

**Virginia Academy of Sciences Leadership Retreat
CHANCO-on-the-James
September 8-9, 2006**

MINUTES

Friday, September 8, 2006

Don Whitney opened the evening discussion at 7:45pm

Attendance:

Donald Whitney – President
 Werner Wieland – President-Elect
 Jennifer Wayne - Secretary
 James Martin – Vice-President
 Jerry Bass – Executive Officer
 Michael Bass – Environment
 John Hess - Archives
 Carolyn Conway – Awards
 Jim O’Brien – Fundraising/AAAS
 Marion Lobstein – Virginia Flora
 Ali Mohamed – Nominations & Elections
 Lisa Martin – Administrative Assistant
 Susan Booth – VJAS Director/Fundraising
 Art Burke - Trust
 Jerry Taylor – Constitution & By-Laws, VSRN

Frequency of Hosting Institution:

Current schedule: 2007 JMU
 2008 Hampton (contract not yet signed though)
 2009 (open)

2007 dates: Wed May 23 Juniors arrive
 Thu May 24 VJAS
 Fri May 25 VAS
 Sat May 26 VAS Executive Committee/ Council meets

Dates chosen because of university academic schedule – when students leave from spring semester, commencement, cleaning of dorm rooms, before summer session begins, SOLs for VJAS.

Jerry Bass distributed recent meeting revenue summary:

YEAR	SITE	GROSS MEETING REVENUE
2006	VT	(\$30,000 estimated)

2005	JMU	\$37,137.11
2004	VCU	\$58,652.55
2003	UVa	\$48,771.55
2002	Hampton	\$52,251.86
2001	JMU	\$27,147.51

Getting expensive even at colleges. The high revenue at VCU as VCU devoted resources so cost decreased & revenue increased. Hampton doesn't have a continuing education center that requires payment. Depending on site, VAS may be charged parking: \$15/registrant at VT incorporated in per person fee; \$8 per registrant at UVa.

Jerry Taylor reports that JMU would be happy to have it there every 2 years.

Feedback very positive from VJAS at JMU, VCU.

Mary Washington not ready to host, particularly with size of VJAS.

Perhaps revive University of Richmond as a site but need a new contact there. Perhaps John Hayden in the Botany department. Should mention scholarship connections and that VAS is a good recruit tool with VJAS. Art Burke suggested getting testimonials from the two VJAS participants who are now attending VCU because VJAS was held there.

Don Whitney expressed that Hampton University hasn't seen much return in terms of recruitment but has in visibility.

Jerry Bass suggested Longwood which has a scholarship and it trying to improve its reputation. Need a contact there with some clout.

Art Burke suggested looking retrospectively over the past decade or so to establish a selection process: 1) # new members after a conference; 2) how many participants from the hosting university community; 3) look at junior/senior registration numbers.

Academy has to have revenue to survive but main purpose is to serve.

Susan Booth reported that VCU, VT, UR, Lynchburg, Sweetbriar are new participants to VAST. The goal is to expose students to more universities but not as critical an element.

What locations are we not reaching out to for hosting the annual meeting? VJAS and judges love JMU, Hampton, Radford where rooms and food are centrally located; easier to get judges to come. At VT, UVa, things were too spread out. ODU wasn't too welcoming and wanted 30% of revenue, but they may have a change of focus. Most important issue for VJAS is judges from senior academy.

Jerry Taylor and others agreed that 3 years in advance was an appropriate timing to schedule sites or issues could change at site. Should consider VCU for 2009, JMU again in 2010. Jerry Bass to investigate potential of VCU for 2009.

Rosemary Barra, Susan Booth, and Bob Willis created a document detailing issues to negotiate with universities about needs of VJAS/VAS when generating a contract. Some factors to consider:

- undergraduate participation is more than graduate students
- good to have posters in one place, centrally located
- allot more time to poster viewing/judging
- increase financial incentives at VAS
- perhaps combine registration with membership

3) Program Issues at the Annual Meeting:

Forensic Science or Nanotechnology as new sections was suggested. VCU has programs in these areas; VSU, Hampton are starting ones. They have been discussed before at prior retreats – not hard to start a new section but needs active officers. Often an offshoot of a growing section. Must have people to ask to be a section officer. May become official after one successful program at an annual meeting. Art Burke suggested symposium on the topic to get it started.

