



MINUTES
ALABAMA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE
Fall 2025, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
1:00 PM Saturday, October 4, 2025
Faulkner University Montgomery Campus
E.L. Perry Dining/Conference Room

The meeting began with administrative changes, including the temporary appointment of Zoom AI as secretary and discussions about the cancellation of the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium. The group focused on preparations for the upcoming Alabama Academy of Science annual meeting at Faulkner University, including local arrangements, registration details, and financial matters such as insurance and tax filings. The conversation ended with discussions about archiving efforts, the establishment of an archives committee, and plans for document management and electronic media promotion.

Alabama Academy of Science Meeting Prep

The meeting focused on preparations for the upcoming Alabama Academy of Science annual meeting at Faulkner University. The local arrangements committee reported that all rooms and facilities were ready, including registration in Harris Hall, sessions in the Harris Parker Building, and the banquet in the rotunda auditorium. The committee also discussed plans for high school student attendance, with Jack agreeing to set up a special lunch pricing option. The group approved last year's pricing for the meeting and agreed to open registration and abstract submission by October 15th. Ron mentioned potential interest from Alabama State University in hosting the 2027 meeting, and Jack announced that the Journal of the Alabama Academy of Science would be moving to the University of South Alabama Libraries' Digital Commons platform.

Financial Planning and Event Insurance

The meeting discussed financial matters, including the need for event liability insurance for upcoming meetings, with a quote of \$748 that includes sexual harassment and molestation riders. The group addressed late tax filing issues for 2023 and 2024, with a penalty of \$2,475, and discussed potentially separating tax advisory services from their current financial planner, Jim Sumner. The meeting also touched on the need to find a new event planner service as Jack will be stepping back, and the potential loss of funding for the AJAS program from the Army Parent organization, with a follow-up meeting scheduled for October 12th to discuss new funding sources.

Adriel Fund Award Changes

The meeting discussed the suspension of the Adriel D. Johnson Endowed Fund, deciding to continue the prestigious award with a plaque and a \$300 monetary award instead of an endowment. They also addressed the need for help following Jack's departure as Associate Executive Director, approving a motion to transfer his stipend to Nora Ellen Whitten as an Administrative and Technical Assistant starting November 1st, with the full stipend directed to her in 2026.

Adopting Four Waves for 2026

The meeting focused on adopting a new event planning company, Four Waves, to handle logistics and technical aspects of the annual meeting. The group discussed the potential benefits of the platform, including an online gallery, customized website, and automatic program book creation. After some debate, a motion was approved to adopt Four Waves, with plans to use it for the 2026 meeting. The meeting also addressed the need to find a new secretary, as Malia is stepping down from the role.

Treasurer's Report and Financial Updates

Bettina presented the treasurer's report, detailing the organization's assets, reserves, and financial activities for 2024. She explained the new comprehensive asset report, including investments, checking accounts, and reserves for specific purposes. Bettina highlighted the establishment of a new investment account at PNC, earning approximately \$175 monthly, and the closure of the Gorgas checking account to reduce fees. She also discussed the Gorgas investment account, which started at \$300,000 and is used to fund scholarships and competitions. Larry provided additional context on the Gorgas Foundation funds. John and Jean-Pierre discussed the journal's indexing status and efforts to fill publication gaps to improve indexing and potentially obtain an impact factor. The conversation ended with a brief mention of Mark's submitted report and the cancellation of the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium at the national level.

Alabama Junior Academy Science Planning

The meeting discussed plans for the Alabama Junior Academy of Science program, including funding for student banquet and registration costs, and the need to redefine section categories to reduce confusion during poster and presentation submissions. Jean-Pierre proposed adding definitions for each section during registration and requested assistance with creating promotional materials to advertise AAS. The group also explored the possibility of including job and internship booths at future conventions to help students find opportunities after graduation, with John suggesting a survey of employers to gauge interest. Dennis Sansom, the new chair of the bioethics and history philosophy section, shared plans to recruit participants and asked about the eligibility of non-academic professionals to present at the Alabama Academy of Science. The conversation ended with a discussion on organizing a 3-minute thesis competition for graduate students, including the logistics of holding a preliminary Zoom competition and the need for a prize pool, which would require approval from the finance committee and potential sponsorship.

Digital Archiving Policy Implementation

Larry presented an extensive report on archiving efforts, highlighting the transition from physical to digital record-keeping and proposing a new record retention and archiving policy. He suggested

involving officers in the archiving process and using digital formats for storage. John proposed using the website as the official repository, with password-protected upload features for secure document submission. Scott raised concerns about the public accessibility of digital archives, emphasizing the need for a secure platform. The group agreed on the importance of establishing a comprehensive digital archiving system.

The meeting focused on establishing an archives committee and discussing document management. Larry Krannich proposed using WordPress for document submission and tagging, which John supported. The committee agreed to appoint Dr. Shelly Tremblay to the Archives Committee for the academic year, with plans to expand it further. They also discussed the submission process for awards nominations, emphasizing that they should go directly to Dr. Edwards rather than through intermediaries. The conversation ended with a brief discussion about promoting electronic media to high schools and scheduling upcoming committee meetings.

Action Items going forward:

1. Ron Hunsinger to meet with the Budget and Finance Committee to discuss the tax filing issues and explore potential tax accounting alternatives.
2. Ron Hunsinger to follow up with Dr. Dean at Alabama State University regarding hosting the 2027 AAS meeting.
3. Ron Hunsinger to work with the Local Arrangements Committee to plan for the 2029 meeting.
4. Dr. Afangadeh to determine the cost per unit for lunch at the upcoming meeting and send the information to Jack Shelley Tremblay.
5. Jack Shelley Tremblay to set up a lunch option for Montgomery Area High School Students on the registration website.
6. Jack Shelley Tremblay to open the registration portal and abstract submission by October 15th.
7. Ron Hunsinger to transfer the \$250 monthly stipend to Mrs. Nora Ellen Witten starting November 1st.
8. Section chairs to provide descriptions of their sections to Jack Shelley Tremblay for inclusion on the registration form.
9. Jean-Pierre to work with Dr. Vinoy Thomas to identify potential corporate sponsors for the 3-minute thesis competition.
10. Jean-Pierre to submit a proposal to Ron Hunsinger for flyers to advertise AAS around university campuses.
11. Larry Krannich and Jack Shelley Tremblay to work together as the Archives Committee to develop a record retention and archiving policy.
12. Ron Hunsinger to meet with the Nominating Committee to identify a new secretary.