business**

*Fall meeting:* Rosemary Barra announced that the undergraduate research awards event will be held on a Saturday in October at the science museum.

*Report Concerning VAS/VJAS Director, Administrative Assistant and Executive Secretary/Treasurer Contracts (Rae Carpenter, Rosemary Barra, and Robert Willis):* Rosemary Barra presented a format for self-evaluation that was presented to the Executive Committee. A copy of the suggested evaluation is attached.

VIRGINIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE  
ANNUAL SELF-EVALUATION FOR THE DIRECTOR OF THE VJAS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

According to the Bylaws of the Virginia Academy of Science, the Executive Committee subject to approval by Council, selects a qualified person as Director of the Virginia Junior Academy of Science. The duties of the VJAS Director are outlined in the Bylaw As part of the annual review process, the director of the VJAS shall submit a completed self-evaluation to the President of the Virginia Academy of Science b August30 of each year. The President and members of the Executive Committee will prepare a. written evaluation and a recommendation for contract renew/non-renew and a recommendation for salary adjustment which will be submitted to Council at its f meeting.

- 1. Comment on your fund raising activities during the past year.
- 2. Indicate the progress that has been made over the past year with regards to expansion and the involvement of additional schools.
- 3. Indicate the activities and any new initiatives stemming from your leadership of the Junior Academy of Science Committee.

ANNUAL SELF-EVALUATION FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Name:

Date:

The Administrative Assistant performs duties as directed by the Executive Secretary/Treasurer and VJAS Director and in support of the activities of the VAS and VJAS. As part of the annual review process, the Administrative Assistant shall submit a

completed self-evaluation to the President of the Virginia Academy of Science by August 30th of each year. The President and members of the Executive Committee will prepare a written evaluation and a recommendation for contract renewal or non-renewal and a recommendation for salary adjustment which will be submitted to Council at its fall meeting.

1. List and comment on the major tasks that you were given during this past year that directly supported the VAS.

2. List and comment on the major tasks that you were given this past year that directly supported the activities of the VJAS.

3. Indicate any new initiatives for the VAS or VJAS that were started this year and indicate

Date

Name

Address

Dear :

On the recommendation of the Executive Committee and with the approval of Council, I am pleased to offer you a one-year contract as Executive Secretary/Treasurer of the Virginia Academy of Science. The contractual period will begin and will end at an annual salary of \$\_\_\_\_\_. The duties and responsibilities associated with this position are as stated in the Bylaws of the Virginia Academy of Science.

To indicate acceptance of this offer, please sign and date the enclosed copy of this letter and return it to me as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

President of the Virginia Academy of Science

President Ali Mohamed requested that comments on the contract drafts be referred to Rosemary Barra.

Jerry Taylor moved **“that the forms be approved in concept and philosophy with details to be possibly changed later by the Executive Committee.”** The motion was seconded, discussed, and approved by unanimous voice vote. Paul Homsher moved **“that the forms be approved as written for use in August 2002 with minor changes by the executive committee.”** The motion was seconded and passed by unanimous voice vote.

*Report Concerning Search for New Executive Secretary Treasurer (Gerald Taylor, Mike Bass, Rosemary Barra):*

Jerry Taylor reported on his most recent meeting with Gerald Bass. He moved **“that Gerald Bass be offered the position of Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Virginia Academy of Science from September 1, 2002 until December 30, 2004, a term of 2 years, 4 months at a salary agreed upon with the Executive Committee.”** The motion was seconded; there was some discussion about whether the By-Laws permit an appointment longer than one year, but it was suggested that a line could be added to the contract to the effect that the person hired will go through the approval process next year. It is understood that the outgoing Executive Secretary/Treasurer Art Burke will work with the incoming officer from September until January 2003. The motion was approved by voice vote. Rosemary will draft a contract letter for President Mohamed’s signature.

Jerry Taylor also made a motion **“to provide a notebook computer valued up to \$3000 to the new Executive Secretary/Treasurer.”** The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

*Site Selection Committee Report:* Jerry Taylor discussed the committee’s plans to visit with the presidents of universities planning to host the annual meeting. There was a discussion about whether the committee should meet with the president of UVA, the site of next year’s meeting.

*UVA Meeting 2003:* A representative from UVA has been in contact with Don Whitney about the upcoming meeting.

*Blanton Bruner Undergraduate Chemistry Award:* Art Burke announced the Vera Remsburg award of \$1,000 to the chemistry department at William and Mary and expressed the desire that such awards will become a pattern. The following communication verifies the role of the Academy in this award.

