**Governing Board Meeting Minutes**

August 02, 2023

The KAS Board virtual (Zoom) meeting was convened on Wednesday, August 02, 2023 at 1:53 PM(EST). Members present include: Amanda Fuller (executive director), Julie Reizner (president), Dr. Li Li Zyzak (Vice President), Dr. Dirk Grupe (physical science representative), Dr. Kate He (biological science representative), Dr. Trent Garrison (former president of KAS, AAAS/NAAS delegate), Rob Weber (communication and policy director), Dr. Mark Wilson (treasurer), J. Scott Miller (physical science representative), Dr. Marilyn Akins (historian), Dr. Scott Wicker (at large representative), Dr. Ann Kingsolver, Dr. Frank Ettensohn (Journal Representative), and Jon Dixon (former president of KAS) (15 members logged in Zoom).

Members not present: Melony Stambaugh (Director for JKAS and coordinator of KAS), Dr. Noel Novelo (president elect), Dr. Justin McFadden (social science representative), Dr. Melissa Mefford (grants director and biological science representative), Dr. Elizabeth Thomas (secretary), and Dr. Jennifer Birriel (physical science representative).

**Call Meeting to Order**

Julie Reizner, president of KAS, welcomed everyone and called meeting to order.

**Strategic Plan Update**

Dr. Li Li Zyzak shared the Strategic Goals document generated from the strategic goals planning committee. This document represented the strategic goals, tasks to support the goals, and identified board members in charge of the tasks highlighted in blue and yellow texts. Some of the topics included, questions generated, and responses are as follows: 1st support scientific research in Kentucky-reaching out to publishing some of the research publications, and addressing how do we make the publication so it is more recognized? Amanda Fuller stated “let’s shift this conversation to the journal discussion”. The 2nd item included Grants and Awards Published, Offer K-12 development support for teachers, but not sure about the way to Network with the teachers? The action item for the board was to approve how to use the $10K. One of the goals is to advocate for evidence-based and science-based policy. Also asked if the people listed along with the task items was correct. Dr. Trent Garrison said “yes this is correct”. The 3rd goal is to contribute to improving science education through supporting K-12 science teachers. We need to develop models for networking with the teachers. Amanda Fuller stated that science clubs could come from this school year, the List serv with teachers could send documentation out to the teacher members? How do we publicize it? Some tasks include mentoring in the first 5 years of teaching and developing resources, offer funding for the professional development so teachers can attend and then address networking strategies. Amanda Fuller noted that the development of new materials would be money to spend next year. Another goal is to communicate science to the general public: Lexington section tries to recruit researchers to give a brief talk and then a social gathering (American Chemical Society, ACS, Lexington section-on facebook and different social media). The last goal on the strategic goal list is to celebrate and grow partnerships: was pointed out that everyone needs to come together in Kentucky science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, STEM, that there are lots of networking events happening, however, not everyone knows of the other one. Any suggestions make this better? Amanda Fuller replied “I can put the source document and that we can keep updated (link in the chat)”. Jon Dixon, “would you like me to duplicate the strategic plan?” Amanda Fuller likes having a dashboard, rather maybe we should think about how we want to share our process. J. Scott Miller noted the following: MOU abbreviations undefined, Kentucky Wild, etc. make sure you a defining the abbreviations. Amanda Fuller stated “yes we can do that and get that done for the record before we upload the document.” Amanda Fuller then requested to expedite the board’s action for how to spend the money for the committee? Amanda Fuller proposed the following: $2K for science clubs, $3K for summer camps next year, no specific amount to recognize volunteers (awards), members could apply for money for professional development, $500 for marketing mentor, and no specific amount of money to match for projects. Dr. Ann Kingsolver suggests that it also goes to the list serv and not just members so it would not just serve the same members but more statewide (also made a math correction of $2500). Discussion? Questions? Julie Reizner asked if there were any questions and address any concerns? Dr. Scott Wicker asked what was the total amount? Amanda Fuller stated that it is out of the $10 K. Dr. Scott Wicker requested for Dr. Mark Wilson to approve non-specific amounts and not to exceed a certain amount which could also provide flexibility? Dr. Mark Wilson states that would be fine with him.

