**Feb 2025 KAS Minutes**

10am -12 noon EST, Friday, Feb 21, 2025

Calendar RSVPs: Jessica, Mark, Dirk, Brittany, Ann, Frank, Laura – first hour only

**Folder of materials here:** <https://mms.kyscience.org/members/filearchive_view3.php?display=/11041671/15588733>

Yet To be added: Grants to Approve, Madison F & Melissa D reports, Frank report, Jr Academy report, 2025 budget to approve

**Zoom link:** [https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88540527808?pwd=bKX61dKoLkC97KmgFnfmAEefbuDAHA.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88540527808?pwd=bKX61dKoLkC97KmgFnfmAEefbuDAHA.1%20)

\*\*\*\*\*\*\* Denotes Action Item

Members present/absent:

Officers: Li Li Zyzak (President), Noel Novelo (Past President), Marilyn Akins (VP), Mark Wilson (Treasurer), Laura Walther (Secretary)

Representatives: Savannah Blair, Melissa Mefford, Ann Kingsolver, Dirk Grupe, Grace Clark, Justin McFadden, Zeel Maheshwari, Brittany Davis

Ex-officio: Frank Ettensohn (Journal Editor in Chief), Melony Stambaugh (Jr. KAS Director), Trent Garrison (Delegate to NAS), Amanda Fuller (Executive Dir), Madison Flory (Sci Policy Specialist), Melissa Dougherty (Sci Comm Specialist)

**Call meeting to order - Lili**

**10am** Welcome & Introductions – Li Li

**10:15** October Meeting minutes – Laura \*\*\*\*\* Approval

Updates: Dirk motioned to approve. Mark seconded. Motion approved.

**10:20** Communications & Policy Director Madison Flory (Fire alarm!)

Updates: 1100+ bills filed. 286 science related. 110 rate high on KAS interest.

* KY legislator line – 1(800) 372-7181
* Legislation tracking: <https://www.kyscience.org/2025_state_legislative_issues.php>
* Science policy committee growing. Meets on the second Wednesday of each month.
* Session ends March 28.
* March 6th – Posters at the Capitol. Talk to [Trent.Garrison@KCTCS.EDU](mailto:Trent.Garrison@KCTCS.EDU) with questions.

**10:25** Science Communication Specialist– Melissa Dougherty ([scicomm@kyscience.org](mailto:scicomm@kyscience.org))

Updates: Works on the newsletter and social media.

* 1500+ followers on FB. 200+ on Instagram. Instagram has grown especially since KJAS joining.
* Share what you see on KAS.
* Last month had a change to the newsletter; more user-friendly.
* 2025 – going to work on getting podcast up and running; working on the LinkedIn account.
* Share with undergrad the social media sites.

**10:30** Junior Academy Report – Melony (not here) Report given by Amanda

Updates: 11 students went to AJAS in Boston; 5 of 6 districts represented; Tour of Harvard and MIT.

**10:35** [Executive Director’s report](https://www.kyscience.org/docs/Executive_Director_report_February_2025.docx) - Amanda  
[Handbook & Manual](https://mms.kyscience.org/members/filearchive_view3.php?display=/6281981) – highlight the Annual Calendar, take questions

Updates: AAAS meeting – lots of turmoil and anxiety; KAS not subject to the funding cuts.

* Non-profit Leadership Lab – resource in folder
  + PD funding available
* Institutions - 13 of 23 renewed so far.
* Education & Engagement committee – listing of summer programs for kids and teachers.
* NSF funding – not pursuing
* 2025 Annual Meeting – based on U of L football schedule, Nov 8 and 14 are home games. Oct 31-Nov 1 is early and runs into Halloween or Nov 21/22 is late.
  + Vote shows we prefer the later weekend – Nov 21/22.
* Beta Kappa Chi – MOU offered to help with abstract admission at KSU the end of March.
* Updated handbook and manual for the board – updated annual calendar.

