

**American Chemical Society  
Columbus Section  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Virtual Meeting  
May 7, 2024**

**Members attending (8)**

|                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Barb Ambrose    | Chair               |
| Chris Martin    | Chair-elect         |
| Dave Speth      | Treasurer-elect     |
| Seth Barrett    | Secretary           |
| Steve Trohalaki | Alternate Councilor |
| Alicia Friedman | Past-chair          |
| Joan Esson      | Councilor           |
| Clay Harris     | Councilor           |

**Others (1)**

|                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| Bob Kroshefsky | Section Agent |
|----------------|---------------|

**Absent (6)**

|               |                     |
|---------------|---------------------|
| Angela Howard | Treasurer           |
| Kayla Kasper  | Councilor           |
| Satish Garre  | Alternate Councilor |
| Chris Hadad   | Alternate Councilor |
| Kaarina Lokko | Outreach Chair      |
| Tom Weeks     | Silver Circle Chair |

**The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.**

- 1.) Review of Minutes from ExComm meeting on March 27, 2024. Approved unanimously.
- 2.) Strategic planning meeting for fall 2024 (at CAS?)
  - a) Clay sent information via email prior to the meeting. Meeting will take place over 2 full days with a goal of 8-10 participants at minimum and 12-15 people at maximum.
  - b) Meeting will cover mission and vision statement for the group, along with setting goals and timelines.
    - a. Each goal will be assigned a team lead/champion. The team lead/champion then works in a small group to carry out the assigned task in the determined timeline.
  - c) Clay submitted a grant for the Columbus Local Section to bring in the strategic planning facilitators. The grant was approved and will cover the expenses of the facilitators. We will have to cover facility and food/beverage costs.

- d) Clay and Joan both have experience with strategic planning meetings through the ACS facilitators and found the meetings helpful to refocus the group with tangible goals and deadlines.
- e) Seth asked if the grant funds expire and if we have decided on a location. Clay responded that while the funds do not have a specific expiration, we will want to schedule the meeting soon in case program funding disappears. Barb mentioned that she can schedule the meeting at CAS in the executive room where we had the February ExComm meeting. The group consensus was to try to schedule the meeting either on a weekend (non-football, if in the fall) or on a Friday and Saturday to minimize work conflicts. The facilitators have been scheduling meetings months in advance, so we want to get on their calendars soon. Clay will reach out to Larry to get dates narrowed down. Once we have potential dates, Barb can send out a when2meet poll to determine the best days for the group.
- f) Clay did mention the possibility of a virtual meeting, but the facilitators strongly recommend against a virtual meeting, as they found these virtual meetings to be less effective than in-person meetings.

### 3.) Local Section Meetings

- a) May 23rd – Dr. Davita Watkins at Sunflower Chinese Restaurant
- b) Sept 16th – Dr. Patrick Woodward at Wyandotte Winery
- c) Oct. 17th - ACS President-elect Dorothy Phillips at CAS
  - a. Barb has the list for the 50-, 60-, and 70-year awards. She asked the group if it makes sense to give the 50-, 60-, and 70-year awards out at CERM; the group agreed that it is easier logistically to give the awards at CAS in the fall.
  - b. Barb asked the group if we want to give the teacher award at the October meeting. Joan expressed concern that if we have the ACS President-elect talk, the 50, 60, and 70-year award ceremony, and the teacher award ceremony that the meeting length would be rather long. The group agreed.
- d) November – ODU?
  - a. Barb asked if we should start the meeting rotations at colleges starting with the November meeting. Chris mentioned that many small colleges are going through significant restructuring right now and that it might make more sense to talk to college representatives in-person in the fall first to build excitement, then start implementation in the spring. We want to do these rotations right and get significant buy-in from area colleges. Seth agreed. Chris also mentioned that trying to plan the college rotations during the summer is challenging, as many faculty members have already started their summer plans.
  - b. Joan asked if we could focus the November meeting on high school teachers. We can give teachers time to talk about pedagogy and invite other high school teachers beyond the teacher award winner. The teachers would serve as the

speakers for the meeting. The group liked this idea. We still need to determine a location for the meeting.

