

**MINUTES OF THE  
ALABAMA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Held via Zoom and at Samford University 10/7/2023 8:00 AM CST**

Meeting was called to order by Jack Shelley-Tremblay

Those in attendance were:

Jack Shelley-Tremblay  
Bettina Riley  
Ellen Buckner  
Shaoyang Liu  
Larry Krannich  
Denis Sansom  
Adriane Ludwick  
Stephen Royal Slauson  
Mark Caulkins  
Mark Sciuchetti  
Matthew Edwards  
Adriane Ludwick  
Donna Perygin  
Jean-Pierre Ardit  
Vinoy Thomas  
Byunghoon Lee  
Ken Marion  
Donna Streeter  
Mohit Anand  
Jeff Morris  
Doug Marshall  
Kathryn Catlin  
Heejoon Park  
Matthew Edwards  
Mary Lou Ewald  
Malia Fincher

The meeting began with an introduction of the officers of the AAS. Jeff Morris called the meeting to order at 8:10 AM. The meeting minutes from the spring 2023 meeting were reviewed and an addendum was added to March 4, 2023. Jeff Morris moved to approve the minutes and Matthew Edwards seconded. The motion passed.

Jeff Morris navigated through the agenda for the meeting as posted:

1. The following nominations were discussed: Jean-Pierre Ardit, (At-large graduate student), Reagan Thomas, At-large member. Jack Shelley-Tremblay moved to add these candidates to the election slate and push an election to the general membership and Ellen Buckner seconded the motion. The motion passed.

2. 2024 Meeting JSU: Price Registration.

a) Call for Abstracts opens Oct 15, 2023, and closes January 15. Gorgas competition papers

are due December 19, 2023.

b) Donna Perygin presented the estimated costs for lunch and banquet meals at the spring 2024 meeting. Lunch is \$12.99 and the banquet will be 21.99 per person.

c) A reusable water bottle will be included in the registration bag. A \$10-\$12 increase in price for registration may be necessary to cover costs.

d) The “101” logo for the meeting was presented.

e) The registration portal will also open Oct 15, 2023.

f) Hotel block will be available at the Hampton Inn at the rate of \$114 per night. Please register early, because not many rooms are available. Contact Harry Arcy and mention the name of the meeting as “JSU chemistry conference.

” The Gamecock Inn has also been

recently renovated and is more affordable. A list of all local hotels will be added to the conference page.

g) Parking permits will be provided in some form.

h) Poster display boards will be provided by the university.

i) Dr. Walter Ingram from NOAA will be the keynote speaker. Luncheon speakers are also being considered.

j) Please add an \* to designate women in stem in the program listing. People should self-select to participate when they submit an abstract. We will create a special award for student presentations in this category.

k) Jeff Morris moved to approve, and Dr Marshall seconded a motion to approve the report from the local arrangements committee.

3. Seelt Productions: 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, Staśi Bara requests an additional \$5,000 to finish the film. 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee recommends the need for a draft outline of the finished product prior to payment of \$2500 payable immediately, and another \$2500 payable upon completion to finish film develop a long and short version of the film. Dr. Morris moved to accept this proposal and Dr Buckner seconded. The motion was approved.

4. 5. Dr. Ellen Buckner gave an update on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting.

Motion to nominate Greg Schmidt Archivist from Auburn University as archivist for the AAS. Dr. Morris moved and Dr. Edwards seconded. The motion was approved.

6. The potential list of nominations and those interested in service was presented by Dr. Shelley-

Tremblay. Please send all nominations to Dr. Edwards by February 1, 2024, for next year.

7. Update on Funding, Alabama Space Grant. Dr. Thomas and Mitzi Adams should be added to the

Space Grant. Dr. Shelley-Tremblay addressed the possibility of creating travel funding for universities that have not been participating in the AAS annual meeting.

8. Newsletter Discussion: Jeffrey Morris presented the idea to create an ongoing newsletter. This

is a good place to advertise job opportunities, publications, and books. Also, it could feature news about programs, etc. If possible, he will continue numbering with the previous newsletters, although these do not seem to be available.

9. Journal update: the 2023 journal issue should be published soon. Any members who would like to help with the journal are welcomed and encouraged to participate in soliciting submissions or editorial tasks. Dr. Thomas and Dr. Edwards also proposed that we feature descriptions of the educational activities of funded programs, centers, and projects in the AAS Journal.

10. We need meeting host volunteers for 2027 and 2028. Please contact Dr. Shelley-Tremblay.

11. 2025 Meeting: Troy University

12. The Alabama Science Trail Patch system developed by Mel Blake was presented by Dr. Shelley-

Tremblay. A Boy Scout Patch is available for completing visits to 10 sites.

