**Kentucky Academy of Science**

**Governing Board Meeting Minutes**

April 15, 2022

The KAS Board virtual (Zoom) meeting was convened on Friday April 15, 2022 at 5:12 PM(EST). Members present include: Jon Dixon, Amanda Fuller, Rob Weber, Dr. Rodney King, Dr. Trent Garrison, Dr. Kate He, Dr. Wei Song, Dr. Seyed Allameh, Dr.Frank Ettenshohn, Melanie Hardin-Pierce, J. Scott Miller, Melony Stambaugh, Julie Ann Reizner, Dr. Marilyn Akins, Dr. Scott Wicker, Dr. Melissa Mefford, Dr. Elizabeth Thomas, and guest Derek Hull and Drew Martin (19 members logged in Zoom)

Members absent:

1. Welcome:

Jon Dixon, president of KAS, welcomed everyone to the KAS board meeting (virtual). Skipping the minutes and Rodney King took the floor.

* Rodney King asked Derek Hull to speak to the group regarding Treasurer’s report. Drew Martin invited as well: future and anticipated needs
* 30 years legacy firm Wells Fargo (June 2021 to make the move-nationwide at firms narrowed to Stifel St Louis MO 1890 not household name among investor, 400 offices nationwide, culture and environment proper way to run a wealth and advisory business). Challenge is history reports must stay with the other firm where Derek is not allowed to bring this up. Group manage $6 Million in Asset, serve lead advisor Western Ky foundation, etc. Welcome dialogue. Any questions past structure and history? Showed 70/30 moderate growth foundation (positive markets expect rise and down markets expect fall) in current interest rate high inflation, external factors causing sharp rise in interest rate so bond is down (first time in 40 years), markets have been slightly down since we have been with Stifel, $1 M range for the foundation. Over the years the foundation has had historically nice growth. Any questions how the foundation is presently structured, goals, etc?
* Pronounced “StE fle”
* Idea of a foundation that doesn’t have a spending policy…raining day fund. Rodney and Amanda expressing what if we wanted regular distributions. At present KAS has adequate funds to pay for now. What about a spending policy in the future to cover the distributions for KAS? One of the ways an organization factor in positive and negative environments. What if we factor in a rolling distribution? Sustainable withdraw rate typically range 3-4%. What if we use 3.5% which works out to ~$35,000 per year. It can be done annually or quarterly. During periods of market decline, you will see spending policy move down to control assets. Never operating at trough or peak values-rolling distribution.
* Amanda asked “Foundation are required to distribute 5% something every year? What is this rule?”
* Derek Hull “think you are thinking of private, these do not fall under that rule”
* Amanda “so it is a different legal classification?
* Jon ask “is this common practice for an organization such as ours?”
* Derek “ if KAS has no need for the income, we would not recommend, if it would be beneficial, then we would say 3.5% to add to your operation budget but if you need more money then you can withdraw more “not outside norm”
* Jon “transaction funds if we had to withdraw more? Quarterly verse annual withdraw”
* Derek “fiduciary on this account so no transaction fees on this account”
* Jon “contemplates quarterly verses annually but thinking since KAS does annual budget likely annual would be best”
* Amanda “could we use $35,000 as operating funds each year?”
* Derek “let’s talk about current environment at present interest rate low and rise, bonds have negative value, so if market is down not want to spend but this is the compromise not to look at any singular time but has something that our viewpoint that returns will be more muted over the next ten years market is boom and bust, 2010-2020 above average, then next 10 years who knows, broadly and generally speaking likely lower equity market return. Error on side of caution and use a spending policy as low as policy so if you are wrong then you will have a growth-preserve against of
* Amanda” what are the projected earnings”
* Derek “upper single returns 70/30 and market make 7% then you maybe in the 5% range and that would be lower than what the foundation has had in the past, it is quite possible you will be absorbing principle if you choose a 5% distribution rate, will communicate if need to scale back depending on the market, historically stayed in the 60/40 and 70/30 range, some foundations say specific to stay within the ground to work in guardrails”
* Jon “despite this being a safe move, your office is not an island, so this feels like a safe move wondering what could truly go wrong (spending policy deduct 3.5% each year) would there be reason for concern?
* Derek “be conservative lean toward 3% verses 4%. If we didn’t have a need for the money then wouldn’t hesitate.
* Trent “thanks for coming back Derek, given our new situation what is our budget for the year, how much do we need to operate a year?
* Rodney presented budget shortfall what bringing in and spending and trajectory and new communications director position, annual shortfall, we are fortunate that with Stifel can be buffered with the Athey fund (that fund can absorb, we are on the order of $50,000 shortfall) we have plenty money in the bank in the budget, having a more reliable stream of funds would be good to budget on. If we go low, 2.5%, at least we know this is money that will be there and will be available in a predictable way. In the last three years we have awarded additional grants and would like to see more of that happen. We have the ability quarterly distribution and then the surprise distribution
* Trent “last year it was more expensive with the guest speaker and this will fill that gap
* Rodney” (Windfall from our trust help at US Bank is) not predictable makes things hard to budget”
* Jon “negative $48,000 and hope is in the next board meeting before the annual meeting we can vote whether this be an annual withdraw and advocate at 3% initially”
* Frank “what are your management fee”
* Derek “0.85% annually”
* Seyed “thank you coming how your firm if we go back to 2012 and we compare the stock market with what we have growth of 500-600% so if take 3-4% of our money every year, then maybe it would be about 30-40% over the 10 years, so it is not compatible our money would have stayed the same $800,000 in 2012 but since the stock market has grown and has anything gone wrong we should have more money”
* Derek “the last 10 years the market has not increased 5-6% you reference Dow Jones $12,400 today $34,000 so 200% would be $48,000 the other thing this portfolio has not been 100% in equities, in 2008 market was down 34% so the mix is more conservative, the third if we were invested in this structure rolling 3 year average and 10 year average contrasted against what the portfolio owns, virtually no foundation will use the Dow Jones as our barometer we are taking a more diversified result
* Seyed “$800,000 in 2003 and 2004 and it is still around $800,000”
* Derek “~600,000 in 2003, I don’t have inception date, how the portfolio is performing compared to everything else”
* Jon “how we will be allocating the money in the future to discuss this, make a motion to move to the Jr Academy”
* Rodney “we have removed funds over the years, if I can help answer questions that can be later”
* Amanda “one question, is the counter part to spending policy is that the investment policy?”
* Rodney “yes the investment policy would be a different policy and the board would have to make that decision and vote, like you said it is moderate, but if board wants to go more aggressive then the board would have to vote on that, the treasurer can make the investment”
* Amanda “Scott question lets put something in words we can vote on, we are being bombarded with ideas and this will be involved with how we are spending money but we need not vote on this in isolation “
* Jon “we would like to evaluate a strategic plan over the next several years so we are hoping between now and the next board meeting, will not bring anything long term vote so large without everyone being heard.”

