

**MINUTES OF THE  
ALABAMA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Athens, Alabama and via Zoom 3/16/2022 7:00 PM CST**

Meeting was called to order at 7:20 pm by Jack Shelley-Tremblay

Those in attendance were:

Prakash Sharma	Mel Blake
Jack Shelley-Tremblay	Jonghwa Oh
Ellen Buckner	Rick Roberts
Cameron Gren	Matthew Edwards
Ken Marion	Donna Perygin
Melvin Blake	Nancy Croomes
Ken Roblee	Virginia Vilardi
Vinoy Thomas	Akshaya Kumar
Jeff Morris	Mark Jones
Larry Krannich	Ronald Merritt
Richard Hudiburg	

The meeting began with an introduction of the officers of the AAS, an acknowledgement of the outstanding service over many years of Larry Krannich, and an introduction of the members present. Gratitude was expressed for the excellent work done by Nancy Croomes and Ronald Merritt at Athens State as the host institution for this annual meeting.

University of Alabama and Auburn University at Montgomery will be adding new state science fair sites.

Addendum to the Fall 2021 meeting minutes: Dr. Matthew Edwards was present. Ken Marion moved to accept the minutes as amended and Richard Hudiburg seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The following is an update of the new Action Items:

Item	Responsible Persons	Issue	Minutes
99 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, March 16-18, 2022, Local Arrangements update	Athens State University Local Arrangements: Ronnie Merritt, Chair; Nancy Croomes	Update on arrangements [See C-1]	Ronald Merritt summarized the local arrangements committee work in preparation for the spring 2022 meeting. More details can be found in the Executive Committee Report. All present expressed

			<p>their gratitude to the committee for their preparations.</p> <p>Dr. Michael Hallman arranged for the donation of masks for the meeting this year.</p>
Put together a Gorgas Development Program to raise funds to increase the Gorgas corpus.	Development Committee	Gorgas Development Program	Please see the 100 <sup>th</sup> anniversary committee info below. Also, this issue will be addressed in Fall 2022.
Establish a 100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of AAS Committee to design a program for the 100 <sup>th</sup> annual meeting	Executive Director and 100 <sup>th</sup> annual meeting Local Arrangements Chair	Approve committee and set goals and strategies [See Appendix B]	<p>Ellen Buckner summarized her thoughts about how to summarize 100 years of science and education. Production of a video documentary on the senior academy is under way. Dr. Buckner also proposes that we bring focus to our most important or interesting initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mel Blake will be developing a passport (similar to the passport program run by the US National Parks System) for the Alabama Science Trail. Visitors will earn stamps at each site.</li> <li>• Emmanuel Waddell will be heading up the creation of a program or fellowship/award for mentoring in science named for Dr. Adriel D. Johnson. Dr. Johnson was an active member of the AAS, esteemed teacher and mentor of young scientists. A capital campaign could establish an endowed scholarship as one of the AAS investment funds.</li> <li>• Mickie Powell &amp; Adrienne Ludwick – Continue to develop the Mason Teacher Scholarship for STEM Teachers, working to partner with Schools of Education to encourage participation in AAS and ASTA.</li> <li>• Jack Shelley-Tremblay &amp; Mark Jones – Continue to develop partnerships and initiatives with Alabama State Science Fair, ISEF, Regeneron Science Talent Search to increase participation, teacher workshops, and outreach. The science fair will be restructured from the ground up, with all universities state wide sharing a</li> </ul>

