

## Tennessee Academy of Science Executive Committee Meeting 18 November 2016

President Fred Matthews called the meeting of the Tennessee Academy of Science (TAS) Executive Committee to order at 6:45 PM CST in the Iris room of the Morgan University Center on the campus of Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, Tennessee. Attendees were Past President and Electronic Communications Director Gilbert Pitts, Secretary Teresa Fulcher, Treasurer Steve Murphree, Managing Editor, Rachel Rigsby, Junior Academy Director and AAAS Representative Preston MacDougall, Visiting Scientist Director Tony Johnston, Education Chairperson Cindi Smith-Walters, Publicity Chairperson Mandy Carter-Lowe, Membership Committee Chairperson Karen Kendall-Fite, Necrology Committee Chair Martin Stewart, and Members-at-Large Sandy Mehlhorn and Allyn Smith. Prior to the meeting, the Executive Committee enjoyed a meal in the Iris room.

A motion to approve minutes from the April 2016 meeting was made by Past President Pitts, and seconded by Chairperson Smith-Walters.

### Reports from Officers and Directors

*Past President and Local Arrangements Committee Chairperson*—Gilbert Pitts reported that the atrium of the Sundquist Science Complex was being used for poster display, and areas have been designated based on program poster number. Posters will remain displayed through lunch. Meeting rooms are limited to the Sundquist building and technical support will be provided. Parking areas have been specified. Pitts noted that a designated time for committees to meet had been added to the program and currently three committee meetings were scheduled. Coffee service has been ordered during registration and snacks will be available between sessions.

*President-Elect and 2017 Program Chairperson*—Daniel Swartling was not in attendance.

*Treasurer*—Steve Murphree discussed the treasurer's report provided below. Treasurer Murphree noted that pre-registration for the 2016 meeting was at 111. He also reminded Executive Committee members that the Middle Tennessee Science and Engineering Fair (MTSEF) account would be separated in 2017 and thanked the Academy for supporting MTSEF by providing financial oversight in 2016. Following questions regarding the Star fund unrealized gain-loss, Director Pitts made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Director Johnston and the motion carried.

*Managing Editor*—Rachel Rigsby submitted the following report:

"JTAS 91: 1-2 was published in June 2016. Some materials for JTAS 91: 3-4 (December 2016) have been sent to the publisher. Page proofs are expected in a few weeks. More material may be needed before publishing the issue.

### TAS Income and Expenses (7/1/2015 through 6/30/2016).

Category description	7/1/2015- 12/31/2015	1/1/2016- 6/30/2016	Overall total
<b>INCOME</b>			
Annual Meeting Income	250.00	0.00	250.00
Dividend Income	0.00	108.83	108.82
Gift Received	5.00	0.00	5.00
Library Journal	350.00	950.00	1300.00
Subscriptions			
Meeting Lunch	1,441.00	120.00	1,561.00
Meeting Registration	4,122.00	120.00	4,242.00
Membership Dues	13,310.00	1,270.00	14,580.00
MTSEF	0.00	13,158.48	13,158.48
Other Inc	20.00	0.00	20.00
Page Charges for Journal	450.00	1,080.00	1,530.00
Unrealized Gain	4,725.64	1,233.93	5,959.57
Vanguard Dividend Payment	1,650.73	2,815.41	4,466.14
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>26,324.37</b>	<b>20,856.64</b>	<b>47,181.01</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Annual Meeting	5,637.91	0.00	5,637.91
Collegiate Division	0.00	1,010.13	1,010.13
Dues and Fees	400.00	0.00	400.00
Executive Committee	0.00	269.94	269.94
Meetings			
Journal	61.50	93.02	154.52
Journal Printing	4,443.19	3,365.46	7,808.65
Junior Academy of Science	341.71	1,757.33	2,099.04
Misc. Expenses	0.00	300.00	300.00
MTSEFF	0.00	9,882.25	9,882.25
Postage and Delivery	0.00	6.86	6.86
Science Fair	0.00	805.00	805.00
TJAS Awards	50.00	2,300.00	2,800.00
TJAS Research Grant	298.89	0.00	298.89
Travel Expenses of Executive Committee	0.00	1,393.35	1,393.35
Treasurer	5.99	0.00	5.99
Unrealized Gain-Loss on Star Fund	15,315.07	0.00	15,315.07
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>27,004.26</b>	<b>21,183.34</b>	<b>48,187.60</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>-679.89</b>	<b>-326.70</b>	<b>-1,006.59</b>

"At the November 2014 meeting, members of the Executive Committee inquired as to the availability of JTAS in online databases. We are included in EBSCOhost™ and EBSCO Discovery Service as well as several Gale databases including

## TAS Balance Sheet (as of 6/30/2016).

Account	Balance
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash and Bank Accounts	
Checking	16,135.97
Star Fund	222,296.41
<b>TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts</b>	<b>238,432.38</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>238,432.38</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	0.00
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>238,432.38</b>

Expanded Academic ASAP. Gale is the vendor that provides database access to the Tennessee Electronic Library, so everyone in Tennessee has access."

