



**ARKANSAS SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AUTHORITY**

100 Main Street, Suite 450, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 (501) 324-9006

**MINUTES OF THE 49TH MEETING OF THE  
ARKANSAS SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AUTHORITY'S  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS  
NOVEMBER 15, 1991**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:17 p.m. by Dr. William Willingham, Chairman of the Board, at the Radisson Legacy Hotel in Little Rock, Arkansas.

A quorum of Board members were present and included: Dr. Joe Bates, Dr. Diane Gilleland, Dr. Don Pederson, Mr. Louis Ramsay, Dr. Phillip Rayford, Mr. John Troutt, and Mr. Jerry Webster.

Staff members present included: Melissa Adams, John Ahlen, Jim Benham, Joe Gentry, Al Grijalva, Mary Kay Kelly, Chuck Myers and Joyce Sadler.

Visitors included: Carol Griffiee from Interstate News Services and Joy Jackson from the Legislative Council.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Dr. Willingham presented the minutes from the September 20, 1991 Board meeting for approval. Mr. Troutt moved that the minutes be approved. Dr. Gilleland seconded the motion, the Board gave its unanimous approval.

**BUSINESS INCUBATORS**

Mr. Troutt and Dr. Ahlen reported on the meeting held on November 1, 1991 concerning the status of the business incubators. The meeting included Board members, state legislators and incubator managers.

The incubator managers stated they needed continued state funding to survive. They urged ASTA to try every means to find state funding. Legislators from Southern Arkansas said they would work to get state funding.

Dr. Ahlen stated that at the meeting, a motion was made that the staff should prepare a plan for spending \$600,000 if

include a priority listing of projects to be funded. The motion was then passed by the Board committee.

Dr. Ahlen stated a priority list was not prepared by the staff. The staff does have a plan for spending \$600,000 should it be released based on a consensus of the incubator managers on what they could get by with. The reason the list was not prepared is that when the Board accepts a priority list it ceases to be an advocate for the entire program.

Mr. Troutt made a motion that ASTA request that the Governor's office release the \$600,000 or whatever portion of that that can be released and then hold any priorities until the staff is notified what amount will be released if any. Mr. Ramsay seconded the motion; the Board gave its unanimous approval.

#### DOE TRAINEESHIPS

Dr. Pederson reported on the review of the applicants for the EPSCoR DOE traineeships. Sixteen applications were reviewed by members of the EPSCoR Committee. Applicants were given a number evaluation with a recommendation of yes or no on each applicant. Dr. Pederson wanted to give a sense to the Board on where the committee stands and possibly make some sort of recommendation. The concern being that if the Board waits till the next Board meeting in January to approve the traineeships, the departments which have the students who are awarded the traineeships will have a difficult time planning at the beginning of the January semester, so the support for the students need to be lined up as soon as possible.

Each award is \$25,000; \$20,000 would be for stipend, \$1,000 for travel and the rest for tuition and fees for a year.

Dr. Pederson recommended that the Board consider approving the four traineeships. Dr. Gentry stated that 20 traineeships would have to be awarded by September or the money would be lost.

Dr. Ahlen stated that the Board at its last meeting had made a motion that the request for \$250,000 be made. The request was approved by the Governor's Office and the Joint Legislative Energy Committee.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Troutt that the Board intends to award at least four DOE traineeships to applicants recommended by members of the EPSCoR committee pending approval of ASTA's research committee. The motion was seconded by Dr. Pederson; the Board gave its unanimous approval.

**NETWORK CHALLENGE GRANT**

Mr. Benham brought before the Board for approval the sixth networking project. The Woodworkers Manufacturing Cooperative is made up of five companies in the woodworking industry. Total amount of the project is \$31,900. The Challenge Grant will fund \$14,900 with the firms' match being cash and in-kind in the amount of \$15,000.

The purpose is to design and develop a low-cost, numerically controlled router that will be used to enhance production and increase product quality. If this proves successful, they would sell it to other companies.

Mr. Troutt made a motion for the approval of the challenge grant project. Dr. Gilleland seconded the motion; the Board gave its unanimous approval.

**NEW BUSINESS****COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

Dr. Willingham made committee assignments for the upcoming year.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - William Willingham - Chair, James Hendren, Jerry Webster, Don Pederson, H.T. Moore;

RESEARCH COMMITTEE - Don Pederson - Chair, Joe Bates, James Hendren, Phillip Rayford; and

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE - H.T. Moore - Chair, Diane Gilleland, Louis Ramsay, John Troutt, and Jerry Webster.

**MEETING DATES**

The Board meeting dates for 1992 are: January 17, March 20, May 15, September 18, and November 20.

The Executive Committee will meet, if necessary, on February 21 and July 17.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Ahlen reported on two recent staff changes. Alice Rumph Smith accepted a position as the Director of Special Projects for the Dean of the College of Medicine at UAMS. Dr. Ahlen stated that Ms. Smith was ASTA's first employee and has served the Authority well.

Mr. Troutt made a motion to approve a resolution of thanks to Ms. Smith for her dedicated service to ASTA. Dr. Gilleland seconded the motion; the Board gave its unanimous approval.

Anita Millard accepted a position with the Division of Mental Health Services.

The staff is in the process of interviewing candidates for the fiscal officer position and will soon begin the search for a new vice president.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 2:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Jerry Webster  
Secretary  
Board of Directors

Approved by the Board of Directors  
on this 17th of January, 1992

  
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Jerry Webster  
Secretary  
Board of Directors