*Virginia Academy of Science*

**Trust Committee**

**D. Rae Carpenter, Jr., Chair**

401 Overlook Circle

Lexington, VA 24450-1739

15 February 2002

Mr. Mark R. Graham

413 Bradley St

Abingdon VA 24210

Dear Mark,

Thank you for the teleconference this afternoon. I have enclosed copies of the documents supplied by James E. “Buddy” Mitchell re the Vera Remsburg Estate.

This will authorize you to represent the Virginia Academy of Science “Fellows Fund” in this matter before the court in Abingdon. The Academy is a Sec. 501(c)(3) organization with Federal ID No. 54-603-8285. We have recently been declared tax exempt by action of the General Assembly of Virginia. Please advise me if other information is needed.

Sincerely,

D. Rae Carpenter, Jr., Chair

Trust Committee

cc: VAS Executive Committee

Member, VAS Council

**Standing Committee Reports**

*Archives Committee:* John Hess reported that the site [archivist@VT](mailto:archivist@VT) is no longer available. There are major gaps in the archives.

*Awards Committee:* Carolyn Conway reported that John Hess has been made a fellow of the academy. The deadline for nominations for next year is October 1. Further information is available on the web site.

*Committee on the Environment:* No report

*Constitution and By-Laws Committee:* Michael Bass noted that the Constitution and By-Laws require approval of the Executive Secretary position to be approved each year. Jerry Taylor suggested that rather than making frequent changes to the By-Laws we develop a set of policies to be based on the By-Laws. The policies are easier to change. As the Academy moves toward having three paid positions, this change would expedite alterations in policy. There was a discussion as to whether the Executive Secretary-Treasurer can be appointed for a period of greater than one year without violating the By-Laws. Rosemary Barra suggested changing the wording of the contract from "contract approval" to "contract continuation, subject to annual review." The change was agreed upon by consensus.

*Finance and Endowment Committee:* Paul Homsher reported status of the Finance and Endowment Committee with respect to current financial conditions.

*Fund Raising Committee:* Jim O'Brien requested that members of the Academy contact him with names of potential donors.

*Long Range Planning Committee:* Jim O'Brien announced new members of the Long Range Planning Committee: Judy Niehaus, Don Whitney, and Frank Kozusko. Plans are being made for the next retreat at Chanco.

*Membership Committee:* No report

*Nominations and Elections Committee:* No report

*Publications Committee:* No report

*Research Committee:* Ali Mohamed reported that six proposals were submitted to the committee and the proposals will be ranked for funding.

*Science Advisory Committee:* No report

*Science Education Committee:* No report

*Trust Committee:* Paul Homsher presented the following report from Rae Carpenter.

**Section Representatives Reports**

*Aeronautical and Aerospace Science:* No report

*Agriculture, Forestry and Aquaculture:* Ali Mohamed reported that Southern State is being approached for award money for the section. The Web site has abstracts of the 18 papers that were presented at the meeting.

*Archaeology:* No report

*Astronomy, Mathematics and Physics:* Jerry Taylor reported that a new young person was elected as section representative.

*Biology:* Carolyn Conway reported that the section hosted 19 papers and 8 posters.

*Biomedical and General Engineering:* Tom Haas reported that the section hosted 19 papers.

*Botany:* see earlier report

*Computer Science:* Bob Willis indicated 7 papers were presented. There was also a successful seminar on informational security. One student award was authorized.

*Education:* No report

*Environmental Science:* Michael Bass said approximately 26 people attended the session at which 18 papers plus 2 junior papers and 13 posters were presented. The number of presentations has decreased over the years, and this is cause for some concern.

*Material Science:* Edward Barker reported that the session was disappointing. Few people attended except for the officers, even though the secretary had contacted 23 people about the possibility of making a presentation. Perhaps the new technology center at UVA will have a positive influence on the section meeting next year. It was suggested that the Material Science section should be located closer to Chemistry and Physics, or perhaps a joint session could be arranged with either Chemistry or Physics.

*Medical Science:* No report

*Natural History:* Werner Wieland reported that 13 papers and 3 posters were presented.

*Psychology:* Jim O'Brien reported that the Psychology session hosted 39 papers and 12 posters. The Virginia Psychological Foundation will provide student awards. The evening presentation on SCHEV Core Competencies was a great success; many people stayed to continue asking questions. He also announced that members of the Donald Davis family attended the banquet on Thursday night and presented a 1928 photograph of the Virginia Academy of Science members at the 1928 meeting at William and Mary.

*Statistics:* No report

President Ali Mohamed thanked Jim O'Brien and Marion Lobstein for arranging the special presentations on SCHEV competencies and Virginia flora.

### **New Business**

*Vera Remsburg Bequest (Information)*

*Vera Remsburg Scholarship in Biology at Longwood University*