

**Minutes of the Virginia Academy of Science  
Council Meeting November 13, 2010  
J. Sargeant Reynolds CC  
Rm 131 Burnett Hall**

The meeting was called to order at 11 am

The members present are Arun Verma, Deborah O'Dell, Darcy Mays, Werner Wieland, Susan Booth, Hillary Stewart, Michael Renfroe, Art Conway, Carolyn Conway, Ralph Eckerlin, David Crosby, Stephen Gallik, Rodney Dyer, Art Burke, Tom Haas, George Grant, Elsa Falls, Ellis Bell, Richard Groover, Jim O'Brien, Marion Lobstein

President Arun Verma noted a correction to the agenda, whereby the accreditation of the New Section on Structural Biology, Biochemistry and Biophysics will be moved from Old Business to Section reports.

Motions to approve the minutes from the March and May Council meetings were made (Wieland) and seconded (Gallik). Both motions passed.

President Arun Verma formally welcomed Dr. Art Conway as Executive Officer.

### **Officers reports:**

**President:** Arun Verma passed out copies of his report.

A schedule of responsibilities for 2010-2011 was prepared and posted on the Academy's WEB site.

The memorandum of agreement with the Foundation of the Flora of Virginia Project Inc has been formally executed.

Ms. Hillary E. Stewart has been hired as the new administrative assistant

The letter to the Commonwealth's Attorney General about Prof. Mann has not been sent. Several drafts were generated;

however, there did not seem to be any consensus as to the language and intent.

The Academy is coordinating with the University of Richmond for the next Annual Meeting. Drs. Verma, Conway, and Mays visited the site in August, and are working with Dr. Bell and UR officials to iron out details.

The Jeffers Memorial lecture at the next Annual Meeting will be delivered by Dr. Cynthia Keppel, scientific and technical director of the Hampton University Proton Therapy institute.

The Academy mourns the loss of Dr. Tom O. Sitz and acknowledges his long time contributions to the academy including serving as the president of the Academy during 1995-96. Recently he retired from Virginia Tech. He was 65. He was a member of the Archive Committee 2010-2013. Elsa Falls asked if there was some way that the Academy could honor Dr. Sitz and his contributions to the Academy. An "In Memoriam" is planned for the Journal, and Jim O'Brien will be asked to place a notice in the news letter. It was suggested that a scholarship at Virginia Tech be established in the Biochemistry Department. An ad hoc committee was set up to follow up on this: Marion Loebstein, Elsa Falls, Arun Verma and Jim O'Brien volunteered for the committee. Arun Verma has already contacted Virginia Tech. Also, a copy of the Journal with the "In Memoriam" will be sent to his family.

**President Elect:** Mike Renfroe reported on the Fall Undergraduate Research Meeting. There were a total of 8 presentations, of which 5 were funded. Leslie Harlacker discussed the biomechanics of Flint knapping followed by a demonstration of the same. An announcement about the awards and the projects will go out in the newsletter.

**Vice President:** Ralph Eckerlin reported that he verified the section secretaries and their emails. He has prepared the Call for Papers for the Annual Meeting and has included the new section, and has sent it to Art Conway. He will be working with Art Conway to get the Call sent out to members in January. All is on schedule. He did request that the secretaries ensure that the section officers and their contact information are up to date.

Susan Booth asked whether a letter could be sent indicating the VAS support for VJAS, and also a letter requesting judges for VJAS.

**Secretary:** Deborah O'Dell reminded council members that all motions should be submitted to her in writing so that they can be accurately recorded. She also reminded all members present to sign in.

**Treasurer:** David Crosby had no report.

**Executive Officer:** Art Conway passed out the Income/Expense Comparison. No adjustments to budget requests are planned. Some items may be adjusted based on past levels. The Executive Officer noted that contributions listed 25,000 which came from and was transferred to the VAS Trust. It was noted that the 2010 VJAS Budget shows a surplus of \$7000. Susan Booth gave some clarification on the expenditures and history. It was noted that the overall budget shows a negative balance which could be covered by this surplus.

**Motion:** Art Conway moved that the budget as presented be approved as presented. Additionally, any surpluses in the VJAS budget in 2010 be transferred over to the 2011 budget. Motion seconded by Art Burke. **Motion passed.**

Marion Loebstein asked about funding for the Flora of Virginia project. It was suggested that she should submit a request to council or to the Fellows.

**VJAS Director:** Susan Booth gave a report on the VJAS. VJAS is seeing an increase in requests for scholarships from the Virginia Environmental Endowment. It was decided that section judges will also serve as the judges for this scholarship. A concern is that projects presented by High School students are still being judged in tandem with those from Middle School students. Therefore, VJAS is examining a model whereby students in grades 7-8 will be separated from those in grades 9-12. She passed around a proposal detailing this proposal. The Council discussed the pros and cons of the proposal. The Executive Council recommended that VJAS be split into two groups: grades 7-9 and grades 10-12. Any change would be

effective as of the 2012 Annual Meeting. Since judges are hard to find, it was suggested that high school teachers may serve as judges for the Jr. High sections.