#### 4.) 2024 Budget

- a) Annual 2024 Allotment of \$12,800 from ACS National has been approved and is in the process of being paid.
- b) Councilor travel reimbursement payment of \$6,000 is approved and should arrive later this week or early next week.
  - a. Reimbursement checks have been mailed to Clay, Joan, and Kayla.
  - b. Bob mentioned an increased budget for reimbursement at \$2,000 per councilor per meeting. If all three councilors go to both meetings, we are looking at \$12,000 in travel expenses.
- c) State science day: Bob is writing checks for presentation winners. State science day has continued to stay online, with students using prerecorded videos to present their projects. Bob and Dave both mentioned how difficult it was to evaluate the presentations, as there was no opportunity to ask questions. If we cannot ask questions, it is challenging to do a good job judging the presentations.
- d) ACS budget updates
  - a. Income was higher than expected, along with lower-than-expected costs for meetings. The student award category is also underbudget.
  - b. \$13,400 in liquid funds currently, we are in good shape. Between the operating and reserve funds, we have closer to \$20,000 which is plenty to carry through the end of the year. In October, Bob will move money into the Vanguard accounts.
  - c. Investment returns have been ok; net asset value change for the quarter was strong. Balance was \$412,000 to start; Bob withdrew \$20,000 to write checks. Now at \$426,000. We are in excellent financial shape.
  - d. With the net asset value change, we could write a hefty check to cover the cost of the COSI periodic table if we wanted to (more details below).
- e) Charitable Contribution Requests for 2024
  - 1.) COSI exhibit contribution meeting 19<sup>th</sup> Christopher Martin, Angela Howard, and Barb with Keely Buckley– periodic table.
    - i. Previously, we agreed to a \$7,500 donation to COSI. \$3,500 has been allocated. With the remaining \$4,000, COSI proposed we could serve as a sponsor for their Platform program. The program focuses on developing an interest in STEAM for Columbus City school students at the middle school and high school level. Dave asked if we could request matching funds from COSI to double the effect of our donation.
    - ii. Periodic table update: COSI is working to refresh their exhibits over the next few years. They are open to the idea of adding a big periodic table display as part of the refresh.

1. The group liked the idea of supporting both the Platform program and the periodic table display. Since the periodic table display is years away, our support for the Platform program is immediate.
  - iii. Dave asked if COSI has a plan to support high achieving students in rural school districts, in addition to low-resourced Columbus City schools. There used to be a COSI on wheels program, where a bus would travel to rural schools to get students excited about STEM. Does this program still exist? Can we support such a program? How many school districts are in our region?
  - iv. Motion made and seconded to fund the Platform program at the \$4,000 level was approved unanimously.
- 2.) Results from Chemistry Contributions:
- a. Honors research at ODU: thank you letter from Chris Martin, including photos of student researchers who benefited from the contributions.
  - b. The Planthers at ODU: thank you letter for equipment for testing.
  - c. Mount Vernon High School Chemistry Teachers: thank you letter for the magnetic model kits, including photos of the kits used by students.
  - d. Focus Symposium (Females of Chemistry Uniting Scientists): we discussed the thank you letter and photos at our previous meeting.
  - i. Dave asked if we could share the results of our contributions at one of our meetings and/or send a notice out to members so we keep the general membership informed about what we do in the community. We can also include this on the website.
- 5.) Outreach
- a) State Science Day participation: covered previously with the budget discussion.
- 6.) New Business
- a) Update the website: summer is a great time. Alicia, Chris, and Seth volunteered to help with this. Goal: set up registration and payment for meetings on the website, aiming to get this up and functional in time for our September meeting.
    - a. Barb's son is trained in designing websites and can help.
    - b. Barb's husband does financial websites as a career and can help.
    - c. Dominique can help too.
    - d. Dave asked if our financial institution can help us with payment options. Bob is looking into this.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.**