

VIRGINIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

May 20, 1994

Present: Elsa Q. Falls (President), Thomas O. Sitz (President-Elect), James P. O'Brien (Past President, 1993-94), Rosemary Barra (Secretary), Kenneth C. Jacobs (Treasurer; Councilor, Astronomy, Math and Physics Section), Donald R. Cottingham (VJAS Director), Golde I. Holtzman (Past President, 1992-93; Chair, Archives Committee and 75th Anniversary Committee), Gerald R. Taylor (Past President, 1991-92; Co-Chair, Constitution and Bylaws Committee), Vera B. Remsburg (Trustee, Science Museum of Virginia), James H. Martin (Editor, Virginia Journal of Science), Judy Niehaus (Chair, Research Committee), Robert A. Berquest (Councilor, Psychology Section), Carolyn B. Conway (Chair, Awards Committee; Councilor, Biology Section), Barry Knisley (Chair, Natural History and Biodiversity Section), Greg Cook (Editor, Virginia Scientists; Chair, Computer Science Section); J. Mark Wittkofski (Councilor, Archaeology Section); Thomas G. Teates (Councilor, Education Section; Co-Chair, Science Education Committee), W. Cullen Sherwood (Councilor, Geology Section), William P. Harrison (Secretary, Biomedical and General Engineering Section), Ertle Thompson (AAAS Representative), Arthur W. Burke, Jr. (Chair, Finance and Endowment Committee; Assistant to Executive Secretary-Treasurer), Marion B. Lobstein (Councilor, Botany Section; Co-Chair, Public Affairs Committee), Richard Brandt (Chair, Long Range Planning Committee), Charles O'Neal (Secretary, Microbiology and Molecular Biology Section), Richard B. Minnix (Co-Chair, Local Arrangements Committee - VMI), R. Dean Decker (Past VJAS Director).

The meeting was called to order by President Elsa Falls at 9:35 AM, and a motion to accept the agenda was approved. Minutes from the last Council meeting on May 18, 1994 were not available and will be acted on at the Fall Council Meeting.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

President - Elsa O. Falls

Copies of the 1994-95 VAS Committee assignments were distributed, and President Elsa Falls indicated that a few modifications will be made in the list the addition of the VJAS officers and the members on the 75th Anniversary Committee which is still being formed.

The term of Paul J. Homsher on the Trust Committee having expired, Ertle Thompson moved that he be reappointed. This motion was seconded by Gerald Taylor and passed unanimously by Council.

President Falls distributed the proposed VAS Schedule of Responsibilities for 1994-95. Ertle Thompson asked when the address change for the Executive Secretary - Treasurer will go into effect. It was decided that the change will occur

after the actual move to the Science Museum this summer, and that an announcement will be placed in the Virginia Scientists.

President Falls also requested input from the members of Council for possible speakers at next year's annual meeting.

President-Elect - Thomas O. Sitz

No report

Secretary - Rosemary Barra

No report

Treasurer - Kenneth C. Jacobs

No report

Executive Secretary-Treasurer - Blanton Bruner

President Falls indicated that Blanton Bruner and Arthur Burke needed to be reappointed as the Executive Secretary-Treasurer and Assistant to the Executive Secretary-Treasurer respectively. Gerald Taylor made the motion to reappoint Blanton Bruner and Arthur Burke which was seconded by Don Cottingham and unanimously approved by Council.

Arthur Burke reported that the auditors' report showed that the Academy is in good financial standing with a gain of approximately \$27,000 during 1993. This gain was due primarily to the actions of the Trust Committee and the performance of the stock market.

Past President 1993-94 - James O'Brien

Absent (he joined the meeting later)

Past President 1992-93 - Golde Holtzman

No report

Past President 1991-92 - Gerald Taylor

No report

LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE REPORTS

H. Kent Moore and Diane M. Spresser from James Madison University reported that the annual meeting was going well and presented the following statistics on the number of people attending the meeting.

| <u>VJAS</u> | | <u>VAS</u> | |
|-------------------|-----|--------------------|-----|
| Paid Participants | 860 | Pre-registered | 310 |
| Parents & Friends | 110 | Registered on Site | 120 |
| TOTAL | 970 | TOTAL | 430 |

Approximately 30 of the on site registrants also became new members.