### **Committee Reports:**

Committee reports were accepted from the Awards Committee, Environment Committee, Flora of Virginia, Fundraising Committee, Long Range Planning Committee, Membership committee, Nominations committee, the Publications Committee, the Research Committee, and the Trust Committee.

**Archives:** No report

**Awards:** No nominations were received by the Oct 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for Fellows or Honorary Life Members. This may be due to the timing for the call for nominations. Currently it goes out in the Call for Papers, in the spring for the following year. A change was suggested that it be placed in the spring newsletters, and to send it out also in Aug/September.

**Constitution and Bylaws:** no report

**Environment:** Richard Groover reported that there was not a great response to their proposed symposium, so that has been shelved. He expressed disappointment that the letter which was to be sent regarding Dr. Mann was not sent. Some discussion ensued and it was decided that VAS needs a statement regarding academic freedom.

**Motion:** (Wieland, O'Brien 2nd) "That the Executive committee draft a policy statement which supports the National Academy of Science position on Academic Freedom." **Motion passed unanimously.** This statement is to be placed on the VAS WEB site and in our newsletter.

**Fellows:** No Report

**Finance:** Report under the budget

**Flora of Virginia:** Marion Lobstein provided a written report on the progress of the Flora. She indicated that \$200,000 was still needed to bring the Flora to publication. It was asked whether VJAS could hold a fundraiser to help with this.

**Fundraising:** The only fundraiser that is planned is the VJAS run.

**Long Range Planning:** The future meeting sites are: 2011 University of Richmond (confirmed); 2012 Old Dominion University in talks. Other sites are 2013 James Madison University, and 2014 Virginia Commonwealth University. Arun Verma has drafted a “Requirements for Hosting a VAS/VJAS Annual Meeting” to provide information to institutions who have not hosted an Annual Meeting.

**Membership:** Richard Groover passed out a written report. This report shows that there has been an increase in membership including institutional memberships. We need to continue to bring new members into the Academy. The idea of sponsoring a business advisory committee was raised.

**Nominations:** The committee is still finishing the slate for new officers. A new treasurer needs yet to be confirmed.

**Publications:** A new editor for the news letter is needed.

**Research committee:** No report, but a replacement for Art Conway is needed since he is now Executive Officer.

**Science Advisory:** no report

**Science Education:** David Hagan announced the annual reception for outstanding scientists at the Science Museum of

Virginia. Please contact him if you wish to attend. He passed out a written report of activities, including a position paper by VSELA on “**Science and the use of the term “STEM”**”.

**Trust Committee:** Elsa Falls passed out a summary of the trust accounts and a Historical Account Balance. She reported that the funds are moving in the right direction. It was noted that the Fund for the Future has been built up, and we should consider that the Future is now and that perhaps it is appropriate to begin withdraw of funds. The council charged the Trust committee with examining the Fund for the Future and possible disbursal of said funds.

**VJAS:** Report already given under the VJAS directors report, nothing to add.

**WEB Site:** no report.

## **Section Reports**

**Aeronautical and Aerospace Sciences:** No report

**Agriculture, Forestry and Aquaculture:** No report

**Astronomy, Mathematics and Physics with Materials Science:** No report

**Biology with Microbiology:** No report

**Biomedical and General Engineering:** all is well

**Botany:** Had a good meeting a JMU

**Chemistry:** no report

**Computer Science:** No report

**Education:** David Hagen passed out a written report of activities and is reported under the committee reports above.

**Environmental Science:** Is planning a stronger outreach to UR with Environmental Science majors/minors to present at the annual meeting.

**Medical Science:** no report

**Natural History and Biodiversity:** There were 5 papers presented at the Annual Meeting, and the section wants to do a better job at recruiting papers. 2010 is named the Year of Biodiversity. Thomas Lovejoy (George Mason U) will be a guest speaker for the section.

**Psychology:** present

**Statistics:** no report

**Structural Biology, Biochemistry and Biophysics:** Ellis Bell passed out a written report. They are planning a special symposium on Education in Molecular Biology for the next meeting to cover possibly teaching science at the college level. They are looking into a grant from NSF to help support this symposium.

**Old Business:** No old Business

**New Business:**

Jim O'Brien wanted to encourage all to support the Science Museum of Virginia and its "green" initiative.

Carolyn Conway announced that dues renewal notices will be going out in the email.

**Announcements:**

Arun Verma thanked Richard Groover for organizing today's meeting. Next Council meeting is 19 March, 2011, location TBD.

AAAS sites have information on and seminars on policy

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** Mike Renfroe, Werner Wieland 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah A. O'Dell, Secretary, VAS

**Motions considered and acted on (other than minute approval and adjournment):**

1. **Motion:** Art Conway moved that the budget as presented be approved as presented. Additionally, any surpluses in the VJAS budget in 2010 be transferred over to the 201 budget. Motion seconded by Art Burke. **Motion passed.**

2. **Motion:** (Wieland, O'Brien 2nd) "That the Executive committee draft a policy statement which supports the National Academy of Science position on Academic Freedom." **Motion passed unanimously**