

FOUNDATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISABILITY (FSD)

Annual Meeting Minutes

9:00 AM -10:30 AM, Saturday, February 17, 2018

Room 602 Hilton, Austin

Austin, TX

- Call to Order/Introductions:

President Richard Mankin called the meeting to order. Yoshiko Miwa and Laureen Summers (by phone) were present.

- Old Business:

For introduction, there was discussion about member activities during 2017. Yoshiko Miwa described her recent publications, including:

<http://www.arsvi.com/2010/20151130my.htm>
<http://www.ritsumei-arsvi.org/en/news/read/id/323>
<http://www.ritsumei-arsvi.org/en/news/read/id/291>
<http://www.ritsumei-arsvi.org/en/news/read/id/318>

Yoshiko reported that she has entered graduate school to do a dissertation on Japanese governmental policy for persons with mental disabilities. She noted also that the percentage of young persons obtaining bachelor degrees in Japan is declining recently because it is getting more difficult for them to find employment after they graduate and the economic benefit of greater education is decreasing. Yoshiko also presented a poster at the AAAS annual meeting.

Laureen Summers discussed her searches this year to find new hiring partners and sources of funding for EntryPoint student internship positions. She is considering the possibility of setting up a email server for EntryPoint engineering students who could be recruited through some of the AAAS-affiliated engineering societies. Laureen also has been in contact periodically with AAAS staff about ensuring that the AAAS Trellis and other AAAS websites are functionally accessible to persons with disabilities. Progress has been slow. In addition, she has been teaching a class on disability. Implicit bias has been a major topic of interest in class discussions.

Richard Mankin presented information about magazines that have been including articles about scientists with disabilities, for example an article in Wildlife Australia Magazine, <https://www.ars.usda.gov/ARSUserFiles/3559/publications/Mankin-augmentedawarenessWAM-17-2-23.pdf>. Also, he has been in discussions with several organizations about the methods they use to ensure that websites are accessible to persons with disabilities.

Discussion continued on networking and on how to provide greater value to young persons interested in FSD membership. Much of FSD's activity currently takes place on <http://stemd.org> or FaceBook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/360413492800/>). Any additional suggestions that increase the capability of members to network and develop their careers are welcome.

For example, is it of interest to members to discuss items associated with the recent events, Valentine's Day, at the high school in Parkland, FL? What is the best course of action for persons in a "red alert" environment, where there is urgent need to take rapid evasive action? As a physically disabled person who is one of the slower movers of this world and as a father who would never want their child to be in such an environment, I suspect that, long term, we need to focus some effort to encourage lawmakers to provide improved mental health care to students and adults in need to avoid the occurrence of such events. In addition, as Laureen noted, we may need to encourage training in how to overcome implicit bias to lower some of the barriers facing persons with disabilities entering the scientific work force. Any comments?

- Minutes - February 18, 2017 (Boston, MA):

The minutes from the Boston 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.

- Treasurer Report- Richard Mankin for Angela Foreman:

The treasurer report was presented. The 2017, \$1000 student grant was awarded to Rachel Wiley of at the University of North Texas Health Science Center, Ft. Worth, TX. Dues and contributions of \$586.37 were received, leaving a balance of \$14, 956.07 in the FSD account. The complete treasurer report is posted in the 2018 FSD Newsletter on the FSD Archives page, which can be accessed from <http://stemd.org>.

- Science Student Grant Committee Report 2018– Richard Mankin:

The Student Grant Committee (Angela Foreman, Laureen Summers, and Richard Mankin) reviewed 7 applications (4 others were incomplete) for the 2018 Student Grant and selected Cynthia Bennett, a PhD. student in the Department of Human Centered Design and Engineering at the University of Washington, Seattle, WA, for "Accessible Design and Making for People with Vision Impairments."

- New Business:

Megan Lynch noted last year that- "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." There was additional contact with the Center for Oral History this year. They carry out the interviews in person, and for financial reasons, they are limited to persons in the Northeast region.

FSD has continued support of multisociety letters from AAAS-affiliated organizations to President Trump, advocating for use of scientific advice, international scientific cooperation, and the value of scientific enterprise for the future of the US

Those of you who are members of AAAS Trellis may have seen the 8 articles by Shirley Malcolm of AAAS EHR on "Reflecting on Our Roots," which considers the origins of AAAS initiatives to support the inclusion of underrepresented minorities in scientific and engineering professions. See the FSD website for more information on "Reflecting on our Roots."

Finally it was noted that there is no longer a Resource Room for Persons with Disabilities at the AAAS annual meeting, although a room was provided for the FSD Annual Meeting (Thanks Laureen!). The Headquarters office is now in charge of requests. Richard observed only a few persons with disabilities at the meeting, reflecting a gradually declining trend in attendance by disabled scientists. It is not a new trend, and the Foundation seeks suggestions on what remains or what will develop as our best avenue for interaction.

- **Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM. –Respectfully submitted by Richard Mankin, March 7, 2018.