

**Oklahoma Academy of Science
Executive Council Meeting
Oklahoma City University
November 12, 2015**

The meeting was called to order by President Stan Rice at 7:28 p.m. Those present were:

David	Bass	(UCO)	Executive Director
Jerry	Bowen	(RSU)	Applied Ecology & Conservation Vice Chair
Craig	Clifford	(NSU)	Past President
Terry	Conley	(CU)	President-Elect
Mostafa	Elshahed	(OSU)	<i>POAS</i> Editor
Tahzeeba	Frisby	(CU)	Microbiology Chair
Dan	Hough	(OU)	OAS Website
Danita	Hundley	(WHHS)	Science Education Chair
Tephilla	Jeyaraj	(UCO)	Social Sciences Vice-Chair
Ulrich	Melcher	(OSU)	Biochemistry & Biophysics Chair
Constance	Murray	(TCC)	Biological Sciences Chair
Valerie	O'Brien	(TCC)	Recording Secretary
Stan	Rice	(SEOSU)	President
Adam	Ryburn	(OCU)	Collegiate Director/Local meeting coordinator
Karen	Williams	(ECU)	Physical Sciences Chair

The agenda was approved as presented.

The minutes from the 2014 Executive Council Meeting were approved as distributed.

Financial Report: David Bass, Executive Director

The good news is that finances are stable; we do not expect to lose money at the meeting. We are maintaining financially despite a likely drop in membership. While several things could impact the budget, there are minimal concerns.

The checking account balance is similar to last year's. Other accounts aren't really being used. We try not to touch endowment accounts, but to use the interest from them.

OJAS lost grant money last year because students bailed on the national meeting, so we had to pay to send David to AAAS, which he is required to attend. They have a lot of money in their endowment. David is by default leading OJAS now.

Terry Conley asked why endowments are in CDs, which have low returns. David said we cannot lose money. Discussion may continue via e-mail.

Old Business:

1. 2015 Annual Technical Meeting

a. Attendance – David Bass: 211 people are pre-registered. Attendance will likely top 250. There are 56 signed up for lunch. OCU is providing refreshments, so their students are welcome to attend sessions at no charge.

b. Meeting set up – Adam Ryburn: May have community attendance for climate symposium, which runs until 4:00 pm. There are 6 organization tables altogether, including Oklahomans for Excellence in Science Education, CUR, INBRE, L-SAMP, PTEC.

c. Collegiate Academy – Adam Ryburn: *Paper sessions*. 69 oral presentations in 12 or 13 sections. None in Applied Ecology and Conservation, though some being presented in Zoology should be in Applied Ecology or Geology. All paper sessions are in the morning only, except for Microbiology which runs all day. *Poster session*. There are 30 posters with a session that is separate from the paper sessions. Poster session in afternoon. Fought for this because meeting was so short otherwise, and people would leave. This will help keep people around. There is a new form for poster judging and different judges. Some sections have only one poster, so we should consider moving all posters into one session with all disciplines for judging/awards. Adam will try to lump “like” sciences together into one cohort. *Motion to put all judged posters into one judging session was put forward and approved.*

2. Sections – Stan Rice: There are vacancies in vice chair positions. Perhaps new chairs can promote the sections to their colleagues across the state.

- Biological Science – Constance Murray: 4 papers in Botany, plus an OK Flora meeting, 11 total in Zoology. Chad King will be nominated for Vice Chair.
- Geology (no papers) – Few papers last year, Kurtis Koll is not here. Struggling section, but we need to look at whether to suspend. Terry Conley: if section chairs don’t do anything, we need to ask them to step down and look for others. Adam suggested that Terry reach out to geology professionals or academics. Give one year to work on it.
- Physical Sciences – Karen Williams: 1 talk and 3 posters. We had a 3 state zone meeting and invited them to present. Surprised that more are not registered from out of state.
- Science Communication and Education – Danita Hundley: 4 papers, no posters. There is no Vice Chair on the horizon. Stan Rice: maybe this section could be in the afternoon. It could be a good opportunity for faculty to present on their classroom ideas. Adam Ryburn: maybe Sci Ed section could sponsor a CE seminar in the afternoon for local teachers.
- Geography – Marco Micozzi is not here. Greg Plumb is bringing students with him tomorrow. There are also illustrated posters.
- Applied Ecology and Conservation (no papers) – Jerry Bowen will work to get lots of people next year.
- Microbiology – Tazeeba Frisby: 14 oral presentations, 8 of which are graduate students, and 3 posters. Have morning and afternoon sessions. Need judges for student papers.
- Engineering Sciences – No report.
- Biochemistry and Biophysics – Ulrich Melcher: 6 presentations after an e-mail blast. Chair and Vice Chair are lined up.
- Microscopy – No report. Don’t come to council meeting, usually. They continue to hold their meeting jointly with ours. Ugly Bug Contest again tomorrow.
- Math and Computer Science – Have a session tomorrow. Some of the people who were running it are retiring, or are “tired.” Many math people are going to

an OK/AR joint meeting. Adam Ryburn: official section name should include “Statistics”; he will work on that.