13. 14. 15. A jobs board has been added to the AAS site.

Dr. Shelley-Tremblay please call Brian about the Log In button on the website.

John-Piere Ardit suggested that we hold a three-minute thesis section at the annual meeting. He will check with the 3MT organization to determine whether we can hold one, and whether we could host the state finals for their organization.

The section and officer reports were presented:

- Dr. Thomas highlighted the importance of connecting with industry for submissions, sponsorships, and networking.
- Dr. Buckner suggested that we have a committee on industry relations. Dr. Shelley-Tremblay amended that suggestion to suggest that the electronic media committee take on that charge.
- Dr. Buckner asked Dr. Edwards about creating a list of contacts at HBCUs around the state. Dr. Edwards will update once complete.
- Mark Jones provided an update on AJAS and enhancing participation by Title I schools. Observers from last year's meeting will hopefully come as participants in this year's meeting, and this funding can continue for one more year. Continuing fund past that will be sought in the SPACE Grant. Last year's budget changed so that the grant would no longer cover an iPad and a desktop computer. He requested to be reimbursed for the desktop from the AJAS Funds. Mark Jones made a motion to be reimbursed approx. \$545 for a desktop computer to be used for AJAS. The motion was seconded by Mark Caulkins. The motion was approved. Mark also requested access to Adobe Writer so that he can edit PDFs.
- Mary Lou Ewald provided an update on the AL STEM Council, which approached state legislators about funding YouTeach to build the STEM teaching pool in AL. There is a shortage of STEM teachers in Alabama at the moment. Perygin will work with Jones to contact the WIS group.
- Please promote your local or regional Science Olympiad. Alumni who are now college students can be very valuable in helping to run tournaments. There are small stipends available for teachers to help run a team. The academy will draft a position paper and try to help secure for providing support to Science Olympiad and AJAS teacher mentors.
- The TEAMS program requires service/continuing education for their teachers, and they can meet those requirements through AJAS and Science Olympiad. Mary Lou Ewald, Mark Jones, and Jack Shelley-Tremblay will follow up on this.
- Dr. Heejoon Park addressed the efforts of his section to recruit more participants from his university. Dr. Shelley-Tremblay will provide some communication templates to help with this.
- Dr. Vinoy Thomas addressed the materials science special section at the last annual meeting and the possibility of continuing that section at the meeting.
- Dr. Mark Caulkins addressed the difficulty of finding sufficient judges.
- Malia Fincher raised concerns about the shortness of the poster sessions at the last annual meeting. Ellen Buckner suggested that we extend the length of the session for judged posters. Also, Dr. Shelley Tremblay can provide training and instruction to section chairs and vice chairs before the annual meeting.
- A question will be added to the registration form asking if faculty members are willing to judge presentations or posters. Dr. Shelley-Tremblay will make this change to the online registration.
- Malia Fincher requested that the students be able to receive feedback on judging, if possible.

Entering the student email address into the judging form would enable the student to receive an automated email. Asking students to add QR codes to their poster linking to their email address would help with this.

- Budget discussion: Ken Marion provided a report for the Budget and Finance Committee, indicating that the senior committee balance is higher than usual. The Gorgas Program Fund is approx. \$260,000, down about \$20,000 from the spring meeting as a result of withdrawals and a lazy market with little growth this year. There may be further decline this year. A meeting of the investment committee for Gorgas with Jim Sumter is needed near the end of this year or the beginning of 2024 to consider altering the portfolio. We are withdrawing faster than we are accruing, so we need industry partners or government partners to grow this account.

- Bettina Riley presented the Income and Expense Report, indicating that the annual meeting generated an unusually large amount of income, but also had higher than usual expenses. The amount of dues also increased in volume. Our only income sources are the annual meeting and dues. The annual meeting revenue supports the annual expenses of the academy. We can probably afford the \$5000 to pay for the AAS video that is under production.

- Dr. Shelley-Tremblay presented the call for papers for the Spring 2024 AAS Meeting, Jeff Morris moved to approve the call for papers, and Dr. Fincher seconded. The motion was approved.

- Dr. Shelley-Tremblay presented a motion to hold the student registration fees constant from last year, and increase the professional registration fee from \$130 to \$155. Bettina Riley seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

- Dr. Brian Burnes will be requested to write a letter of appreciation to Samford University and Dr. Ellen Buckner for hosting the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary AAS meeting.

- Please consider nominating colleagues for awards through our AAS website.

Dr. Morris motioned and Dr. Edwards seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 10:55 AM.