			<p>single submission platform. This will streamline the submission process greatly. Members are requested to spread the word that the process will be much simpler, so hopefully participation can be broadened. Auburn Univ will be running the state science fair starting next year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Matthew Edwards &amp; Virginia Vilardi – Develop a 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorative booklet on history highlights of the Academy, memento at banquet, and/or appropriate 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary memorabilia for availability at the 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Creative ideas from science students for 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.</li> </ul> <p>Jack Shelley-Tremblay expressed gratitude to Ellen Buckner and the committee for their work. Ellen Buckner moved to accept these suggestions and Richard Hudiburg seconded the motion. The motion passed.</p>
Assess the feasibility of incorporating virtual aspects to the AJAS/Gorgas Competitions	Mark Jones, Ellen Buckner, Virginia Vilardi, Mary Lou Ewald	Incorporating virtual aspects to AJAS and Gorgas Competitions	<p>Virginia Vilardi reported that the regional science Olympiad competitions this year were virtual, but the state competition will be in person. For the science fairs, there were a combination of virtual and in person meetings. Next year, all meetings will hopefully be in person. Students are uploading recordings of their presentations so that judges can do some pre-judging before the presentations. Ellen Buckner asked about accessibility and whether online regional competitions enhance participation. Mark Jones reported that participation has decreased. Late submitting student can, however, be moved to a different region with a later deadline. A meeting of regional science fair directors is coming up in May/June 2022. Please send ideas about how to increase participation and accessibility, please email them directly to Jack Shelley-Tremblay</p>
Gorgas Scholarship Program	Ken Marion, Chair, Budget and Finance	Report on Periodic Review of	<p>Ken Marion summarized the history of the Gorgas Investment Account. The funds came from Alabama Power and were</p>

Investment Account		Gorgas Investment Account [See C-2]	invested with RFG Advisory Group. Last year the account grew 8-9%, and \$6000 was withdrawn to pay for the Gorgas competition. This spring, the value of our investments has fallen with the stock market in general. Our manager predicts a period of volatility this year. The committee will meet this summer to review the fund again. Mel Blake asked whether the manager is a fiduciary, which he is.
Identify post 2023 hosts for AAS Annual meetings	Date and Place of Meeting	UAB (2024); BSC (after 2024); ACOM (2024)	Jack Shelley-Tremblay proposes a late spring meeting for the date and place committee.
Invite Amanda Fuller to speak to the AAS Executive Board on Wednesday June 1 <sup>st</sup> at 5:00 pm via Zoom.	Jack Shelley-Tremblay	Request approval for \$250 honorarium. Ms. Fuller would provide consulting for the long-range planning of the Academy.	<p>Larry Krannich described the historical role of the National Association of Academies of Science, which was that they were not substantially involved with state academies. A few months ago, they reached out via email to offer assistance and interaction to the state academies. Larry participated in an interview about how the Alabama Academy functions. The NAAS wants to facilitate strategic planning by state academies. They also hold an annual meeting virtually.</p> <p>The purpose of the honorarium is that Ms. Fuller has been able to make a career out of being an academy director and has provided her expertise to the Alabama Academy.</p> <p>Jack Shelley-Tremblay moved to approve the request for a \$250 honorarium upon completion of her in person training and 10 hours of consulting, and Richard Hudiburg seconded the motion. The motion was approved.</p> <p>Mark Jones reported that he has had very little communication with the NAAS.</p> <p>Jack Shelley-Tremblay and Ellen Buckner clarified that our state paper reading competition sends the winners to the Junior Science and Humanities Society (JSHS).</p>

			<p>The NAAS is a separate entity that does not sponsor our state competition. The Alabama Academy also has an AAAS representative. Ellen Buckner suggested that we might need a new AAAS representative.</p> <p>Regeneron Science Talent Search also offers a competition, but we have not had many students participate. In that competition for a long while. Virginia Vilardi reported that it is difficult for students to be prepared by the fall due date (November), and the paperwork is extensive. Ellen suggested that the top juniors in the competition be encouraged to apply in their senior year. Virginia reported that it is difficult to get students to follow through with a submission. Jack Shelley-Tremblay suggested that with the restructuring of the state science fair structure, there will be opportunities to express ideas about how to increase participation in these competitions.</p>
Nominate a representative to the NAAS representative for a 3-year term.	Jack Shelley-Tremblay	NAAS is the national agency that organizes the AJAS paper reading, and houses many of our peer state academies.	Jack Shelley-Tremblay will call the executive director of the NAAS to determine what their focus is and whether we should become involved.
Nominate Dr. Nayak to serve as an Associate Journal Editor for the JAAS.	Jack Shelley-Tremblay	Dr. Nayak has volunteered to serve. <a href="https://www.tuskegee.edu/programs-courses/colleges-schools/cas/physics/physics-faculty-and-staff">https://www.tuskegee.edu/programs-courses/colleges-schools/cas/physics/physics-faculty-and-staff</a>	Prakash Sharma described Dr. Nayak's qualifications. She is a faculty member at Tuskegee.

