



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 9, 2006
ARIZONA ARTS, SCIENCES, AND TECHNOLOGY
ACADEMY FOUNDATION, INC. (AASTA)**

An annual meeting of the Board of Governors and Fellows of AASTA was held at the Westward Look Resort in Tucson, Arizona conference call on September 9, 2006 at 6:00 pm. A quorum of Fellows was present.

President's Remarks

AASTA President, Patrick Burkhart welcomed AASTA's Fellows and guests to the 2nd Annual Meeting.

Patrick announced that a sufficient number of ballots had been cast by the Fellows to elect the following persons to the Board of Governors:

Chair – Vincent Fulginiti
Vice Chair – Jewell Parker-Rhodes
Secretary – Robert Millis
Treasurer – Michael Cusanovich

Board Members – Roy Curtiss
Nils Hasselmo
Peter Likins
Kiisa Nishikawa
Douglas Stuart

Patrick thanked all of those who stood for election to the Board and its officerships.

He also asked the Fellows to join him in recognizing the efforts of the following Board members whose terms had expired:

Charles Backus
Betsey Bayless
Vicki Chandler
Philip Christensen
Nasser Peyghambarian

Finally, Patrick acknowledged the leadership of John Hildebrand, whose term as Board Chair was complete, noting that this past year was a formative one of precedent setting events, which were made possible by John's commitment and vision.

Outgoing Chair's Remarks

Following dinner, outgoing Chair John Hildebrand addressed the Fellows.

Noting that many Fellows belong to professional and honorary societies, both here and abroad, few have had the opportunity to actually found and operationalize anything like the Arizona Arts, Sciences and Technology Academy. It is a journey that John has found, as Chair, expectedly rewarding and unexpectedly complex.

The reward has come in many forms. Working with many of Arizona's foremost intellects, many for the first time. Having the honor of leading a wonderful Board of Governors, and seeing the fruits of many peoples' dreams and efforts begin to unfold has had a profound effect and has raised his aspirations for what AASTA can achieve as it continues to unfold and mature.

John has also come to appreciate how inventive we can be to accomplish significant milestones, with minimal resources.

The annual report tells the story in greater detail. John called attention to an enormous amount of hard work on the part of many to launch AASTA's Annual Lecture, its first major conference and report, and its first independent study, all essentially accomplished in a period of just a few months.

AASTA has grown since we last gathered by adding 75 new Fellows. University presidents, provosts, deans, center directors, leading citizens, nationally and internationally recognized scholars and scientists all have joined, comprising a truly eclectic group who have answered the call to service and collegiality.

The issues and problems that confront us as citizens and as a community, only seem to grow more pressing, more daunting and ever more intractable. The legacy of this first Board of Governors and the staff is that our efforts will be seen as a good beginning. But it was just that, a beginning.

We have spent much of the past year creating the template for AASTA to speak, to info, to educate and to engage. There is much to be done, and John asked all to join with him in support of AASTA's 2nd elected Chair, the Board of Governors, and AASTA's hard working committees to make the impact we all envision.

John then concluded his remarks by introducing Dr. Nathaniel Pitts.

Dr. Nathaniel G. Pitts was appointed Director of the Office of Integrative Activities at the National Science Foundation in 1998. As Director of OIA, he is responsible for overseeing major cross-Foundational activities including:

- the NSF supported Science and Technology Centers;
- the Major Research Instrumentation Program;
- the Presidential Early Career Awards for Science and Engineering;

- the NSF Merit Review Process;
- the Committee of Visitors Process;
- the Government Performance Results Act implementation; and
- the Committee on Equal Opportunity in Science and Engineering.

He serves on the Director's Policy Group, the Senior Management Integration Group, and as he representative to the Federal Demonstration Partnership representing the Office of Science and Technology Policy of the White House.

Since joining the National Science Foundation in 1977 as a neuroscience program officer, Dr. Pitts has developed and directed numerous neuroscience programs, served as Neuroscience Section Head, served as Deputy Director of the Behavioral and Neural Science Division and served as Acting Director of BNS temporarily.

He was detailed to the National Institutes of Health as a health science administrator for a year while overseeing neuroscience programs associated with nervous system disorders. He has worked for Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Chair of the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee while preparing science and math education legislation.

He has also served on numerous intra-agency and inter-agency working groups including the Director's Action Review Board, Inter-agency Working Group on Spinal Cord and Brain Injury, and the White House Committee on the Decade of the Brain.

He became Director of the Office of Science and Technology Infrastructure in 1991, an Office of the NSF Director. He chaired the subcommittee on Academic Research Infrastructure for the White House National Science and Technology Council and has chaired a Working Group for the Research Business Models Subcommittee for the NSTC.

He has chaired various intra-agency working groups such as the Working Group on Cognitive Science and the new program manager's seminar on cross-directorate activities. Finally, he served as Special Assistant to the Director of NSF.

Dr. Pitts has won numerous awards while serving as a civil servant, twice winning the Presidential Rank Award for Senior Executives.

Prior to joining NSF, Dr. Pitts was on the faculty of the Rockefeller University where he researched both sensory and motor spinal pathways of the central nervous system.

He received his B.S Degree in biology/chemistry from Whittier College and his Ph.D. degree in neurophysiology from the University of California at Davis.

Guest Speaker: Dr. Nathaniel Pitts

Dr. Pitts thanked the Fellows for the opportunity to address the meeting. He spoke at length on the topic of interdisciplinary advancement and noted that AASTA was well positioned to push the frontiers of knowledge and understanding by virtue of its diverse and powerful membership.

Incoming Chair's Remarks

Vincent Fulginiti asked all present to join with him in recognizing the previous Chair, John Hildebrand– for his exceptional leadership in working with the Board to bring this new organization through its first year of operations so successfully. Also, it is most fitting at this time, Vince noted, that we also thank several others who have completed their terms of service to the Board. Charles Backus, Betsey Bayless, James Buizer, Phil Christensen, Vicki Chandler and Nasser Peyghambarian.

Vince called the 2nd Annual Meeting of AASTA's Fellows an important moment in the life of this relatively new organization. This past year, AASTA has demonstrated its capabilities and has set precedents for excellence. As we look forward to the coming year, our aim must be to accelerate its growth and influence.

Arizona, the nation and the world all exist in tumultuous time and we face complex problems and interesting opportunities. This organization was founded to coalesce Arizona's best minds from a wide range of fields and walks of life to create a community dedicated to carefully analyzing these issues and to putting Arizona into the forefront of scientific, cultural and civic discourse.

AASTA's Board of Governors is preparing to move much more assertively, building on the foundation passed on to us, to engage one another and the broad range of topics critical to defining our future. Thus our priorities for the coming year will be to dramatically accelerate AASTA's fundraising, expand its membership, energize local groups, and maximize its impact.

Our vision requires investment.

Philanthropic support has been slow to materialize, and we are committed to change that with help from the Fellows.

Volunteer leadership has been AASTA's core strength to date. Many fellows have stepped forward to serve on committees and undertake the organizational effort.

But we have just begun to tap that interest and willingness to serve. Vince asked that all make AASTA's development a top priority in the coming year. The Programs Committee, chaired by Veal Vanselow, needs ideas. The Board needs involvement in making philanthropic contacts and securing funds.

We all operate from the assumption that membership in AASTA is prestigious but not honorary. We are here to apply our knowledge and talents and to engage with others who are like minded.

AASTA is off to a great start, but we have only scratched the surface of our potential. And to that end, realizing our potential, is what the coming year will be dedicated to.

There being no further business to come before the Fellows, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Patrick Burkhart