

**To Be Approved November 6, 2025
DRAFT/Subject to Change**

Minutes of the 206th Annual Meeting of Membership Thursday, November 14, 2024

The 206th Annual Meeting of The New York Academy of Sciences (“Academy”) commenced on Thursday, November 14, 2024, via in person and virtual connection.

The meeting opened with Chenelle Bonavito Martinez, Vice President of Event Operations and Customer Engagement, who welcomed all members participating in person and by virtual connection at our new headquarters at 115 Broadway in New York, New York. She thanked everyone for their continued support and extended a special welcome to members participating in their first annual meeting, especially the young members in the Academy’s educational programming. She then introduced the Academy’s Chair of the Board, The Honorable Jerry MacArthur Hultin, who presided over the meeting.

The Chair welcomed all members, noting the Academy has continued its success in science leadership over the past year, fulfilling our tradition of science leadership in a fast-changing world, offering the best of global science, including access to a world-wide network of colleagues and resources, educating and honoring young scientists and technologists who discover and invent our future to address global challenges, and build a better world. The Chair noted that the Academy fulfills that role in the following ways:

- Holding conferences on topics including, but not limited to, life sciences, biomedical research, energy, climate change, and the future of cities.
- Exploring the promises and threats of artificial intelligence and quantum computing.
- Promoting diversity in academia, in the lab and in society overall.
- Through our innovative International Science Reserve (“ISR”) by using systems thinking, scenario planning, and risk analysis to improve quality of life.

The Chair noted that our members are the key to our mission. Member support is critical for the Academy to meet these challenging times and expressed gratitude for continued support.

The Chair then highlighted some of the Academy’s achievements:

- The Education programs benefited over 450,000 students, educators and families over the last 10 years.
- Academy members donated over 3.5 million hours of time to teaching and mentorship.
- The Junior Academy and Scientist-in-Residence programs were recognized by the Anthem Awards. Last year the Junior Academy was named the Silver Anthem Winner in Education or Literacy Platform, and this year, the Scientist-in-Residence program was named an Anthem Awards Finalist in the Education, Art, and Culture category.
- The International Science Reserve, an Anthem Award winner for partnership and collaboration within the Responsible Technology category, has over 15,000 scientific members around the world, representing more than 100 countries.

- The Academy leads in Artificial Intelligence with a variety of programs, including a partnership with Arizona State University and support from the Simons Foundation for fellowships in Artificial Intelligence and Society program, and has hosted some of the world leaders in AI including Yann LeCun, Chief AI Scientist at Meta, Reid Hoffman, Co-founder of LinkedIn and Inflection AI, and Miles Brundage, Head of AI Policy Research at OpenAI.

The Chair began the business portion of the meeting and called for a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting held November 14, 2023. The motion was made, seconded and with all in favor via in-person responses and online polling, the minutes stand approved.

The Chair presented the ballot of Governor candidates for election/re-election to the Academy Board of Governors. The motion to elect and reelect the slate of candidates was made, and via in-person responses and online polling, the motion was seconded and with a majority in favor, the following candidates for election/re-election stand approved:

The following Governors have been elected for first 3-year terms:

Chandrika Tandon

John C. Reed

Peter Salovey

The following Officer has been elected to a 3-year term:

Peter Salovey, Chair of the Board of Governors

The following Governors have been reelected to the Board of Governors:

Natarajan Chandrasekaran (Second Term)

Darío Gil (Second Term)

Aida Habtezion (Second Term)

Amber Miller (Second Term)

Lowell Robinson (Third Term)

Jeremy Wertheimer (Second Term)

The Chair closed the business portion of the meeting and noted that this marks his fifth year having served as Chair of the Board and his service in that capacity has concluded. He welcomed the new Chair of the Board, Peter Salovey, who recently stepped down as president of Yale University.