The Executive Committee Report was discussed:

B-4- Second Vice President Report – Vinoy Thomas described the nominees. The motion was amended from “officer at large” to “member at large” and from “graduate student committee” to “graduate student officer.”

Nominees include:

Second VP: Mathew Edwards, AAMU

Mason Scholarship committee: Enrique Jackson, Miles College

Mason Scholarship Committee: Michael Hallman, Alabama Department of Health,

Research Committee: Vinoy Thomas

Graduate student officer: Ranjith Pillay (UAB)

Member at large: Daniel Lerew (Southern Company)

Member at large: Vineeth Vijayan (ASU)

Board of Trustees: Larry Krannich, Ron Hunsinger, Richard Hudiburg, Adrienne Ludwick

Gorgas Committee: Lauren Rast Boban

Place and Date Committee Chair: Kenneth Roblee

Place and Date Committee: Minoj Mishra

Research Committee: Ruigang Wang.

Prakash Sharma seconded the motion to nominate the slate of new committee members. The motion passed.

B-6 – Treasurer Report – The statements provided do not include the incoming funds through paypal. The funds that the bank surrendered to the state have been recovered by Bettina Riley. Mark Jones has been unable to write checks on the PNC account since they took over from Compass, because they did not transfer the signature cards. Our financial shape is good.

C-2- Finance Committee Report- total assets appear to be in good shape and have recovered to the level where AAS finances were in 2006.

Richard Hudiburg reported that one of the coauthors of the Carmichael Award passed away, and there is no precedent for how to award funds if the coauthor has passed. It was determined that the funds be sent to their academic department for use in student awards. Richard will be contacting the department for guidance. Jack Shelley-Tremblay moved to distribute the funds to the institution as suggested, and Matthew Edwards seconded the motion.

Jack Shelley-Tremblay read the resolutions from the Resolutions Committee. Ellen Buckner moved to accept the resolutions as written and Charles Roberts seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The transition to a new ED will be complete after this annual meeting. Ellen Buckner moved to approve this appointment and Jeff Morris seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Jack Shelley-Tremblay proposes that we initiate the process of identifying a new associate ED.

The hundred anniversary committee will take on long range planning and development for the Gorgas fund this year.

No nominee has been identified yet for archivist.

The following is a list of Action Items for the Fall Executive Committee meeting:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Responsible Persons</b>	<b>Issue</b>
Put together a Gorgas Development Program to raise funds to increase the Gorgas corpus.	Development Committee	Gorgas Development Program
Establish a 100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of AAS Committee to design a program for the 100 <sup>th</sup> annual meeting	Executive Director and 100 <sup>th</sup> annual meeting Local Arrangements Chair	Report on progress of projects.
Assess the feasibility of incorporating virtual aspects to the AJAS/Gorgas Competitions	Mark Jones, Ellen Buckner, Virginia Vilardi, Mary Lou Ewald, Jack Shelley-Tremblay	Increasing participation and accessibility at AJAS and Gorgas Competitions
Gorgas Scholarship Program Investment Account	Ken Marion, Chair, Budget and Finance	Report on Periodic Review of Gorgas Investment Account after summer 2022 meeting
Identify post 2023 hosts for AAS Annual meetings	Date and Place of Meeting	UAB (2024); BSC (after 2024); ACOM (2024)
Nominate a representative to the NAAS representative for a 3-year term.	Jack Shelley-Tremblay	NAAS is the national agency that organizes the AJAS paper reading, and houses many of our peer state academies.  Jack Shelley-Tremblay will also call the executive director of the NAAS to determine what their focus is and whether we should become involved.

Nominate a new Associate ED	Jack Shelley-Tremblay and the Nominations Committee	Initiate the process of identifying a new associate ED.
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Jack Shelley-Tremblay moved to adjourn the meeting and Matthew Edwards seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 9:27 PM.