They reported on two problems they encountered while organizing the annual meeting. The first involved the insurance coverage for the meeting. The insurance premium for the meeting was approximately \$400. The insurance agent suggested that the Academy should carry a blanket coverage rather than a policy that just covers the meeting, and that this policy would be less expensive. The other problem concerned getting local help. They pointed out that students were not available since classes were not in session, and that they were given some tasks that were difficult to manage due to the lack of help.

President Falls thanked Kent and Diane for all of their hard work and indicated that she will work to take care of the problems for next year.

Marion Lobstein asked that in the future when room assignments are being made for the different sessions that an effort be made to keep sections with similar interests in the same building. This year it was impossible to attend some papers since the meeting rooms were sometimes far apart.

Dick Minnix reported for the 1995 Local Arrangements Committee from VMI. He indicated that the subcommittees have already been organized for next year's meeting, and that they will be working on the housing problems involving the junior academy and Natural Bridge. They will report on their progress at the summer VJAS meeting.

SECTION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORTSAeronautical and Aerospace Science

Absent

Agriculture, Forestry and Aquaculture

Absent

Archaeology - J. Mark Wittkofski

It has been a good meeting, attendance has increased and we look forward to next year.

Astronomy, Mathematics, and Physics - Kenneth C. Jacobs

Today's session is still in progress. They had 24 papers and 2 posters in their session including 11 student presentations.

Biology - Carolyn M. Conway

The Biology Section had 23 oral presentations and 12 posters. During the section meeting, concerns were voiced again about the fact that students who come as observers are required to pay a registration fee. Dean Decker commented that at all national meetings student observers are required to register and pay. Richard Brandt observed that each section can get up to \$100 from the Academy and if they wished could use these funds to pay the registration fees for student observers.

Concerns were also raised about the scheduling of poster sessions concurrently with paper presentations which prevented members of the section from attending both types of presentations. Possibly the poster sessions could be scheduled during a wine and cheese reception or some other function so that they would not conflict with the oral presentations.

Biomedical and General Engineering - William P. Harrison

Good meeting with many good papers.

Botany - Marion Lobstein

A total of 26 papers and posters were presented at this year's meeting. They were disappointed that the VJAS winner did not show up to present at the section meeting and requested that the section be notified if the student is not going to attend.

Don Cottingham described the problems associated with notifying the student presenters and the short time interval between the announcement and the actual presentation. It was suggested that maybe the sponsor could be notified on Wednesday night so that the student would be prepared to give the presentation on Thursday morning after the awards ceremony. Don will pursue this issue.

Marion also reported that they enjoyed the trip to the Arboretum and they are looking forward to field trips next year at VMI.

Chemistry - Thomas O. Sitz

This meeting was the best in recent years. The VJAS student presentation involving Enzyme Kinetics was excellent.

Computer Science - Greg Cook

Successful meeting

Education - Thomas Teates

This was a good meeting, and the student papers were excellent. One situation came up concerning a group called the Virginia Science Leadership Association. They asked for space on our program but it was after the schedule had already been submitted. They ended up meeting at the same time, and since we share many common interests a conflict was created in which some of the members of both organizations had to choose which meetings to attend. We will explore ways to deal with this conflict before next year.

Environmental Science

Absent

Geography

Absent

Geology - W. Cullen Sherwood

Fifteen papers were scheduled, and the attendance was higher than last year.

Materials Science

Absent

Medical Science

A total of 43 papers were scheduled this year, and the meetings will be going on until 3:30 this afternoon.

Microbiology and Molecular Biology

This year only 3 papers were submitted because of the conflict with the national meeting. These papers were moved to the Medical Science Section, and the Microbiology Section did not meet.