2. Treasurer’s Report:

Dr. Rodney King presented treasurer’s report. Key points include-

* Comprehensive report 2021 look at that and if you have specific questions please address those to Rodney (month to month totals, one correction, bills paid and actively working on the taxes)
* Marilyn Akins “is the zoom fee $200/year”
* Amanda “that is a monthly fee, upgraded for a few months
* Jon “significantly increased during the annual meeting
* Trent “$130/year for Zoom for what that was worth

Dr. Seyed Allameh motion to approve treasurer’s report, Trent Garrison seconds, Motion carried unanimously.

1. Junior Academy Report

Melony Stambaugh presented junior academy of science report. Key points of Melony’s report include-

* roll the academy into the KAS, separate organization but not separate meetings so junior members will be present KAS and integrating within the professors and students, working on a new model, we have the framework thinking about where we are holding our fall meeting and focus on those schools within the schools within the area where we meet each fall, Morehead this fall and then where we go to the next meeting bring along students and focus on more.
* Collaborate with STEM X+ within the CRAFT Academy with Morehead, we still have some things to work out-competition compete to go onto National meeting, don’t want them to be in a separate sections, working the logistics, STEM + on Thursday preliminary activities to bring students access to local campus excited about science and then the annual meeting will kick off on Friday, did I miss anything?
* Amanda “hopefully this new model will capture more students and help more students get actively engaged in research, with this model we are leveraging access for these students and develop a diverse pipeline, it needs more of the mission of the organization”
* Upward Bound has a math and science service program serving 16 counties we can introduce a research program and ask our mentors to serve big shout out at Angela, Beth and Melissa for Morehead’s participation
* Amanda potentially NAAS Academy Chat early May with Alabama Academy of Science who currently runs meeting in Spring and they have their junior academy within their national meeting (early May)
* Scott Wicker “upper bound solicitation looking for instructors to staff their summer programs, upper bound is a great piece for the diversity, I did 3 years in Louisiana, poster presentation they must present at the end of the summer and we can slightly modify their presentation for KAS, come and do follow up two weekends a month”
* Julie “When I was in Montana I worked with Upward Bound Native American Reservations can put undergraduate students to work on this, glad to see Ky getting more involved in Upward Bound”

Executive Director’s Amanda Fuller presented Executive Director’s report. Key points include-

