ACS Columbus Section Executive Committee Meeting - Minutes

December 17, 2020

Attending:

Christopher Hadad  Chair
Clay Harris  Chair-elect
Jeff Trent  Chair-elect for 2021
Emil Stoyanov  Treasurer
Bob Kroshefsky  Treasurer-elect
Damilola Daramola  Treasurer-elect for 2021
Barbara Ambrose  Secretary
Joan Esson  Councilor
Kayla Kasper  Councilor-elect for 2021
Krishna Bobba  Alternate Councilor

Absent:

Ed King  Councilor
Virginia Songstad  Councilor
Don Songstad  Alternate Councilor
Robert Woodman  Alternate Councilor

Guests:

Kaarina Lokko  Outreach Committee
Joy Rutherford  Vice President of NoBCChE and FOCUS at OSU

Meeting started at 6:00 p.m.

1.) Update on election of 2021 Columbus section officers:
   - Jeff Trent  2021 Chair-elect
   - Damilola Daramola  2021 Treasurer-elect
   - Barbara Ambrose  2021 Secretary
   - Kayla Kasper  Councilor 2021-2023
   - Krishna Bobba  Alternative Councilor 2021-2023

Of the 1116 Columbus Local Section Members eligible to vote in this election, 130 actually voted. This represents an 11.6% response rate. More voting occurred on days immediately after Robert Bird sent out the voting information e-mail; increasing the number of voting reminders might be a way to improve election participation.

2.) Motion to approve the minutes from the November 18th meeting made by Joan, seconded by Clay, approved unanimously.
3.) Treasurer’s report – Due to COVID-19 the local section underspent its budget for 2020. The section saved money due to virtual meetings and lack of travel to ACS National Meetings. Problems with giving out award monies contributed to this underspending. The section also did not make any donations to outside groups such as the ACS Seed program or COSI.
   - Motion to donate $5000 to COSI mad by Barb, seconded by Joan, passed unanimously.
   - Budget for 2021 - The Columbus local section will receive $12,939 from the ACS for 2021; anticipated expenses include a contribution to State Science Day which will again be held virtually. In addition, the section will likely have $15,000 in losses due to the cancellation of CERM 2020. The water quality outreach program associated with CERM 2020 and Muskingum University cost $10,000. Jeff wanted to discuss the possibility of selecting a time for a poster session for the results of this outreach activity. Christopher suggested the October meeting at CAS as a possible venue for the poster session.

4.) The ACS leadership institute is virtual this year. Kayla and Dami, newly elected Councilor and Treasurer-elect for 2021 would like to go. So would Joan Esson. The section has a limit of 2 attendees for this program. It was discussed that Christopher would contact ACS to see if we could get 3 slots, and then he would communicate with Kayle, Dami and Joan, as appropriate

5.) Diversity and Inclusion – Joy Rutherford, Vice President of NoBCChE and FOCUS at OSU, discussed a potential mixer between Columbus local ACS section and NoBCChE and FOCUS on Friday, January 15, between 3 – 8 pm for 1-1.5 hours; 4 pm and 5:30 pm were discussed as potential times by the committee. Christopher and Clay are working on this. Resume preparation and practice interviews were discussed as areas where the ACS could help out. Also, if the local section co-sponsors outreach activities, everyone involved is covered by ACS liability insurance.

6.) Section website – the website is still not function. Christopher said his daughter would be willing to work on the local section website.

7.) Liability Insurance for local section’s Directors and Officers – no action.

8.) Local section final report is due Feb. 15th and will be discussed at the January meeting. The need to develop a strategic plan for the local was discussed. A subcommittee could be formed to brainstorm on the strategic plan. The ACS National publishes its strategic plan; the section could link its strategic plan to ACS National. The section could also work on a vision statement. In order to get member feedback, upgrading the section’s SurveyMonkey account from 1 month to a whole year was suggested. Krishna and Kayla expressed interest in getting the membership data from the e-roster. January’s meeting will be an executive committee meeting only; scheduling regular ZOOM executive committee meetings for every 3rd Wednesday of the month was proposed. The local section can continue to use OSU ZOOM which has a limit of 300 participants and can go above 500 participants.

9.) Outreach and engagement update – Kaarina reported on a science event for ETSS (Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services) which involved self-inflating balloons. She had 30 participants, and the kids really enjoyed the activity. She is planning to do another science event the day after the meeting. Krishna suggested doing a small event targeting chemistry graduate students and post-docs.

10.) The use of e-mails and social media to communicate with the local section membership was discussed. ACS Innovation Project Grants could apply to this area; applications for these grants are accepted throughout the year. Dami offered to manage the section’s Twitter account and to help manage the local section’s Facebook account which is currently being managed by Raeann.
Woodman. Kaarina mentioned the need to obtain permission from anyone whose photo is posted by the local section; the ETSS event has photo release permission.

11.) The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.