**10:45** Treasurer’s Report & Approval of 2025 Budget – Mark W\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  
  
Updates:

* 2024 income lower than we hoped for. Athey was lower than hoped for. Had to take money from Stifel. Journal revenue was good. Expenses were a bit low but $14K for annual meeting didn’t hit until January. Grants had $3K from 2023 hit in 2024 which is why it was high. $6K in the red for 2024.
* Account balances – checking are a bit high but have gone down since end of year.
  + Athey had losses last quarter but made those up this year already.
* 2025 Budget – similar to 2024; reined in a bit due to income not increasing.
  + Have not raised dues in 15 years.
  + Could find a bit of revenue if we ask sponsors to help with Junior Academy.
    - Plea was extended this year with little ROI.
  + Could see a bit of revenue if we have a donation campaign and/or donate button on website.
  + Do we have individual members who are passionate about the mission of KAS who could come alongside financially?
* Motion to approve the budget – Melissa; second – Ann; motion passed.

**11:00** KAS Strategic Plan show & tell – Marilyn/ Jessica et al

Updates: Marilyn, Jessica, Lili met to hash out what is on the spreadsheet.

* Need input from committees on what each one does, and who the contact person is for each committee.
* Would like to have most of the blanks filled in by the middle of the year to present at annual meeting.

**11:15** Committees- make sure everyone has a committee assignment, links, calendar invites - Lili

Updates: Committee list is on the website with a signup. Link sent in chat. Also included in every newsletter.

* **Education – Mondays** – small in numbers; does not have a board member to chair that committee; Ann volunteered to chair the committee
* **Policy – Wednesdays** – growing in numbers (8-10 people at last meeting); Trent invited everyone to join the meetings in the next couple of weeks before the session ends in March since we will all be affected by the decisions currently being made.
* **Industry –** Has worked to compile contacts

**11:25** Grant awards – Melissa M\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Updates: 17 grant applications; spreadsheet in meeting folder

* Needs help with reviewing the applications by this Wednesday, Feb 26th;
  + Mark, Dirk, Marilyn, Zeel volunteered.
* Vote by email to approve

**11:45** Debrief 2024 Annual Meeting at KSU - Noel

Revisit student judging/ evaluations   
 Re-share annual meeting evaluations (in folder of materials)  
 Ideas / themes for 2025? Career paths outside of academia

Updates:

* Very manageable event for KSU; visits started early in March; Amanda followed up with all the details; having our own internet link was a really good idea.
* Melissa – enjoyed not judging posters. Posters sessions were still lively and well attended.
* Mark – enjoyed getting to know KSU campus and personnel. KSU students were friendly and welcoming.
* Lili – poster sessions were more relaxed and enjoyable.
* Pikeville interested in hosting in 2027.
* UofL will have a new building. Maybe have Friday night at their Planetarium? Building equitable futures with the new engineering building. Will have a brand-new maker’s space.

**11:55** Journal Editors’ Report – Frank

* Represented KAS at Darwin Day lecture which we sponsored.
* Journal report – Vol 85 is published and available on our site through BioOne; 7 articles – 4 STEM and 3 social sciences which is a good showing.
* New contact at BioOne; working on new formats.
* Working with 3 new articles which will likely be published.
* Zoological naming rules - Anytime a new species is published in the journal, we need five hard copies in major university libraries. Since we don’t publish hard copies, what are our options? Amanda is willing to send CD copies to member libraries, but we need more information from [ICZN](https://www.iczn.org/).

EPSCoR / NSF grant? –Amanda \*\*\*\*\*\*\*

* Amanda suggested we hold on NSF grants in light of the current situation.
* Lili has a couple people who might be interested in this proposal project even if it is not with NSF.

Board Action - Approved contracts- Amanda, Madison, Melissa

**Adjourn**

**Requests, Announcements & Upcoming Events**

[What is a Conflict of Interest and why do Nonprofits care?](https://www.kyscience.org/docs/Conflict-of-Interest-Sniff-Test-Resource.pdf)

**COI forms** – still need one from: LiLi, Laura, Marilyn, Grace, Melissa M, Zeel, Dirk, Brittany, Savannah, Frank, Melony  
Blank copy + completed forms are stored here for everyone’s review  
<https://mms.kyscience.org/members/filearchive_view3.php?display=/11041671/13676303/15589955>

**Darwin Lecture** Feb 20 at UK  
**Posters at the Capitol** March 6 KAS will set up a table and Amanda will speak 10-15 minutes   
**Board Training Opportunities:**   
KY Nonprofit Network Calendar: <https://members.kynonprofits.org/events>  
 Center for Nonprofit Excellence Calendar: <https://engage.cnpe.org/calendar?_ga=2.77315925.1337729632.1739811044-1450870471.1737751925>