The Academy's new Chief Business and Financial Officer, Clare Peeters, was introduced along with Amber Miller, Academy Board Treasurer, to provide a brief financial report to membership. Her report included the following key notes:

- The Academy ended fiscal year 2024 with a net deficit, driven in part by balance sheet adjustments, but with some course corrections by management at the end of fiscal year 2024, a modest surplus was budgeted for fiscal year 2025 and looking ahead, focused on multi-year strategic planning.
- Revenue related items calendared for 2025 include the Spring Soirée, a second cohort of Leon Levy fellows, and new grants for the Education programs.
- The audited financial statements for fiscal year 2024 included revenue of \$21M and expenses of \$23M, for an overall deficit of \$2M. In contrast, the fiscal year 2025 budget projects revenue of \$23.5M and expenses of \$23.2M, resulting in a net surplus of \$300K. The changes made at the end of fiscal year 2024 as well as increased revenue for fiscal year 2025 position the Academy in a better financial state.

Following the conclusion of the financial report, Academy President and CEO Nicholas Dirks addressed membership. A summary of his report included the following key points:

- Science is facing unprecedented skepticism and misinformation, reminiscent of past controversies like Darwin's theory of evolution and the Scopes Trial. Despite its proven value, especially during crises like COVID-19, science continues to be challenged by those who misrepresent its principles.
- Contrary to criticism, science thrives on questioning, testing, and evolving ideas. It must improve how it communicates and collaborates across disciplines and with the public to better prepare society for future challenges.
- The Academy plays a vital role in defending and advancing science. It fosters trust through rigorous recruitment for its programs, promotes public engagement via its new website, and supports global scientific diplomacy.
- The Academy launched the International Science Reserve (ISR), now a network of 15,000+ researchers across 100+ countries, ready to respond to global crises collaboratively.
- Solving today's complex problems—from climate change to food security—requires cross-disciplinary partnerships: scientists, engineers, ethicists, economists, and educators working together.
- For over 200 years, the Academy has championed scientific progress through connection and collaboration. With continued support, it aims to inspire, educate, and prepare the next generation to build a better world.

Following the conclusion of the president's report, Mila Rosenthal, Executive Director of the ISR, was introduced to provide an update on the ISR, which included the following key points:

- Science and Global Collaboration in Uncertain Times - As America enters a new political phase, global geopolitics may also shift. While science can't predict political decisions, it does offer clarity on what works:
 - International scientific collaboration accelerated COVID-19 solutions.
 - Building global networks is essential for future crisis response.
 - Lack of trust—between nations or scientists—undermines effectiveness.
 - More global crises, from climate change to pandemics, are inevitable.
- Scenario planning and preparedness are central to the mission—because anticipating the future is part of the job. The ISR connects scientists and institutions worldwide to foster trust, share ideas, and prepare for crises. Through partnerships like CAPTRS, the ISR develops digital games and scenarios to test decision-making during emergencies such as wildfires, floods, and crop failures. These tools help researchers apply insights locally and improve response strategies.

The ISR celebrates member contributions and promotes public understanding of science's role in crisis response. The ISR envisions a future where global scientific cooperation reduces harm and saves lives.

Following the ISR update, Kaitlin Green, Senior Program Manager of Virtual Programs for Education gave an update on the Academy's Education programs. She provided a brief historical background on the Junior Academy, which today works with partners to build a community of students and mentors working in teams to solve open innovation challenges which are real world problems. Since moving online, the Junior Academy has served over 10,000 students from over 100 countries administering over 50 open innovation challenges. During the 2023-2024 year, over 900 teams:

- Designed sustainable approaches to address environmental challenges in students' communities.
- Explored supply chains of critical minerals that power our technology.
- Used AI, VR and AR to enhance learning and create equitable educational experiences.
- Designed new wearable technology to address public health issues or natural disasters responses.

- Uncovered new ways to address and remodel our take-make-waste model of textiles and proposed innovative approaches to circular models.
- Prepared for climate change by upcycling materials you find in your home, school, or community.

In 2023–2024, over 300 students joined the Academy’s new Leadership Curriculum on Harvard’s LabXchange platform, developing leadership, communication, and critical thinking skills. And 2,007 students were inducted into the Junior Academy as Young Members of The New York Academy of Sciences, joining a global community committed to collaborative STEM research and innovation. The Academy celebrates the power of diverse teams and mentors to foster creativity, resilience, and scientific progress. Thanks to a cross-organizational effort and generous fundraising, these programs remain free and accessible to all students.

Following the update on the Education programs at the Academy, President Nicholas Dirks opened the floor to any questions or comments from the members both in person and online, then thanked the members for joining the meeting, and reminded them of the benefits of membership, and encouraged all to join us for upcoming events.

Following final remarks, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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