Marion Lobstein offered that symposia seem to attract new members. A possible idea would be to tie in the 400th anniversary of Jamestown. Susan Booth suggested Engineering Design & Technology could be a good symposia topic. Governor's schools might consider insisting applicants have participated in VJAS.

Are we meeting the needs of academy members? Industrial members have been lost. Jerry Bass offered that VAS receives more notice at small colleges/university in comparison to large research universities. Undergraduate research competition a great draw.

Ali Mohamed suggested a survey for membership expectations.

Susan Booth suggested to followup with VJAS members now at college/universities.

Get business leaders on board

4) Adjourn at 9:55p

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September 8-9, 2006

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Saturday, September 9, 2006

Don Whitney opened the morning retreat discussion at 9:15am

Attendance:

Donald Whitney – President
Werner Wieland – President-Elect
James Martin – Vice-President
Jennifer Wayne - Secretary
Jerry Bass – Executive Officer
Michael Bass – Environment
John Hess - Archives
Jim O'Brien – Fund raising/AAAS
Carolyn Conway – Awards
Marion Lobstein – Virginia Flora
Ali Mohamed – Nominations & Elections
Lisa Martin – Administrative Assistant
Susan Booth – VJAS Director/Fundraising
Art Burke – Trust
Jerry Taylor – Constitution & By-Laws, VSRN
Elsa Falls – Trust
David Knappenburger – VSRN

Approval of minutes from last 3 meetings: 11/20/05, 3/25/06, 5/26/06 Elsa suggested someone go through minutes in detail if they are to be published. Minor changes made to minutes. Moved/seconded/approved unanimously. Need to document that Bob Willis was nominated and approved as Fellow in Virginia Scientist issue and will go into Journal. Will be added to March minutes.

VSRN Report – David Knappenburger

The main mission is to connect to working teachers and then to students.

Website: new configuration created to meet state/federal guidelines/regulations for access. Incorporating statistics for number of hits. Should look at opening up site/database for students to connect to a researcher given teacher approval (student logon initiative). 12 colleges/universities shown on site with links.

Working on a series of workshops for teachers, leading student research.

Membership list is being updated: 480 teachers, 187 scientists. In comparison, VAS membership is 2000.

\$5000 has been allocated to VSRN but hasn't been depleted.

John Hess said many federal funding agencies look for K-12 initiatives so how to

get the word out to universities that VSRN exists? Perhaps through the Sponsored Programs offices or academy members who would disseminate information.

Art Burke suggested contacting the US Secretary of Education about VSRN for suggestions and make her aware of its existence.

Susan Booth said some Department of Education grants mention VAST involvement but no support letters exist.

4) Finance Report – Jerry Bass

Report distributed (attachment 1) and comparison to prior year. Conclusion is that VAS is solvent. Out of line are VAS expenses but because program printing was entered in the wrong place. Income from meetings decreased so dependence on Trust funds is increasing. Audit/insurance fees increased. Dues/annual income should to up in Fall as annual members renew and annual meeting finances are finalized. So the \$11k deficit should turn positive.

Wants to reenact finance committee; Don Whitney to appoint a committee; followup by email. Perhaps Jerry Bass, Elsa, VAS treasurer, VJAS director would be appropriate members. Only difficulty is the conflict that VJAS director submits a budget to the committee for approval. Art Burke offered his time to the committee. John Hess's involvement may be solicited. A maximum of 5 was felt appropriate.

Jerry Taylor suggested decreased the number of journal issues/year to save on postage/printing costs. 3 issues in 2005 cost \$8500. Susan Booth said VJAS is doing an electronic journal as they couldn't afford hardcopy.

Nothing is published from Fall research meeting which cost \$3900 in 2005. It is getting popular; some income is realized from \$10 registration fee.

Jerry asked for budget requests before end of September from Susan Booth, Jim Martin, Ali Mohamed, Marion Lobstein, Jerry Taylor, Jim O'Brien.

5) Trust Report – Elsa Falls

Report distributed.

Trust committee (Elsa as chair, Rae Carpenter, Rosemary Barra, Jerry Taylor as ex-officio) has met two times since the VT meeting, once at VT and then again in August.

As of 9/9/06, \$1,064,000. No longer have 9-10% drawdown from interested as investment returns are decreasing. Perhaps a 5% return can be realized.

1% automatically goes to the Fund for the Future. 7% of all new monies goes to Fund for the Future which was done to insure monies available for funds that pay salaries.

