



ACS Columbus Local Section Executive Committee Meeting - Minutes

January 20, 2021

Attending:

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

Absent:

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|-------------------|---------------------|
| Virginia Songstad | Councilor |
| Don Songstad | Alternate Councilor |
| Robert Woodman | Alternate Councilor |

Guests:

Cecilia Devlin
Kostas Lazarou
Boluwatiwi Durojaye
Greg Ross

Meeting started at 6:00 p.m.

Motion to approve the minutes from the December 17th meeting made by Christopher, seconded by Krishna, approved unanimously.

- 1.) 2020 Columbus section annual report update – Christopher is currently preparing this using the minutes as a guide. He needs notable things that the section did last year in outreach to use as bullet points. Joan supplied some information on Kaarina’s outreach activities. Bob will complete the financial report and submit it for a councilor (Joan) to approve. Clay will contribute to the mission and vision section. Once Christopher has assembled the report, he will send it out to the executive committee for feedback.
- 2.) Local section website update – Bob has contacted our website developer at Midnight Genius and expected him to call back during the meeting (Bob’s expectation was fulfilled). Bob had previously asked Justin Singh to put some content up on the website. Once Dominique has access to the

website, she can begin populating it. Christopher submitted a list of local section websites with his commentary on how effective they were; he invited committee members to review these sites and add their own comments.

- 3.) Social media update – Dami has looked at examples of Twitter accounts for ACS local sections. He has determined that the Twitter account ACScolumbus has already been taken, but ColumbusACS is still available. Once he starts the Twitter account it will need to be linked with other ACS accounts and C&E News. The more accounts a Twitter account is linked to, the better it can evangelize. Dami suggested raising interest in the Twitter by involving it in chemistry-related events such as Mole Day, Earth Day, laboratory commentary, and notification of local section meetings and activities. Twitter could also connect with local chemistry companies.

Joan reported that the section Facebook site still needs content. Photos from Kaarina's outreach event with the self-inflating balloons have been posted on the site. Joan suggested a monthly Twitter "take-over" where committee members put something up about themselves or their interests.

- 4.) Liability Insurance for executive committee members – Bob contacted the ACS office of local section activities about personal liability insurance, but he has not heard back from them.
- 5.) Treasurer's report – Bob presented the budget he proposed at the December 2020 meeting. Bob made the \$5000 donation to COSI approved at the December meeting; COSI was very appreciative. Motion to approve the 2021 budget by Bob, seconded by Chris. The line for donations was increased to \$10,000. The line for "executive committee" was changed to "communication committee" and the budgeted amount increased to \$1000. The local section has plenty of financial reserves, thus the budget is flexible and can be changed as necessary. Motion to approve the budget as amended pass unanimously.

Barb reported that she upgraded the SurveyMonkey account from 1 month to 1 year and will need to be reimbursed. SurveyMonkey is used for the local section elections, but could be used to survey our membership.

Wrapping up CERM 2020 – Jim and Jeff are resolving the financial issues leftover from cancelling CERM 2020.

Federal Income Tax Form – Bob will prepare this and show it to Dami.

Bob will draft a letter to put Dami's name on the local section's 5/3 bank account. Once the executive committee approves this letter in February, and Bob has a copy of the minutes showing the approval, Dami can be added to the account. Bob will also contact Vanguard to find out how to add signatures to the Vanguard organization document considering we cannot yet meet face-to-face.

- 6.) State Science Day will be virtual this year; Bob will contact his judges and get back to the Ohio Academy of Science and the executive committee about how we will handle State Science Day this year.
- 7.) Awards in 2021 – Bob will handle the Outstanding Student awards. Joan proposed doing awards for Columbus State. Motion to create Outstanding Associates awards for Columbus State with the same award dollar value as our 4-year schools made by Barb, seconded by Jeff, passed unanimously.
- 8.) Conference Travel Assistance for Students – Kostas proposed having awards that would subsidize conference attendance for university students. Christopher proposed having the section contribute money to local chemistry department travel funds to accomplish the same goal without committing the local section to judging yet more awards. Joan suggested making this donation proportional to

the size of the chemistry department and to whether or not the department has graduate students. Christopher suggested that students aided by the local section could present poster sessions at the October meeting.