- Environmental Science and Planning – No report. Inform section people that if they want to adjust name, they can.
- Biomedical Sciences – No report
- Social Sciences – Tephilla Jeyaraj: Have presentations and posters, both graduate and undergraduate.

David has the forms for the new Section Chairs. Please have your new section chair fill this out.

3. POAS – Mostafa Elshahed: The journal is growing with 25 articles this year. Submissions have been received from OU, OSU, government agencies, and one from Azerbaijan. The 2015 proofs are being sent out now. Our biggest challenge is getting more reviewers. Please send any manuscripts to the journal. He tries to get useful reviews rather than nasty reviews like other journals.

This year, we transitioned to an online submission system with the OSU Library. System goes down often, and went down at critical times, for example when he is trying to get reviewers. Submitters are not liking the system. The change doesn't seem to make things easier. We could revert to sending submissions by e-mail; perhaps we can get a special e-mail address. The online submission process doesn't seem to be improving with time, so he would like to go back to e-mail if possible.

Executive Council can allow Mostafa to make changes needed to the submission process.

4. OJAS – David Bass: History of the Junior Academy - OJAS had their own science competition, and the Science Fair had theirs, all funded by a single grant. The state education department cut the grant entirely. Rahmona got some money back as a grant, but this will likely be cut.

David and a couple of other members go to the state science fair and try to choose the best for OJAS awards. Must give several endowed awards. The top is a trip to AJAS/AAAS national conference. We try to send the top physical science and top biological science. Currently, all funding for conference attendance is dependent on those two students going to AAAS.

Our biggest problem is that there is no OJAS director. The OJAS director can go to the AJAS meeting. Would be good if it was a female. Ideal candidate is involved in science education in Oklahoma, so they will be recognized by secondary ed teachers.

Stan Rice: If you have ideas for an OJAS director, send them to David Bass.

New Business:

1. Future Meetings:

Technical Meetings

- 2016 – OSU Center for Health Sciences, Tulsa, November 4, 2016 – Earl Blewett.
- 2017 – No takers thus far; desirable to bring it back south since it is northeast for 2016.
- 2018 – RSU?

Field Meetings

- Spring 2016 – Beaver's Bend State Park – Mike Shaughnessy, NSU. Already booked.
- Fall 2016 – TBA – new Applied Ecology chair.

2. Membership Survey – Terry Conley: Membership survey results were distributed to those in attendance. OAS purchased a site license to Qualtrix. This worked, but there were some problems with “programming” of the survey. Around 300 surveys “distributed”; 45 responses. Terry will send David a link to the survey. This is our first attempt to do a survey, there will be more to come.

3. Meeting registration changes and corrections, plus discussion – David Bass and Adam Ryburn:

Students may now register to attend the Technical Meeting only for \$10, and if presenting for \$20. Terry: We want to bring more students in to do presentations, and provide incentive to attend. David: Disagree in principle, but agree with the practicality of that. When looking at the books, it is actually a financial advantage. Membership will plummet, but losing them as members doesn't cause an issue financially.

Discussion followed on the idea of default student membership as a part of the OAS Technical Meeting.

Adam: registration issues – Dan Hough is working on registration to help make things run more smoothly. There are several areas we can adjust on the registration page.

4. New URL: <http://www.oklahomacademyofscience.org>.

5. Checklist for duties of president and president elect should be developed.

6. Lifetime Achievement Award – Awards Committee: Craig Clifford. The Awards Committee recommends Susan Barber.

7. Campus Liaisons – Stan Rice: Get people from each campus to be an official liaison. Ask people to be willing to put themselves on a list for the website.

8. Technical Meeting discussion – Adam Ryburn: We should contact the VPAA at the Technical Meeting site as soon as we have a schedule (or sooner?), so s/he can announce it to faculty in case any of them want to participate or send their classes. Adam sent out a news and events announcement at OCU for this year's meeting. VPAA will be giving the welcome at lunch. Should be standard for local coordinators. Would be good to have a handbook for meeting facilitators.

9. Annual Executive Council meeting discussion – Terry Conley: Proposed having a second council meeting; but some people may not come. *Motion to hold a second EC meeting on Research Day. Motion passed.*

Announcements:

Stan Rice: Please send material for the blog, especially from fall 2015 Field Meeting.

Terry Conley: Cameron University will be hosting SWAN in spring 2017. NCUR will be at UCO in the summer of 2018.

Discussion:

Idea from Ning Wu: Every participating university sets aside \$400 a year for students who are NOT presenting, for registration and for the banquet. Currently, most have funds only for student presenters. Set-aside funds for student attendance are one reason Research Day has more attendees.

Should there be fewer print copies of POAS? – Mostafa Elshahad: What is the rationale behind mailing out paper copies to members? David Bass: POAS does well. It breaks even; we have page charges so we can afford it. Most in attendance agree that the paper copy is valuable.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie O'Brien, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at the OAS Executive Council Meeting, November 3, 2016