

Minutes of the KAS Council meeting, March 3, 2006.
Wichita State University, Wichita, KS

Kansas Academy of Science (KAS) president, Johanna Foster, called the KAS executive council meeting to order at 4:20pm. Lunch was provided by Past-President, Mike Everhart

KAS board members present included: Pieter Berendsen, S. Christopher Bennett, Mike Everhart, Johanna Foster, Hank Guarisco, Sam Leung, Brenda Oppert, Shaun Schmidt, and Amy Strong,

Kristie Bixby (WSU), co-organizer 2006 annual KAS meeting, was also present.

The meeting was opened with introductions of all the members present.

OLD BUSINESS

Everhart moved, and Guarisco seconded, to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2005 meeting. Minutes were approved as read, and passed unanimously.

Brenda Oppert (Treasurer) provided the Treasurer's report for year-end 2005 and year-to-date, 2006:

	2005	2006 YTD
Checking	\$30,084	\$34,057
Savings	\$ 9,003	\$ 9,003
CD	\$15,468	\$15,546

Motion made to approve the report; seconded and approved. Discussion was held regarding the management of the accounts and where funds designated for awards were being allocated. In addition, the issue of requiring the Treasurer to be bonded was discussed. No action taken.

Amy Strong (KJAS director) reported on the AAAS meeting in St. Louis with Kansas Junior Academy of Science students and indicated that it was a good trip and worth the effort.

Hank Guarisco (KAS Newsletter Editor) reported on the KAS newsletter and his efforts to reduce mailing costs by obtaining "non-profit" status from the U.S. Post Office. The board commended Guarisco on his efforts, and on the appearance of the newsletter.

Kristie Bixby (WSU Meeting Co-organizer) reported on the status of the arrangements for the 2006 meeting to be held at WSU on April 7 and 8, 2006, including the guest speaker, the field trip and facilities. Information has been updated on the KAS List Server. There have been 60 abstracts received for the meeting. Kristie Bixby was commended by the board on the meeting arrangements.

Pieter Berendsen (Secretary) reported on obtaining certificates of recognition for KAS 50-year members and past KAS officers. Motion was made by Berendsen to provide a plaque for James Taylor (Past President) and Larry Skelton (Past Newsletter Editor). Seconded by Everhart and approved.

A brief discussion was held regarding allowing high school students as presenters at the annual meeting. The consensus of the members present was to allow them to present if their abstract was approved, but not to include them as being eligible for the student awards.

Sam Leung (KAS Webmaster) reported that use of the website (hits) continued at normal levels. Everhart commended Leung on the appearance and usefulness of the web page.

Shaun Schmidt reported on the status of the Student Research Grants. Five student grant applications were presented and reviewed by the board. Four awards of \$500 and one award of \$250 were approved (Total = \$2250) . (Motion by Everhart; second by Schmidt). Oppert reported that one of the 2005 award checks was still un-cashed. Everhart indicated he would contact the student.

The KAS position statement on evolution (authored by Greg Liggett) was discussed. The position statement was adapted by the board in 2005 and was recently placed on the KAS webpage. Foster indicated that the position statement was useful to her at the AAAS meeting.

Johanna Foster reported that after reviewing our agreement with the Thomson Gale Group regarding republication of articles from the KAS Transactions, she had sent a letter to the TGG indicating that the KAS was severing the contract at the earliest possible date (scheduled to renew automatically in 2007). The board discussed the agreements with BioOne and JSTOR and agreed that they were beneficial to the KAS.

Pieter Berendsen reported on membership for 2006 and indicated that the number of members is about the same as in 2005 (192 active members, 29 libraries, 12 KJAS). There was a discussion regarding providing a membership application with the registration packet for the 2006 meeting. Motion made to approve, seconded.

NEW BUSINESS

Johanna Foster proposed that the KAS consider hiring a business manager to handle activities that are presently the duties of the KAS Secretary and the KAS Treasurer. She reported on the system used by the Missouri Academy of Sciences. The proposal was discussed and it was noted that such a change would require a revision of the By-laws that would have to be approved by the membership. Further study is required.

Johanna Foster announced that she had accepted a position in Iowa and was resigning as President of the KAS, effective June, 2006. The board wished her well and there was some discussion regarding filling the vacancy. No action taken.

A discussion was held regarding storage of the records accumulated over the years by the KAS. Various members reported on the volume of materials, especially historical, that are scattered out at various locations in the state, and cared for by members of the KAS. Discussion by the members favored some centralized, permanent location and various ideas were discussed. No action taken.

Johanna Foster reported on her attendance of the annual AAAS meeting in St. Louis, and noted that the meeting was worthwhile. While there she participated in a panel discussion regarding the current situation of the debate over teaching alternatives to evolution in public schools. She indicated that the AAAS had withdrawn its approval of its copyrighted materials used by the Kansas Board of Education, and that this would necessitate further changes in the science standards adopted by the KBOE.

Everhart (KAS Transactions Co-editor) reported that the spring 2006 issue (Volume 109, 1/2) of the Transactions was nearing completion (15 articles, about 96 pages) and would have a new cover (white) with a color illustration.

Discussion was held regarding the location of the 2007 and 2008 annual meetings, with no action taken, Leung and Schmidt indicated that Washburn University would be a good site for the 2009 meeting. Everhart suggested meeting at Tabor College (Hillsboro) and Foster indicated she would check on it and other possible localities.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned about 6:30 PM,

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Everhart, KAS Past-president.