*Dr. Marilyn Akins made a motion that we use the $2500 toward science clubs, $500 toward mentoring, up to $2K in the undetermined category and that the strategic committee should come back to the board before they spend the rest of the amounts approximately $5K.*

*Dr. Dirk Grupe seconded the motion; all voted in favor of this approval.*

**Approve 2023 May Meeting minutes**

Julie Reizner made a motion to approve the minutes. Amanda Fuller corrected Dr. Dirk Grupe’s misspelled name. *Dr. Ann Kingsolver motioned to approve the minutes, Dr. Dirke Grupe seconded motion; all voted in favor of this approval.*

**Annual Meeting Update**

Amanda Fuller shared a draft budget for the meeting. Amanda wants everyone to look at the numbers early. They are in the folder and she shared them with everyone. She discussed the following: Morehead State University numbers compare with the projected Northern Kentucky University, NKU, meeting (expenses $46.2K total cost last year $24.7 K, revenue last year was $25.8 and that this year to break even we need to raise $10K in sponsorships (3X) more and raise registration fees; assuming attendance same as last year and if we raised from $40 to $60 undergraduates and professional members $70 to $90. The event will be nice at the aquarium. Dr. Dirke Grupe asked where is the cost coming from? Amanda Fuller replied catering and the event being held at the aquarium. She also pointed out that we had a STEMX contribution. This is not firm.

Amanda Fuller asked for approval to raise registration fees on this scale ($20 per person hike or $10 per students and $25 for professional)? Julie Reizner said she thought proportional raises would be better and asked when was the last time fees were raised? Amanda Fuller said not since 2016 and Dr. Dirk Grupe said it might have been earlier. Dr. Dirk Grupe likes the proportional as well since everything gets more expensive (i.e. catering is more costly now and the meeting is still inexpensive compared to other meetings). Jon Dixon thinks this is good to raise the registration fees. Dr. Mark Wilson suggests raising 20% which would add $10 to students. Amanda Fuller states it is more like an overall 50% raise that is needed. Dr. Mark Wilson thinks we may lose the numbers in the registration. Dr. Dirk Grupe points out the students are getting their fees paid from the departments. Dr. Dirk Grupe is concerned about the high school students are not covered. Dr. Scott Wicker wants to know if students are grant funded verses institutional funded. Amand Fuller mentioned we don’t have this data captured and that it would be nice to capture that data.

*Amanda Fuller made a motion that we raise the registration fees by 20% for undergraduate students, 50% for professionals, and keep K-12 students at $0. Dr. Mark Wilso proposes to leave the high school and undergraduate at $0, but the other prices look fine. Dr. Dirk Grupe says we could go with adding $40 for each undergraduate student. Dr. Ann Kingsolver states that would be in keeping with our strategic plan and if we run short we can take from the $10K budget.*

Amanda excited about the NKU meeting planning board. These meetings are happening every other Friday at 10am. Soliciting workshop proposals submission link is on the website.

**Treasurer Report**

Dr. Mark Wilson shared the treasurer report. A summary was as follows: comparing last year’s board meeting budget next to this year’s actual with a total year to date revenue of $95K. This was due to the first quarter’s revenue from the Athey Trust Distribution and the Annual Dues paid. He stated that summer is typically less and that it was a nice surprise of $6K revenue from the KAS journal. Expenses included mainly salary, consulting fees, taxes and insurance ($20K since the last board meeting. He also stated that we are $11K ahead of the budget, however, the last part of the year hopefully we will leave us with only about a $5K deficient). He finished his report stating that we are looking pretty good and were there any questions on the profit loss? Dr. Mark Wilson then provided an update on the account stating there is about $37K in checking account as working capital. He pointed out that as meeting expenses accrue we may need to dip into our Stifel account that is accessible since we can move this money freely. Apparently we made $1K this year from just moving this money to a money market interest making account. In addition, the Athey Trust is up $26K from last quarter and the Stifel Account is nearly at $1 million. It too increased by $50K last quarter. This is encouraging and if need be we could use this money to pay for deficits. Lastly, he listed the credit card activity. Dr. Trent Garrison made an observation that the amount we have made through Athey is more than what we currently have lost.