Psychology - Robert A. Berquest

This year 39 papers were presented. The section needs to consider having poster presentations in the future. We also hope to look at ways to encourage participation by institutions that participated in the past but are not present now.

Statistics

This year there was a decrease in attendance. The new officers of the section will work to increase participation.

PROPOSED SECTION - NATURAL HISTORY AND BIODIVERSITY

Barry Knisley reported that the Natural History and Biodiversity proposed section had a successful meeting, and that 16 papers, 1 poster and 2 student presentations were made. Since they have now met the requirement of having one successful meeting, this group wishes to become an official section of the Academy. James O'Brien moved that Natural History and Biodiversity become a section of

the Virginia Academy of Science. This motion was seconded by Don Cottingham.

Carolyn Conway commented on behalf of the Biology Section. Members of the Biology Section are concerned about the overlap between this new section and Biology, and she indicated that as the representative of the Biology Section she would vote against establishing this new section. Arthur Burke noted that in previous years the number of papers in the Biology section required that two concurrent sessions were run. The Biology section appears to be very healthy. James O'Brien noted that some of the presentations that he would expect to be presented in the Psychology section were presented instead in the Medical Science section. Overlap in interests between different sections is to be expected.

James Martin called for the question and the motion passed with one negative vote.

It was suggested that the section secretaries of Biology, Botany and Natural History and Biodiversity consult with each other when they prepare the schedule for next year so that papers that would appeal to the same people are not presented at overlapping times.

DIRECTORS' AND REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

VJAS Director - Don Cottingham

President Falls announced that Don Cottingham needed to be reappointed by Council as the Director of the VJAS. Ertle Thompson moved and Art Burke seconded the reappointment of Don Cottingham. This motion was passed unanimously by Council. Elsa Falls announced that Don was planning on retiring from this position after the 1995 Annual meeting and that plans are being made to look for a new director.

Don Cottingham reported that this year's meeting was very successful, and that they had made a few changes. They allowed parents who drove in for the day to attend the presentations of their children without being charged. They also included lunch on Thursday in the package. This was done to encourage the students to attend some of the meetings of the Senior Academy.

The summer meeting at Graves Mountain Lodge will be held the third Saturday in July, and will deal with the regionalization plan. The director of the Ohio Junior Academy will be the speaker. At this meeting they will discuss the possibility of having joint papers presented at future meetings. The problems associated with housing at VMI will also be addressed and, as stated before, members of the Local Arrangement Committee for VMI will attend this meeting.

President Falls thanked Don for all his hard work.

Visiting Scientist's Program - Jack Cranford

Absent

AAAS Representative - Ertle Thompson

Gerald Taylor moved that Ertle Thompson be reappointed as AAAS Representative for the term specified in the bylaws which is consistent with the AAAS term. This motion was seconded by Don Cottingham and unanimously approved by Council.

Ertle Thompson had no report beyond what was presented at Wednesday's council meeting.

Science Museum of Virginia - Trustee Vera Remsburg

No report

Jeffress and Gwathmey Memorial Trust Allocations Committee Representative

Richard B. Brandt

James O'Brien moved that Richard Brandt be reappointed as the Representative to the Jeffress and Gwathmey memorial Trust Allocations Committee. This motion was seconded by Gerald Taylor and passed unanimously by Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTSArchives Committee - Golde Holtzman

Golde Holtzman reported that Charlotte Webb met with the Fellows, and gave them a progress report on the VAS history she is writing. Golde also reminded Council that the proceeds from the sale of the book on the James River go to the Fellows.

Awards Committee - Carolyn Conway

As of this morning, the VAS presented 9 best student papers awards, 9 honorable mentions and 1 poster award (in Biology). More awards will be made after the meetings today.

Constitution and Bylaws - Gerald Taylor

Gerald Taylor distributed to the members of Council a document entitled "Amendments to the Bylaws of the Virginia Academy of Science as approved at its Spring 1994 meeting" (attached). These amendments have been approved. The constitution changes indicated on the document entitled "Constitution Changes

Approved by Council and Distributed to Membership as Directed by the Virginia Academy of Science Constitution" (attached) have been passed at the Academy Conference.