- 9.) Kostas objected to the fact that the registration fees for virtual ACS national meetings was equivalent to that for in-person meetings. This issue is not controlled at the local section level; however, it could be addressed by the local section councilors at the ACS National Councilor's meeting.
- 10.) Outreach update – Jeff reported that COVID-19 makes outreach activities difficult this year. Normally the section does outreach for Earth Day, the Greek Festival, at the zoo, on Mole Day, and during National Chemistry week. The section will need to either go virtual, or wait to see what the public health situation will be. Kostas suggested doing outreach targeted to adults on science literacy. Christopher pointed out that traditionally the local section targets K-12 and college students for outreach. Also, the ACS must maintain a politically neutral stance, which would affect outreach efforts directed to adults. Joan suggested Science Cafes as a potential outreach effort to the general adult populations. Krishna suggested finding good speakers and opening meetings to the general public.
- 11.) Diversity and Inclusion –the virtual mixer between Columbus local ACS section executive committee and NoBCChE and FOCUS has been scheduled for Friday, January 29 from 6-7:30 p.m.
- 12.) Leadership Institute update and recommendations for the executive committee – Kayla, Joan, and Dami attended the Leadership Institute and brought back many ideas which inspired a lively discussion. Ideas from the Leadership Institute included: virtual brewery meeting (brewery delivered beer selections to members who tasted them at a virtual meeting); updating the local section by-laws (Clay will look into this); study the demographics of the membership to develop programs which would appeal to different groups such as academic and industrial chemists; Science Café; meet with high school students to let them know the career opportunities for chemists; record meetings and put them on an unlisted U-Tube channel; hold an art competition for chemistry-inspired art; microbrewery tours (once COVID-19 goes away); and work to get people engaged with the local section.
- 13.) Spring 2021 National virtual ACS meeting (April 5-16, 2021) - the section traditionally pays for the councilors to attend the national meeting. However, this year, the councilors meeting will be held separately from the national meeting in March. Clay felt the local section should still pay the registration fees for the Councilors if they wanted to attend the national meeting in addition to the councilors meeting. Councilor Virginia Songstad has not attended any recent local section meetings; Clay will contact her to see if she would be able to attend the councilors meeting. Krishna who regularly attends executive committee meetings is an alternative councilor; he could attend the meeting in her place. Krishna will plan to attend the meeting; if Virginia also comes, it simply means he will not be able to vote.
- 14.) Speaker plan for 2021 - due to COVID-19 the local section probably will not be able to return to hosting in-person meetings until autumn. Thus, spring meeting will need to be held virtually. However, this means that local section meetings and executive committee meetings do not need to be held on the same day. Joan suggested COSI director Frederic Bertley; the recent donation to COSI might make him amenable to speaking to the local section. Joan will reach out to him to find out if he would be willing to speak, and if so, what time would work for him. Clay suggested the Owens Corning Vice President of Sustainability; the environmental aspect should appeal to younger

members of the section. A local section meeting in the summer at the zoo was suggested. Krishna suggested inviting speakers from industry to discuss opportunities in chemistry. Holding break-out sessions during a virtual meeting would allow small groups could meet, and attendees could float from room to room.

15.) New Chair Vision and Goals of the executive committee – Clay would like to hold a virtual retreat to discuss goals for the local section. The executive committee appeared open to this suggestion.

16.) Action items identified at the meeting:

- Investigating demographics of the local section membership – Joan and Barb
- By law review – Clay
- Communications Committee – Chris, Dami, and Kostas
- Science Café – TBD
- Brewery virtual tour – Clay and Kayla
- Award announcements - TBD

17.) The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.