

FOUNDATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISABILITY (FSD)

Annual Meeting Minutes

10:00 AM -12:00 PM, Saturday, February 18, 2017

Accessibility and Inclusion Room (Hynes Convention Center)

Boston, MA

- Call to Order/Introductions:

President Richard Mankin called the meeting to order and introduced special guests, Kathi Kowalski and Mahadeo Sukhai. Kathi, an independent journalist based near Cleveland, Ohio, discussed her interests in developing and publishing narratives about activities of scientists and students with disabilities, as discussed further in New Business below. Mahadeo, a cancer genomics researcher at the Advanced Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory in the Cancer Genomics Program at the University Health Network in Toronto, Canada, discussed his research and his activities in mentoring and advising students and persons with visual disabilities. Also present were FSD members Imke Durre, Inge Durre, Yoshiko Miwa, and Laureen Summers.

- Old Business:

There was discussion about the activities of members since last year. Yoshiko Miwa discussed her recent publications and distributed copies of publications translated into English. In her writings, Yoshiko has particular interest in the context of disabled professional individuals trying to develop careers within their professions, their context within the society of disabled persons, and their context within society as a whole. These contexts can be quite different among different professions and in different societal cultures. We briefly discussed differences in how disabled persons are integrated into the work forces of Northern European countries, the United States, Japan, and the developing countries. Yoshiko noted also that the extent of public assistance for persons with disabilities in Japan is still in flux but some progress has been achieved in medical assistance for persons with psychiatric disabilities. After the meeting, Yoshiko shared some of the pictures she took of the participants:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/mqao2hawu907nnp/AABN_NHYp2oHNvpZx71J0G0Va?dl=0

Laureen Summers discussed her searches this year to find new partners and sources of funding for EntryPoint student internship positions. Laureen Summers and Imke Durre have been in contact with AAAS staff regarding making the AAAS Trellis and all aspects of the AAAS websites accessible to persons with disabilities. AAAS has engaged a consultant who has made recommendations for bringing Trellis up to the standards of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 of the Worldwide Web Consortium and is currently working on implementing these recommendations. The same consultant is currently examining the remainder of AAAS' online presence.

Discussion continued on networking and on how to provide greater value to young persons interested in FSD membership. The Foundation has a goal to facilitate and encourage networking among members, with the purpose of enhancing the progress of individuals with disabilities in their path towards and through a scientific career. One of the students who

applied for the 2017 graduate student grant, for example, asked for some advice on what might be the best career path after receiving a degree in mechanical engineering. It was suggested that FSD establish some form of online discussion forum where such questions can be posted and discussed and which FSD members and FSD grant applicants will be invited to join the forum. Facebook and LinkedIn discussion groups were recommended as good starting points given that FSD already has an account on each of these platforms. Mahadeo offered to explore the whether a communications person in his organization can provide assistance in setting up such online forums. Any additional suggestions that increase the capability of members to network are welcome.

- Minutes - February 13, 2016 (Washington, DC):

The minutes from the Washington DC meeting were approved as posted on the FSD web site (<http://stemd.org>). If anyone finds an error, please alert president Richard Mankin (rmankin1@ufl.edu) and it will be corrected. Time did not permit discussion of one New Business item considered last year, a suggestion that FSD offer to partner with AAAS and the other sponsors of the AAAS Minority and Women Scientists and Engineers Breakfast to enable the FSD student grant honoree each year to be recognized at the breakfast along with other graduate students receiving awards. We note here, however, that some of the breakfast meeting organizers were contacted and it was determined that the logistics of adding another award notification would be difficult, due to the number of different organizations involved, time limitations, and the possibility that the student might not be able to come to the meeting to receive the award. For those reasons, FSD did not ask to be included this year, but may reinvestigate the possibility for 2018.

- Treasurer Report- Richard Mankin for Angela Foreman:

The treasurer report was presented. The 2016, \$1000 student grant was awarded to Heather Page at University of California San Diego, Scripps Institute of Oceanography. Dues and contributions of \$365 were received, leaving a balance of \$15,369.70 in the FSD account. Angela renewed the FSD Articles of Incorporation as a nonprofit corporation in Washington DC. The complete treasurer report is posted in the 2017 FSD Newsletter on the FSD Archives page, which can be accessed from <http://stemd.org>.

- Science Student Grant Committee Report 2017– Richard Mankin:

The Student Grant Committee (Angela Foreman, Imke Durre, Laureen Summers, and Richard Mankin) reviewed 7 applications (12 persons had submitted incomplete applications) for the 2017 Student Grant and selected Rachel Wiley, a PhD. student in the Institute of Molecular Medicine at the University of North Texas Health Sciences Center, Ft. Worth, TX, for “Typing highly degraded DNA using circularized molecules and target enrichment.”

- New Business:

FSD submitted a letter of support to NSF for a proposal by Dr. Haddad at the University of California Santa Cruz entitled “NRT-INFIEWS: Sustainable Food Production in a Mediterranean Climate: Water and Energy Efficiency, An Applied Doctoral Training Program.” The proposal included strategies for improving the access of disabled students to facilities with complex piping.

Hal Frost sent us a report about a recent Harkin Disability Employment Summit:

http://www.aucd.org/ecp/template/news.cfm?news_id=12360&parent=0&parent_title=homepage:%20whats%20new&url=/ecp/template/news_mgt.cfm?start%3D1%26sort%3Ddate%2520desc%2Ctitle%26type%3D406%26action%3D%26topic%3D86%26keyword%3D%26parent%3D0

A web search found this interesting commentary about the summit also:

<http://www.supportedemployment.ca/garth-johnson-harkin-summit-2016-coverage/>

There were several interesting posts recently on FaceBook. Here is one from a Twitter blogger: I am trying to increase representation of pwd. Any scientist with disability (ies) want to be highlighted? [#actuallivingscientist](#)

There was a request by Janet Raloff –“I am the editor of Science News for Students, the teen sister publication to Science News (where I have also worked for most of the past four decades). This year we will be doing a two part series on diversity in science--and one of the two parts will focus on researchers who did not let a disability keep them out of STEM. I am hoping some of you will suggest sources for this story--people who can articulate the type of work they do, the joy they derive from it.” Kathi Kowalski works for this publication and collected information for an article at the annual meeting. For links and more information, visit the FaceBook page or contact Richard.

Megan Lynch- "The Center for Oral History is currently seeking interviewees for a three-year project to document the lives and contributions of people with disabilities who work or are currently obtaining an advanced degree in STEM fields. To participate, please fill out our recruitment form."

FSD signed on to a multisociety letter on immigration from AAAS to President Trump. It emphasizes the importance international cooperation to science, and this importance particularly applies to persons with disabilities, many of whom face greater economic and social hardships than the general public. The letter is posted on the FSD archives page (Multisocietyletterimmigration2017.pdf)

It was suggested that FSD develop specific selection criteria for its graduate student grant and that these criteria be communicated to applicants. Imke Durre offered to share the criteria she developed while reviewing the 2017 applications.

Laureen Summers solicited input regarding her current efforts to find out what research exists regarding the effect of implicit bias on people with disabilities and the importance of one-on-one relationships in counteracting such biases. The group expressed its support of this effort.

- Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM. –Respectfully submitted by Richard Mankin, February 19, 2017.