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee moved that Article II: Duties of Officers Section 2 and 3 of the bylaws be passed (attached). These bylaws were reviewed by Council at its February meeting and were distributed to the membership of the Academy. This motion was unanimously approved by Council.

Gerald Taylor also distributed a document entitled "Proposed Bylaws Changes Approved by Spring 1994 Council for Distribution to Membership" (attached). The Constitution and Bylaws Committee moves that Council approve the following Bylaws: Article III: Duties of Standing Committees, Article XIII: Virginia Scientists Newsletter and Article XIV: Official Abbreviations. This motion was unanimously approved by Council.

President Falls thanked Gerald Taylor and Michael Bass for their work on the Constitution and Bylaws.

Environment - J.L. Murray

Jim Murray was absent since he was attending the World Watch Conference. James O'Brien reported that approximately 35 people were at the Conference.

Finance and Endowment - Arthur W. Burke, Jr.

The Academy is financially in good shape and currently has assets in the neighborhood of three times its annual liability.

Fund Raising - James O'Brien

Will present plan in November.

Long Range Planning - Richard B. Brandt

Tom Haas, the Local Arrangements Chair for the 1996 meeting at VCU, has been invited to attend the Local Arrangements Meeting at VMI. ODU will host the 1999 Annual Meeting.

Membership and Public Affairs Committees - Marion Lobstein

Marion indicated that the Committee is discussing ways to increase membership and will possibly target community colleges, minority institutions and high school teachers. No teachers signed up for the Continuing Education Credit (attached), but they will work on this again next year. The new membership pamphlet is available. It was also suggested that space be allowed so that the name of any new

sections could easily be added in the future. Marion indicated that the pamphlet is on computer and can easily be changed.

Nominations and Elections Committee - Gerald Taylor

Gerald Taylor requested that he be sent nominations for President-Elect, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary.

Publications - James Martin and Greg Cook

Jim Martin indicated that the next issue of the Virginia Journal of Science will be out in about one month. He requested that more papers be submitted for publication.

Greg Cook asked for information that can be placed in the Newsletter. This information can be sent to him either via E-mail or on disc. July 15th is the deadline for the next issue.

Research - Judy H. Niehaus

Tom Sitz, as out going chair of the committee, indicated that they will soon finalize the small project grants. Judy Niehaus encouraged people to apply for the grants next year.

Science Advisory - William L. Dewey and Ernest R. Stout

Absent

Science Education - Thomas G. Teates and Maurice P. Lynch

No report

Arthur Burke commented on the VQUEST program. He participates in this program, and believes that it is accomplishing its mission and is set for about three more years.

Virginia Flora - Marion Lobstein

The meeting yesterday went well and we are still working on updating an atlas. A concern of the committee is how to improve botanical education at the college level as well as through the primary and secondary schools.

75th Anniversary Committee

James O'Brien indicated that the committee was still being formed and that Golde Holtzman will be the chair of the committee. Golde stated that during the next six months the committee will be setting its goals, and if anyone has any ideas they are welcome to join the committee.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Don Cottingham commented that the Virginia Association of Science Teachers would like to have on their Council a representative from the VAS. Don stated that as an organization VAS is not working to solve the problems associated with science education and that VAST and VSLA do not have the political clout needed to effect the decisions that are being made. He suggested that the organizations involved must consolidate their efforts in order to deal with the problems of science education in the state of Virginia.

Arthur Burke made the motion that this topic be moved to the Long Range Planning Committee for immediate attention. James O'Brien stated that this issue should be handled instead by the Science Advisory and Science Education Committees. After further discussion, Art Burke withdrew his motion. James O'Brien then made a motion to remand to the Science Advisory and Science Education Committees the issues relevant to the VSLA and VAST and that the president appoint representatives to these two organizations as she sees fit. This motion was seconded by Richard Brandt and unanimously approved by Council. These committees were asked to report on this issue at the Fall Council meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45.