

# Minutes of the Kansas Academy of Science Council Meeting

October 13, 2000

Emporia, Kansas

President Rex Buchanan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Council members in attendance were Laurie Robbins, James Taylor, Calvin Cink, Scott Kardel, Mike Everhart, Pieter Berendsen, and Larry Skelton. Brenda Oppert joined the meeting at 7:30 (minutes were recorded by L. Robbins prior to that).

The minutes from the last Council meeting, June 30, 2000, were accepted.

The Secretary reported that Academy membership is holding steady at 285 members.

The Treasurer's report indicated that the total income for 2000 thus far is \$14,518. Expenditures total \$7,959, excluding the Fall issue of the Transactions. Income is behind that of 1999, primarily due to lower income in bound volumes and page charges. No sales tax has been paid on the Bulletin or the Transactions.

The KJAS reported that Laura Seger had the Best Research Project that the KJAS state meeting in Spring, 2000. She will receive financial assistance from KJAS to attend the American Association for the Advancement of Science Meeting in February, 2001. More judges will be needed at the next state meeting at Wichita State University, May 3, 2001. KJAS requested the support of KAS in soliciting judges and mentoring students.

The newsletter editor emphasized the need for newsletter articles from members. James Taylor suggested that the Distinguished Lecturers use the newsletter to report on their activities. The mailing of the newsletter will be approximately one month prior to the Fall field trip or the Annual meeting.

The next volume of the KAS Transactions is ready for distribution. In 2000, out of 24 manuscripts submitted, 9 were published, 2 were rejected, and 13 are still in review. James Taylor suggested that the Table of Contents should be added to the KAS website. A question for the webmaster: Can electronic requests for reprints can be made through the website?

There was no report on the website.

In other business:

Pieter Berendsen provided a guide book for tomorrow's field trip to the Hamilton Quarry and Turkey Point. He suggested that next year's field trip be announced early, at the Annual Meeting, with a follow-up reminder to the membership. A problem with the last minute preparation of the guide book could be avoided if a single person was in charge of the field trip. Many groups have fall field trips, and perhaps the KAS could sponsor a joint field trip

with another group.

The slate of candidates for the 2000 elections is finalized, but Larry Skelton still needs some of the bios. Two candidates, James Taylor and J. Triplett, are running for the Council Member at Large vacancy. The election ballots will be sent with dues notices in early November.

The Annual Meeting in 2001 will be held in Lawrence, KS, at the University of Kansas in the Student Memorial Union, April 6-7, 2001. The plenary speaker will be Paul Ehrlich, Stanford University, and a symposium on Kansas Paleontology: 1868-2001; Shells, Bones, and Stones is being organized by Mike Everhart and Mike Morales (Emporia State University). Roger Boyd (Baker University) will lead a field trip to the Baker Wetlands, and Henry Fitch (Professor Emeritus of Ecology and Evolution Biology, University of Kansas) will lead a field trip to the KU Natural History Reserve. The Annual Meeting Committee continues to solicit financial support for the meeting from KU. James Taylor volunteered to send a letter to Kansas Community Colleges with an invitation for membership in the Academy and to participate in the Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting for 2002 is tentatively scheduled for Hays.

A letter to be mailed to science-related clubs at Kansas educational institutions with an invitation to join the KAS as an affiliate, drafted by Buchanan and Oppert, was edited and is attached for final approval (attachment 1).

An update was provided by the Strategic Planning Committee (attachment 2, in edited form). An email to circulate on the KAS listserv was also edited and is attached for final approval (attachment #3). The committee chair will request that the listserv be updated prior to sending the message.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2001.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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### **Attachment 1:**

Dear

We would like to take this opportunity to invite (your organization) to join the Kansas Academy of Sciences. Affiliate membership is only \$30.00 per year. Your Kansas Academy is the 2nd oldest State Academy of Science in the country. The Academy's goals are to encourage science education, disseminate scientific findings, and bring together scientists from various backgrounds.

The Academy has approximately 300 members representing diverse scientific disciplines. The Academy sponsors an annual meeting in the spring at different Kansas campuses, providing an opportunity for members and others to present their research. A field trip is

scheduled in the fall at various natural locations to provide an appreciation for the beauty of Kansas landscapes. Academy publications include *The Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science* and an informational newsletter, both produced semiannually. The Academy Distinguished Lecturers Series provides outstanding speakers to Kansas educational institutions at no cost. The Academy sponsors young Kansas scientists through the Kansas Junior Academy of Science.

For more information on the Academy, please visit [www.washburn.edu/kas](http://www.washburn.edu/kas). We look forward to seeing you at future Academy meetings.

Sincerely,

Rex Buchanan, President

Brenda Oppert, Vice-President

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**Attachment #2:**

**KAS Strategic Planning Committee, 2000-2025**

Updated October, 2000

Committee members:

Brenda Oppert, Chair

Rex Buchanan, Mike Everhardt, Craig Freeman, and Scott Kardel

A review of the Committee for 2001 report indicated that continuity was a problem. The list of objectives should be limited. Possible questions to address:

- What is the role of the Academy?
- What should be the focus areas?
- How can the larger Kansas schools be invited to provide better support of KAS?
- Should the fees structures of the Academy be modified?
- Should the fees charged to author=s be altered for Transactions publications?
- Should Library subscription fees be altered?
- Should the Academy have a membership campaign to increase membership?
- Should Council positions be created to include representative from Kansas Community Colleges and/or Secondary Public Schools?
- Should the KAS Constitution be examined for changes?
- Should the KAS sponsor a Science Advisor or Science Panel to the Governor?
- Should new membership categories be established (i.e., for members of the community)?
- Do we need more field trips?

These suggestions will be considered by the Committee, together with input from the Academy membership via the listserv.

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**Attachment #3:**

Dear Kansas Academy of Sciences Member:

The KAS Strategic Planning Committee for 2000-2025 is formulating a list of objectives for discussion. Your advice on the following will help the committee to recommend direction for the Academy in the next 25 years.

1. The KAS bylaws states that the purposes of the Academy are:

- to encourage education in the sciences and dissemination of scientific information through the facilities of the Academy
- to achieve closer cooperation and understanding between scientists and nonscientists, so that they may work together in a common cause of furthering science

In your opinion, what is the role of the Academy?

2. In the past, the Academy has focused on:

- Promoting science and science education in the State of Kansas
- Serving as a forum and facilitator for interdisciplinary studies and communications among scientists in Kansas

What areas should be the primary focus of the Academy?

3. Who can benefit from Academy programs and activities, such as the Annual Meeting and Annual Field Trip?

4. Please feel free to provide other comments that will help the committee to shape the future of your Academy.