*Dr. Dirk Grupe made a motion to approve the treasurer report; J. Scott Miller seconded the motion; all voted in favor of this approval.*

**Executive Director’s Report**

Amanda Fuller shared about information regarding her office space. It is currently a temporary working space downtown and she is working to moving to a space at University of Louisville (UofL). She is in the process of working out insurance details and hopefully she will be there at the end of the month. UofL will get comped fees ($2K/year) and we will have a new mailing address. The space is nice. Dr. Mark Wilson stated we should have a post office (PO) box since we don’t know how long we will be collecting mail at that location. Amanda Fuller says maybe we should get a PO Box but it maybe $100 per year. Dr. Dirk Grupe thinks since it is a year to year lease, then having a PO Box is a good idea. Dr. Ann Kingsolver thinks the PO box is more accurate in the delivery than campus mail. Amanda Fuller will take care of that in the next seven days. Other announcements included the following: interested in to apply for the EPScoR eCORE grant which is due in July 2024. This would give her effectively six months to write it. In December, she will come back to that. Rob Weber will explain why we will not be pursuing the National Council of State Legislators (NCSL) grant. Dr. Melissa Mefford will be administering the KAS grants. We are changing the language (i.e. the terms and conditions have been updated in a small note within the journal) to encourage the publishing in our journal. The science outreach award is open and the nomination is due September 30th.

**Communications & Policy Director’s report**

Communications & Policy Director’s report was presented by Rob Weber. Rob stated the following: the science advocacy committee was divided into two divisions (science policy and the other education and engagement committee). We have gotten to see new faces as a result of this. Some planned public events include Aug 7th Social Event in Lousiville Dark Skies and Light pollution, Lexington acting director state director ways geology effects our lives, Oct 27th hosting a movie screening at Speed museum at Louisville document on getting science of reading in schools. In addition we have started doing member spotlights and there is a link to the latest member spot light. We plan to keep doing this on a long term and we can do this more than once a month. In our committees we have started looking ahead on what should be our next issues committees budget priorities on science issues: STEM scholarships for disadvantage students. Research in other states’ meetings with the senator that chairs the education committee informed us that they are already having STEM Teaching Scholarships and they envision someone would have to commit to teaching in Kentucky for a specific time. Some of the science policies have been lately STEM and chemistry tools for teachers, coal plant closures, artificial intelligence, perfluoroorganic sulfonates (PPFOS) chemicals, development of nuclear energy in Ky, tools and resources to improve math scores in Ky (i.e. they have been decreasing since 2015). Interest in the Anti-Trans Bill Senate Bill 150, a brief injunction to hold off on the ban on gender affirming care for minors, and not it is not legal for minors to get gender affirming care, court decision yesterday nothing will change on that law front as long as a law suit is going forward. Education side of the bill on what schools can do and can’t do regarding student sexuality, there will likely be a law suit coming forward, new stories in Louisville, and state law conflicts with federal laws. Regarding the planning grant, we will not be going forward with that because we had a good meeting regarding placing a fellow into the legislature staff, the director of the legislature said we will not commit to anything, they will not provide a letter of support for this funding round. The Kentucky Academy Standards for Science “new look very much like the old” are “pretty much locked in” for the next 6 years. KAS has had some involvement.