Managing Editor Rigsby also reported researching the addition of *JTAS* to the online database SCOPUS. *JTAS* appears to meet all requirements with the exception of having an ethics and publication malpractice statement. Managing Editor Rigsby noted that there are examples available. Chairperson Carter-Lowe made a motion to authorize Managing Editor Rigsby to draft ethics and publication malpractice statements and to pursue SCOPUS listing. The motion was seconded by Director Pitts and the motion carried.

Managing Editor Rigsby also reported several requests for reference materials including a request from Poland for a bison paper from 1948. Rigsby emphasized the importance of adding to, and maintaining a Managing Editor's archival set of *JTAS* issues.

*Collegiate Division Director*—Fred Matthews announced that the 2017 East Tennessee Collegiate Division meeting will again be held at Pellissippi State. Director Matthews also reported that Duane Hatch of Belmont would not be able to coordinate the Middle Collegiate meeting and was looking for a replacement for 2017. Director Matthews provided a compiled listing of locations of the Collegiate Division meetings from 1998–2016. Director Matthews reminded members that the Academy supports the Collegiate Division meeting by reimbursing the host institution for \$300–\$600 for expenses depending on the number of participants and that \$250 is available to reimburse for rewards.

*Electronic Communications Director*—Gilbert Pitts reported that data on website visits has not been available from the website host, Midphase. Director Pitts reported updating website information such as Executive Committee member names and photos, and Junior Academy pages. Junior Academy handbooks are not available due to pending verification of originality of images in student papers. Director Pitts reported increased "likes" to the TAS Facebook page and thanked Director MacDougall for his efforts. It was noted that information on Fellows is pulled from the membership database and there continue to be some problems with formatting. Director Pitts reported that work to migrate the *Journal* website from Tennessee Technological University (TTU) continues. Treasurer Murphree added that Tennessee State University has become a sustaining member of the Academy.

*Junior Academy of Science Director*—Preston MacDougall reported that Barry Farris is the recipient of the Distinguished

Secondary Science Teacher award for 2016. Farris is currently in his 37<sup>th</sup> year of teaching at Columbia Academy in Maury County, Tennessee. He has served as Treasurer for the Tennessee Science Teachers Association (TSTA) since 2001. This award will be announced at the TAS annual business meeting. Farris will receive 500 dollars and a plaque. Director MacDougall also reported that a grant of 300 was awarded to a student team researching methane in the atmosphere and this research will be presented in April at the JTAS meeting. Director MacDougall also reminded Executive Committee members that top winners from the 2016 JTAS meeting will be going to Boston to present their research at the American Junior Academy of Science (AJAS) meeting held in conjunction with the AAAS meeting.

*Visiting Scientist Director*—Tony Johnston solicited advice on increasing exposure for the Visiting Scientist Program. Members suggested that Director Johnston attend the TSTA annual meeting and authorized attendance on behalf of TAS. Creation of a brochure with information on the Visiting Scientist Program was suggested. Chairperson Stewart suggested contact with Patricia Patterson of Middle Tennessee State University and Regional Director for the Science Olympiad. Director MacDougall announced that in 2017, he would be involved in a statewide initiative to start a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) festival. Events held throughout the state would provide opportunities for involvement.

*Annual Meeting Interim Coordinator*—Steve Murphree created the 2016 meeting program and noted 80 oral presentations and over 100 posters. Member-at-Large Allyn Smith graciously agreed to take over as the Annual Meeting Coordinator for 2017. President Matthews thanked both Treasurer Murphree and Member-at-Large Smith.

## Reports from Representatives

*State Department of Education Liaison*—Neither Kelly Chastain nor Linda Jordan were in attendance. Cindi Smith-Waters reported the Ms. Chastain has left the Tennessee Department of Education.

*AAAS Section Y Representative*—Preston MacDougall reported that he submitted a proposal for presentation at the February AAAS meeting. While the proposal was not accepted, he will be attending the meeting in Boston as our Section Y representative and Tennessee Junior Academy of Science winners would be presenting at the AJAS. Chairperson Smith-Walters made a motion to appoint Preston MacDougall as the Tennessee Academy of Science representative for the 3 year term of 2017-2019. Director Pitts seconded the motion and the motion carried.

## Reports from Committees

*Local Arrangements Committee*—See Past President's report.

*Long Range Strategic Planning Committee Chairperson*—Gilbert Pitts reported that The University of Tennessee at Martin will host the 2017 meeting. Member-at-Large Sandy Mehlhorn will work with local arrangements. The 2018 TAS meeting will be in middle Tennessee and Lipscomb University is a possible location. Director Tony Johnston will discuss hosting

prospects with Tennessee State University. Treasurer Murphree agreed to poll the membership again regarding preference for a Saturday or Friday meeting. The Executive committee agreed that the host school should have the ability to schedule on Friday or Saturday.

