

**Minutes**  
**Kansas Academy of Science**  
Spring Meeting: July 6, 2020  
Zoom meeting, 1:00 pm

In attendance: Brian Maricle, Stewart Gardner, Mark LaBarge, Adem Seid, Keri Maricle, Sam Leung, Erika Martin, Jill Fisher, David McKenzie, Erin Morris, Pam Everhart, Mike Everhart, and Dustin Wilgers,

Called to order at 1:02

Approval of the minutes of spring meeting, approved.

Reports

**Treasurer's Report** Shaun could not be here, but he sent out a report

**Secretary's Report**

**Membership** by Sam Leung. We have gotten 18 more members since the last report. Not having the annual meeting hurts, we are at 159.

Committee Reports

**Junior Kansas Academy of Science** Jill Fisher: hosted a Science Fair to make up for the one that was cancelled. Had three project submissions. Had them send in their reports and send in a 5 minute YouTube video. Two students are interested in discussing their projects live. Face to Face has been difficult.

**Transactions** Erika: She would like to stay on, but Pam and Mike would stay on this Fall and Erika would take over more in the Spring. We have a handful of submissions and one looks like it will be rejected. It may be a lighter issue this fall, but that is not unexpected.

Newsletter Hank not in attendance

Old Business

**Student Research Grants** Adem Seid: We sent the Graduate student checks and the undergraduates will be in the Fall. Erin: The due date will be Oct. 5, 2020 for the Undergraduate grants. We had 6 or 7 Graduate applications and, in the past,, there were very few undergraduate applications too. Perhaps having a feedback form to give to students might be helpful. Adem will email their current Rubric to Erin. Questions about past advertisements of the Grants, emails were recommended.

**2021 Annual Meeting** – Brian will check with Duane to see if Newman University was wanting to host still. Anyone else is welcome to host too. McPherson could host (not next year, but 2022 or after). For 2021, if there are Covid issues again, will we cancel or go virtual? For Baker, it seemed we did not have time to get it done this year, but we could talk about the option. Could we host the event as a KAS Board virtually, independent of a school hosting? How would you host that IT-wise? We could just pay for Zoom to have enough accounts to host the

sessions we would like. Dustin willing to be on a committee to help coordinate the meeting. Brian will follow-up with Duane and we can consider a virtual meeting as a possible option. Is there a decision date in mind for when we would need to convert to online? If the meeting is the first weekend in April, then you may want to know how many accounts you would need by March/Mid-March. We would want a decision well before that, perhaps December 1<sup>st</sup> or January 1<sup>st</sup>. Perhaps choose December 15<sup>th</sup>, in coordination with the end of the Fall semester.

### New Business

#### **Print/digital format for journal: Bright Copy**

Bright copy is something that Allen Press sells. Allen Press sends a digital copy of the Transactions and the cover to the editor, who then merges them into one digital document. We could use the website to let subscribers choose to have the electronic copy and/or opt out of the hard copy. We need a site where people can log in once and get a copy. Last Spring issue was 35MB, 20-35MB is a good range of size for now. We just need to have a way for people to log in to the website to download it. We could put something up on the KAS list or put something in the newsletter to see current demand. We would have to look into what it takes to have a website with security features. Another option would be to send an email with the file, or a link to the file to everyone who would like a digital copy. Where is the Newsletter housed? It is on our website and open to the public. We could use Google Drive instead of Dropbox. So, next let us find out who might be interested in a digital copy instead of a hard copy. Would we have a price difference for the digital copy? We could put a note in the Fall issue asking who would be interested. Then, for the 2021 we could let people choose. We already have a relatively reasonable price, so there should not need to be a difference. Would an email with a quick survey be quicker? Brian can send out to the KAS list to ask who is interested in a digital copy instead of a print copy. Could someone ask for both versions and would that be a problem? Not really, should be okay.

**Other new business:** We need more papers for the Fall issue.

#### **Looking ahead: Strategic planning**

What can KAS do to help us get more noticed outside of our current group? Kim Simons had the idea of an infographic poster that we could put up in our various institutions. Facebook group that Mike and Erin can post on. Would it be a good idea to start a Group page that people can join and post on? We will need someone to moderate the content or let everything go. If we make it a Private group, then only group members can post. Right now we are a Page, not a Group. Public group would not be a good idea at all. The Kansas Herpetological Group is a public group with many members and many posts are just “what is this snake I saw today?”. How would be screen people who want to join the private group? Moderating these groups can become a significant task. Pam is willing to be one of a group of moderators. Currently, it seems that guest posts all go to the “community” and not on the Page’s main feed. What information would we like to share on Facebook? What you’re interested in, whatever that may be. Why should people be interested in KAS and how do we catch their attention? We can advertise the meeting on Facebook too. Is it possible for other people to post to the page? If we focus on sharing exciting research, science education, activities happening in Kansas then we are

working to fulfill our mission. One issue with Facebook is that posts tend to go away after 2 days and keeping a website updated with new information can be a lot of work. Admins can share the public posts to the KAS feed.

Can we sponsor even more things, like Kansas Association of Teaching Science/Biology, etc. Can we set up KAS grants for teachers? Would it be helpful to sponsor conference attendance, supplies, or other things? Part of our role as KAS can be to disseminate science to the community and offer service to the community too. We need to find a way to let scientists here know that we exist. Facebook may be great at public communication, but not the best for recruiting members. How do we make ourselves more visible to the scientific community? Pam has worked to email Biology Department heads throughout the state but has not seen much success.

Could we treat Transactions and KAS as a parent journal/organizations for other scientific societies around the state? Can we make an agreement with the other Kansas scientific organizations that they can all funnel into our journal? How do we get the costs figured out? Many of these groups are old offshoots of KAS, but how do we get them to come back and work with us? We could work out a "journal fee" for other organizations so that their members have access to Transactions and can publish there without a fee. Would any of these groups have an interest? Entomology still has a journal and may not be interested, but others may be more interested. The eventual goal would be to have subject editors from each society. Dustin is happy to work out a formal plan to present to these societies to potentially pursue in the future. Pam and Dustin will get together to work on things.

Is K-12 teaching grant a potential target? Yes, we can put together an application similar to our current grant applications fairly easily. What kind of things do K-12 teachers need money for? Could we encourage a category at our annual meeting for K-12 educators to come and present about something they did in their classroom? Our meeting is already crowded with overlapping sessions and is there already another meeting that does this? Workshops might be helpful to attract K-12 educators to our meeting. We could organize things or we could offer a grant for others to organize something similar. Would it be a good idea for a KAS representative to go and do a presentation at KATS KAMPS? Perhaps we hold a Fall workshop to build on the Spring workshops at KAS KAMP? Keri was planning on going to the KATS Camps, as well as Jill Fisher. We could have a table or sponsor it somehow. Can we become a sponsor at the Greater Kansas City Science Fair? How much does this topic overlap with KJAS?

Would we be interested in hosting any Facebook live events? Perhaps include the K-12 audience as well as the general public? Getting the word out about the event would be important. We could make it into a regularly scheduled seminar series. We could reach out to the KAS email list to find people who might be interested. We could also ask those who get grants to present a seminar also. This could be a good option for students who did not get to go to meetings this year. Keri will volunteer to reach out to KATS to see if they are interested. Erin can work on a Teaching Grant application. Some good ideas, keep thinking and working.

**Fall meeting:** October/November, most likely another Zoom meeting, but we can discuss when the time gets closer.

Adjourn at 2:38