**Industry Committee Report**

The Industry Committee report was presented by Dr. Mark Wilson. Mark stated the following: we have put together a contact list 130 contact email and phone numbers. This provides some success although it is tough to get inside contacts. Amanda Fuller and Dr. Dirk Grupe have been very helpful and the committee members have been sending contacts. If anyone in KAS has a contact, they can submit to me via email and we will add them to the database. Our goal is to have a list of contacts into the KAS directory, give them our newsletter. We have developed a new type of member “industry affiliate member”, we need to keep providing a database and this database will need to constantly be made and updated. Would love to have anyone to help out to contact these contacts and let them know how they can become industry member affiliates. Amanda Fuller has been doing this for years but now we are making a brochure directly targeted toward industry. On the brochure, the KAS mission is on page 1 and the benefits of networking and being involved with the group are listed. I will send this brochure to the board to provide edits and feedback. Three levels of membership and the industry affiliate would allow any employee to become a member of KAS for free, get our literature and newsletter, as well as other specific events. Julie Reizner asked what can we do to help? Dr. Mark Wilson stated that we need to email this brochure to our new contact list. Amanda Fuller thought we should do some calling. We could send the list to the whole board and if some of the members on the KAS board would be willing to contact the companies (i.e.3-5 of them) and email them the brochure. We need help with that first level of contact. Historically Amanda Fuller calls companies every year. Dr. Mark Wilson thinks this task should be shared responsibility wider to the academy. Julie Reizner thinks this should be a priority since the meeting is coming up quickly. Dr. Mark Wilson will submit this to the board for further edits and will send an email to the board to solicit some help. Amanda Fuller asks if the board calls companies, who will manage who is contacting the list? Dr. Mark Wilson says we need a protocol in the email and if you successfully get the information we should follow the protocol, even if it is a dead end. Dr. Mark Wilson stated that all the information can come to him and that he will collate it. Dr. Scott Wicker wants a script for when we reach out that also includes scenarios and then direct them to Amanda Fuller, etc. Dr. Mark Wilson and Amanda Fuller will work together to put together a script. Dr. Scott Wicker recommends to get a sales person to review it. Dr. Mark Wilson asks Dr. Scott Wicker to look at the script before we send it out. Dr. Scott Wicker recommended two names and will need to send an email. Jon Dixon states that he needs to won the work on the brochure final design and will get back to that in the next couple of nights. Amanda Fuller is excited about the bigger list of companies to reach out. J Julie Reizner is excited about this too. Amanda Fuller stated that there will be a career fair in the upcoming meeting. Dr. Mark Wilson stated that face to face meetings are the best way to capture the industries.

**Historian Update**

The historian update was presented by Dr. Marilyn Akins. She stated that she has been diligently reviewing hard copies of the journals and going through the University of Kentucky archive and seeing if there is anything missing and going through the online editions and making sure the convention is correct. She asked Amanda Fuller to help her with uploading and that this is a great resource.

**Journal Report**

The journal report was presented by Dr. Frank Ettensohn. He stated that the editors met with Amanda Fuller on Monday. The BioOne surplus was $8200 in two payments and now the journal is in the black by $4500. What we get from BioOne depends on the number of pages we publish. We have a new way of processing the journal (KGL uses Smart Proof). We will now have a new cover picture. Ideally the cover image should come from a published article. Please let me know if you have image. Dr. Mark Wilson asks for an image contest. We also discussed our review evaluation sheet and that we will have new grant criteria. We will include “How to publish a research article” in the next meeting. Anyone wants to be a part of that let Dr. Frank Ettensohn know. We will be publishing about four new articles by the end of the year.

**Announcements**

Amanda Fuller mentioned stated that we are piloting a mentor match for this year. She is committing to making 30 matches. She will put the website link in the chat (includes middle school/high school students with scientist or teacher with mentor and a survey for people to sign up for this program). We would like to get all over the state and match up by discipline. Also feedback and testimony could help to make it a real program (i.e.high school and middle school students/teachers who need a science mentor in their lives). Amanda Fuller probable update calendar of events: Sept 13th Louisville Union of Concerned Scientist West 6th. Dr. Scott Wicker wants a debrief with Amanda Fuller. He stated that Kentucky State University (KSU) has a land grant money towards dual credit, to keep partnerships, and that they have about five superintendents to talk about how to promote that partnership. In addition, over the next couple years Kentucky State University will be developing engineering education pathways. Also KSU has a new president, Dr. Scott Wicker was made acting provost in June and is now vice provost in academic affairs at KSU. Jon Dixon is on a garlic farm and states that if anyone needs garlic to email him.

Dr. Mark Wilson motioned to adjourn. J. Scott Miller seconded the motion. All was in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 1:53 pm.