



ACS Columbus Local Section Executive Committee Meeting - Minutes

February 17, 2021

Attending:

Clay Harris	Chair
Jeff Trent	Chair-elect - briefly
Christopher Hadad	past Chair
Bob Kroshefsky	Treasurer
Damilola Daramola	Treasurer-elect
Barbara Ambrose	Secretary
Joan Esson	Councilor
Kayla Kasper	Councilor
Krishna Bobba	Alternate Councilor
Virginia Songstad	Councilor
Don Songstad	Alternate Councilor

Absent:

Robert Woodman	Alternate Councilor
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Guests:

Kostas Lazarou
Tom Weeks
Pat Yontz - briefly
Marlinda iyer?

Meeting started at 6:03 p.m.

Motion to approve the minutes from the January 20th meeting made by Joan, seconded by Bob, approved unanimously.

Old Business

- 1.) Liability insurance for ExComm update - Bob spoke with the local agent for USI Insurance, the firm that provides similar insurance to ACS National and the Philadelphia Section. The agent is of the opinion that we do not need this insurance, as its function is more for financial liabilities (stakeholder complaints regarding executive decisions). If our main worry is someone suing over getting sick from attending an in-person meeting, that is legally the same as a slip-and-fall issue and we are covered by the insurance umbrella provided by National. In addition, the annual premium for this kind of insurance is a minimum of \$2,000 to \$2,500. And, in 30 years of writing such policies, the local agent has never heard of a single claim against National or any ACS local section. Thus, Bob

feels this insurance is unnecessary. But, if we want to pursue the matter, and because this is not a critical issue, he suggests that we defer any decision until the ExComm can hear directly from the local agent through a Zoomer.

- 2.) Treasurer Report and News from National – We have had no income or expenditures so far in 2021. As for closing out 2020, our investments did very well. We are in sound financial condition even when we eventually write off our loans to CERM 2020.

The ACS Board of Directors decided to double all local sections' annual allotments (our qualifying 2020 financial report was filed well in advance of the 2/15 deadline) so that is just shy of \$26,000 for us. We need to figure out on what we should spend this extra funding – that is National's 'string' attached to this largess. The funds should be available in mid-March. The ExComm discussed increasing our donations to the ACS Scholars, SEED, or Green Chemistry. Bob pointed out that the section has budgeted \$10,000 this year for charitable donations. With the increase in section funds, we may wish to rethink our 2021 budget.

ACTION: Bob will work out a revised budget for 2021 for the next ExComm meeting.

Bob pointed out that the ExComm needed to make a motion to include Treasurer-Elect Damilola Daramola on our 5/3 bank account. Krishna pointed out that he is still on the 5/3 account, and he would like to be removed from that account.

Motion to add Dami to the 5/3 Bank account and to remove Krishna from the same account made by Bob, seconded by Joan, passed unanimously.

ACTION: Bob will draft a letter to this effect to the 5/3 Bank.

- 3.) State Science Day Update – Bob reported that SSD 2021 will be done virtually again this year during the week of June 1-8. He has recruited 25 judges so far for the event and plans to send out a second solicitation to his judges pool and a section-wide e-mail blast later in February
- 4.) CERM + GLRM 2021 - Great Lakes Regional Meeting (GLRM) committee has accepted a proposal by the Central Regional Meeting (CERM) committee to have their virtual conference inclusive of anyone from the Central Region to present at GLRM. It is too late to change the GLRM marketing materials, but CERM will be added where possible. Information will soon be passed to all local sections and members of the Central Region. CERM will have/need a separate awards session.
- 5.) 2020 Columbus section annual report update – Chris reported that the Annual report is compiled and ready. Despite technical issues and slow response by National/web support, the complete report was approved by Joan as Councilor and submitted today.
- 6.) Local section website update and plan - Bob and Dominique have not heard from Midnight Genius. ACTION: Bob will contact Midnight Genius to get access to the website.
- 7.) Social media update and plan – Dami has established a twitter account for the local section: <https://twitter.com/ColumbusAcs>
Dami would like to get OSU graduates on the account; Kostas would like to connect to local schools. The idea would be to build up a network. Ideally, the twitter account would link up to our Facebook site. As coordinator of the local section Facebook site, Joan says that she needs content.
ACTION: Dami, Joan, and Kostas will develop a plan for the local section's social media outreach.
- 8.) Retreat for Strategic Plan of Columbus ACS update – Clay reported that National supports retreats for strategic planning and provides an email address for initial planning. Clay has reached out twice by email (there is not a specific contact name or phone number) and have gotten no response. His next attempt will be with LSAC for leads on this. Clay does not want to plan a retreat for us, but he will if we cannot get National support! Please let him know if anyone has interest or experience in planning such an event.

New Business

- 1.) Demographic analysis – Joan presented a PowerPoint report on Columbus local section demographics using data from the December roster. The data on the local section membership has gaps because most of the members have not answered the questions used to generate data on diversity. According to Joan, the local section has members of all age groups ranging from people in their 20's to people in their 70's. OSU has the most local section members of the academic institutions; CAS and ACS have the most members from the local chemistry industry. A large number of local section members have joined in the last 5 years; this may be partly due to a recent membership drive at CAS and ACS. Although the data on membership diversity are incomplete, the local section appears to skew towards white males. Thus, the local section should pursue initiatives to improve the diversity of the local section and provide support for unrepresented groups in STEM. Conducting a survey of our membership could provide better data and give us an idea on what activities would engage them. In the past, talks on general subjects like forensics and brewing have generated the largest attendance.
- 2.) Speakers for upcoming meetings:
 - March – Please help! - We do not have a speaker for March yet, but I am reaching out to some contacts at Budweiser to see if they would be willing/able to do a Beer tasting presentation and talk about beer chemistry.
 - April – scheduled with an Owens Corning Sustainability Presentation.
 - May –
 - June – We will have a joint International Society of Automation (ISA)/ACS presentation on Automation and Instrumentation in the Chemical Industry.
 - No other speakers are scheduled.
- 3.) Action items identified at the meeting:
 - Bob will update the budget to take into account the increased stipend from the ACS
 - Bob will contact the website company
 - Bob will prepare the letter placing Dami on the 5/3 account and removing Krishna
 - Dami, Joan, and Kostas will develop a proposal for our social media outreach for the next meeting

Reminders from the agenda:

- 1.) Awards in 2021
 - Junior/Senior awards
 - Call for nomination
- 2.) Counselors to National Meeting: please consult with Bob for reimbursement form if needed

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.