*Nominating Committee Chairperson*—Gilbert Pitts noted that President-Elect Daniel Swartling would assume the Presidency on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Chairperson Pitts presented the following slate of officers for approval: President-Elect, Sandy Mehlhorn; Treasurer, Steve Murphree and Secretary, Teresa Fulcher. Director Tony Johnston made a motion to accept the slate of officers from the nominating committee and Mandy Carter Lowe seconded the motion. The motion carried, and the slate will be presented at the annual business meeting of the TAS.

*Research and Education Chairperson*—Cindi Smith-Walters reported that new state science standards were approved and available online. Additionally 2016 TN Ready (the new state achievement test) results are available. While results show a large percentage of students below proficient in science and math, this exam sets a new benchmark of expectations and aligns with increased rigor in the curriculum. It was noted that since 2013, Tennessee has been identified as the fastest improving state in the nation regarding student performance. Chairperson Smith-Walters specifically noted scores in Biology (48.8% of students proficient or advanced) and Chemistry (39.7% of students proficient or advanced). She also announced the creation of a state affiliate of the National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT). The Tennessee Association of Biology Teachers (TNABT) had their charter meeting on Friday 4 November 2016 in Denver, CO. Brenda Royal is President of the affiliate and TAS Research and Education Co-chair Kim Sadler is Vice President.

*Fellows Committee Chairperson*—Charles McGhee was not in attendance but submitted a nomination from the fellows committee for Past President Gilbert Pitts. President Matthews requested that the nomination be considered at the close of the meeting.

*Membership Committee Chairperson*—Karen Kendall-Fite reported that the committee plans to send letters to new members to inform them of upcoming events.

*Necrology Committee Chairperson*—Martin Stewart reported the deaths of three TAS members: Harvey F. Blanck, chemistry educator from Austin Peay State University; Parris F. Powers, chemistry educator from Volunteer State Community College; and Thomas E. Hemmerly, plant ecologist retired from Middle Tennessee State University. Chairperson Stewart will deliver memorial remarks at the annual business meeting.

*Publicity Chairperson*—Mandy Carter-Lowe reported that based on the success of on-site certificate printing and distribution from the 2015 meeting, she will again provide this service at the 2016 annual meeting. A printer is available and Austin Peay Tri-Beta volunteers will deliver printed certificates to section chairs. Chairperson Carter-Lowe reported that she will be attending the section chair meeting to field any questions about the process. Carter-Lowe also noted that a press release

had been provided to Austin Peay's marketing and publicity office.

*Resolutions Committee*—The Chairperson vacancy was noted. Per TAS constitution Article IV section 6, President Fred Matthews appointed Preston MacDougal to fill the position.

## Old Business

President Matthews reported no further communication from License Compliance Services (LCS) but cautioned Executive Committee members to require verification of originality prior to posting or publication of images. President Matthews also reported that the Academy has purchased replacement easels. Following discussion on disbursement of wooden easels Member-at-Large Sandy Mehlhorn made a motion to authorize Treasurer Steve Murphree to first offer easels to sustaining institution science departments and then to other science departments. Chairperson Smith-Walters seconded the motion and the motion carried. The importance of an equipment log was discussed. Secretary Fulcher agreed to generate a log which notes location of TAS signs, easels, poster boards and other equipment.

Treasurer Murphree reported that he will be piloting use of Square to accept credit card registration and luncheon payments. Following a discussion, the Executive committee decided not to charge a convenience fee for use of Square for the 2016 meeting, but to reevaluate based on 2016 costs. Treasurer Murphree also reminded Executive Committee members that receipts are needed for all requested reimbursements for expenses, and that the sales tax exemption form should be used when making purchases.

Publicity Chair Carter-Lowe reported that purchase of a printer was on hold. She stated that the committee should be able to use a host institution printer for certification creation. A TAS owned printer would be problematic requiring transport, storage, and new ink each year.

## New Business

Members of the Executive Committee considered the nomination of Dr. Gilbert Pitts as a Fellow of the Tennessee Academy of Science. Secretary Fulcher read excerpts from the nomination submitted by Chairperson Charles McGhee detailing Dr. Pitt's service to the Academy as President, Director of Electronic Communications, and Chair of several committees. As professor of Biology, Dr. Pitts has served as Molecular Biology Section chair, session presenter and faculty mentor for student presenters. Chairperson Martin Stewart seconded the motion from the Fellow Committee to recommend Dr. Pitts as a Fellow of the Academy. The motion carried and will be brought before the full membership at the annual meeting.

President Matthews concluded the meeting by thanking members of the Executive Committee. With no objection the meeting was adjourned at 9:22 PM CST.