* April 29th at 1pm microplastics EPA and UL
* May 9th COVID and Wastewater (Rob Weber) Rachel Keith got pulled into service and has a coworker talking about wastewater testing Louisville found the new variant of COVID
* Still working on PFAS and medical marijuana
* Frank offered to do some on geological time scale
* May 10th Kentucky Give Day cost only $100 follow us on social media and share links online when we have materials up to make those donations
* EKU Dr. Richter center for outdoor education and research has partnerships with justice and safety part service and sees partnerships, tie the center in with museum for natural history consolidating collections around the state, protect, digitize, make available to public, interested in staff position partly funded by KAS-person who may train and bring programs that will complement field coordination, Oklahoma have a natural history funded by oil money, how do we get bourbon money, academy of science, fall every year, scientists go out to a state park together and then they camp
* Loop people in feedback and thinking about draft an agreement with EKU preliminary ways to work together
* America physiological center 10th anniversary having some sort of presence there. Scott Wicker is the president of this organization. Send an official invitation hosting 10th anniversary at University of Kentucky CPE promote and want us to do more equitable collaborations to increase the growth STEM ready workforce and expand upon cohost with KAS 2024 sponsor physiological section and bring in a speaker co-hosting.
* KAS supported the Ky Association of Physics Teachers Annual Meeting, - please continue to loop us into those events,
* Scott thanked the beta kappa chi for cohosting KAS virtual platform
1. Education & Advocacy Committee

Rob Weber presented Education & Advocacy report. Key points include-

* Highlights of the session COVID section decent volumes of bills downplay vaccinations and mask, the majority of bills did not move at all but not priorities of leadership, State of emergency due to COVID was brought to end, antibody test, bills ban vaccine passports or mandates all these bills did not see movement, one bill would have gotten rid of mask mandates, Rob advocated safety of masks and vaccines glad the mask mandate was stopped.
* Trent said Rob was instrumental in having an impact on the bill ridding the mask mandate
* State budget covering the next two years and is increasing educational spending elementary $billions, new constructions, one negative is not a specific raise for the school teachers, local level determines raises, not having raises concerns educators
* Senate bill one, curriculum away from schools and give to school critical race theory, they will not discuss critical race theory, main education bill that will allow funding source in Ky (northern and Louisville) the per pupil money can now follow the student so will lesson the money for public schools
* PFAS forever chemicals most lawmakers don’t have a good understanding of these chemicals but the bill didn’t make movement and resolution PFAS recognition and got bipartisan approval
* Bill medicinal cannabis did not pass, did pass the house, but did not pass the senate $2Billion research center for it wants more research and those oppose it both support more research
* Support KAS and talking with reporters and publicize KAS
* Trent “website main home site Legislative issues 2022 summary-Updated daily, Rob updates what the bill is and where the bill is, and everyone’s thoughts on those bills-***See website***!”
* Posters at the Capitals amazing students around the state, mini summary posted on website, go retweet or like what we like on facebook, boost presence on social media
* Amendment file agate mineral, devastating session, Rob was optimistic, lots of money, lots of opportunities, state workers 8% raise, thanks to everyone, trying to decrease state income taxes to $0
1. Journal Report

Dr. Frank Ettensohn presented Journal report. Key points of the report include-

* Volume 82 was published two articles and all the abstracts,
* Member menu and volume 82 is not in there, green bar publications but need to have a BioOne membership
* 5 science articles more than we had last year
* 0 social science education field (need articles in these fields)
* Earth Day BioOne show cases this year’s theme invest in our future, Bio-one visions special issue
* Money we get from BioOne articles will likely decrease because it use to be the money is divided by number of organization, now it will be divided by number of pages
* Suggestions: good for us to list the titles in the newsletter so people can see what is being published and they are not easy to get at
* Notice in the newsletter for social science education letters
* We have money KAS about $5000 from BioOne for publications, should that money go into a special account for the journal? Go into help recruit articles? So far that money has gone into the general fund. Put that money is a special account?
* Our members have free access to BioOne so what is going on with other people -link? Amanda “Can get into member -must log in, our journal is not open access so you must log in so log in KAS website, if that is not working I want to know what needs to be fixed”
* Jon “next meeting require publication for grant funding”
* Trent “advocate for sending things to the journal”
* Frank “we do count KAS journal but you must also have some other publications in other journals at UK, some journals do not allow students to publish, but their articles will be subjected to the same review process, taking journal proceeds keep those separate for use to encourage to publish”
1. Other Report & Announcements:
* Amanda “feedback for a full day and a hybrid meeting this summer?”
* Rodney “liked Mammoth Cave” when we did that in 2015. Sometime in June
* Jon like June***later in June***

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.