All funds are American Funds. Pulled out of American Century because of fund duplications. Redistributed larger funds like VJAS into subfunds so ,all eggs were not in one basket. S&P used for comparison.

Jerry Bass transferred \$4000 each of his years for VJAS loan from Trust. They borrowed \$50k. This was started in 2003/2004 and last 10 years.

Jim O'Brien said the Legacy Fund was zeroed out and put into Fund for the Future.

6) Awards – Carolyn Conway

Working on getting list of VAS 2006 awards to students. Ali Mohamed has four applications for research grants which was sent in May with a July deadline. Most likely there will be four awards.

7) Virginia Scientists – Jim O'Brien

Most recent issue sent to Jim Martin, including editor position opening. Currently aiming for 3 issues/year.

Jim's assistant helped to get this issue together; she would be willing to do the next if paid. Jim's student would do the newsletter for \$400/issue but this was not a popular option with the attendees. Jim to send a summary of his assistant's name/address/what she did to Don Whitney who will make a request to Jerry Bass to pay her \$400 for past work.

Susan Booth mentioned that VJAS gives a \$500 stipend to each of 3 students for VAST and one stipend for the newsletter.

Prior expenses for newsletter: \$2600 in 2004; \$1900 in 2005; \$2700 in 2006 budgeted but not used yet.

The question was raised whether the newsletter has outlived its usefulness. John Hess pointed out that no professional organization doesn't have a newsletter.

Don Whitney charges the Publications committee to find an editor/overseer.

Everyone expressed appreciation to Jim O'Brien for all he has done with the newsletter.

Next Meetings Next Council meeting set for Sunday, November 19th at the Science Museum of Virginia, 9:30a.

Next Research meeting set for Saturday, October 21st at Science Museum of Virginia; it should be made an annual October meeting on VAS website.

BREAK FOR LUNCH 12:30pm; RESUMED AT 1:40pm**2007 Annual Meeting at JMU**

Dinner with Scientists will be Thursday evening for VJAS

Where will the VAS poster facility be? Last time it was in the hallway. Discussed was whether to include the length of time to visit posters in the program

President to choose Negus lecturer and can offer an honorarium of \$500

VJAS has two speakers – one from the host institution and a second. (Wednesday/Thursday evenings).

VAS Vice President is in charge of the whole program including special symposia. One topic previously offered was on Evolution vs Intelligent Design. Jim O'Brien offered Francis Collins; his book, Can You Believe in God and Evolution? Art Burke offered Astronomy and Pluto as a symposia topic. Jerry Taylor offered the woman at Harvard who was in VJAS 40 years ago.

Have to insure an audience is present in VAS sections for VJAS presentations.

Statistics section had a big group in 2006 while Aerospace section didn't meet. Neither had information in the 2006 program however.

Jerry Taylor asked that if there is to be a reserved table for the banquet at VAS,

make sure the seats are filled. Host institution's administration should be acknowledged for their support at the banquet.

10) Future Issues – Jim O'Brien

Membership:

VAS brochure distributed. It has been sent to faculty in community colleges within a 50 mile radius of host institution with a letter in the past. Will do so again, around JMU.

Art Burke suggested a one year membership (perhaps with restrictions) be offered to all new faculty members. Jerry Bass suggested to target middle universities (such as CNU, Longwood).

Jerry Taylor suggested that VAS write a letter to the University President and ask for names/addresses of new faculty, and then VAS will put a link for the university on the VSRN website.

Marion Lobstein suggested to target the VCCS meeting, 10/11, in Virginia Beach. Community colleges are growing in science/math education. They have displays as well.

To bring in new people to VAS and its sections, sections should get new faculty into small roles such as session chair or create group of presentations, then into officer. Other:

Lisa Martin mentioned that numerous students and others present without being members of VAS despite the rule. Income from student membership is only \$1500 so VAS is losing money on them because they get mailings which are typically returned because students move. And VAS pays for the return postage as well.

Jennifer Wayne suggested to have nonmember and member registration fees different and drop the requirement that presenters must be members. It was motioned/seconded to remove the requirement that presenters must be members; one author must be a member; the presenter must register to present – unanimous. This issue to be discussed again at the November meeting.

Susan Booth mentioned the 5k Run/Walk will be held Saturday September 23 in Pony Pasture Farms. Proceeds to go to Phil Robinson Research Fund.

Although typically done biannually, there was a desire to schedule the next retreat in September 2007 at Chanco.

11) Adjourn at 3:30pm. Group photograph taken.