

**American Chemical Society
Columbus Section
Executive Committee Meeting
Virtual Meeting
September 11, 2024**

Members attending (9)

Barb Ambrose	Chair
Alicia Friedman	Past-chair
Angela Howard	Treasurer
Dave Speth	Treasurer-elect
Seth Barrett	Secretary
Clay Harris	Councilor
Kayla Kasper	Councilor
Steve Trohalaki	Alternate Councilor
Satish Garre	Alternate Councilor

Others (1)

Bob Kroshefsky	Section Agent
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Absent (5)

Chris Martin	Chair-elect
Joan Esson	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 May 7, 2024. Approved unanimously.
2. Strategic Planning Retreat scheduled for Nov. 2-3 at CAS.
 - a. 11 members of the ExComm have signed up to attend the Strategic Planning Retreat and an additional person (Tom) has signed up to complete the survey.
 - The form should have come out today. Let Barb know if you did not receive the form.
 - b. This survey should be coming to all the people who have signed up for either the retreat or to fill out the survey.
 - c. If you would like to fill out the survey or attend the Strategic Planning Retreat, let Barb know.
3. Local Section Meetings
 - a. Sept 16th – Dr. Patrick Woodward at Wyandotte Winery
 - Tomorrow is the last day to sign up. 24 people signed up so far.
 - b. Oct. 17th – ACS President-elect Dr. Dorothy Phillips at CAS

- Outstanding High School Teacher of the Year Award
- Awards for 50, 60, and 70 years of membership in the ACS
- CAS will once again sponsor the reception. We need to cover the cost of dinner, other food (wine/cheese) is covered by CAS.
- The two meetings (Sept and Oct) and strategic planning retreat (Nov) will conclude the fall schedule. No additional meeting in Nov.

4. 2024 Budget

- a. Bob gave an update on investments and will provide another update at the end of the month. Net assets are holding steady if not increasing. By the Oct meeting, we will have results from the Columbus Foundation. Total assets at the beginning of the year: \$412k. Total assets currently: \$439k.
- b. So far, we are under budget for meetings. No bills yet for outreach activities. Lots of money remains in student travel grants (\$750 of \$5000 given out). Does OSU have a poster session we can sponsor?
- c. All checks from spring donations were cleared minus one award check that keeps being returned to sender.
- d. Bob wants to provide a PDF of net asset changes from Vanguard and bank statements from Fifth Third Bank to be more formal with reporting. He will meet with Dave this weekend to give him passwords to the accounts. Bob and Dave will work on the 2025 budget in time to discuss during the Jan ExComm meeting.
- e. Related to more formal reporting: should we perform another audit of local section assets? The last audit was from the 2010's. We could create an audit committee to help with this. Recommendation: put audit on the agenda for the strategic planning retreat.

5. Elections

- a. Offices up for election:
 - Chair-elect: people hesitate to run for the position as they worry about the workload. The chair must do some work each week to avoid getting behind. Barb, Chris M, and Chris H can think about leads.
 - Treasurer-elect: Bob is willing to run but would prefer to find a new person interested in learning about the position. Not hard to do but easy to get behind. Alicia is willing to learn about this position.
 - Secretary: Seth is willing to run.
 - 2025 Councilor/Alternative Councilor; expiring terms (Joan and Satish): Satish is happy to stay on if needed but does have other commitments and limited time. Need to check with Joan if she is willing to run.
- b. Multiple members mentioned how challenging it is to find people to fill officer positions and expressed a desire to establish a large group of people who can rotate in the officer positions (including members who are not retired). We need more new officers coming in. Recommendation: put recruiting new officers on the agenda for the strategic planning retreat.
- c. The secretary will send a letter to general membership via Robert Bird soon to recruit candidates for officer positions. The secretary conducts the election. To meet ACS national

timeline, we need to report new officers by Dec 1. We historically have struggled to meet the deadline. Multiple members asked if we could update and spruce up the officer descriptions, including language about how such officer positions expand networking opportunities and provide useful leadership experiences.

- d. Could we consider giving a stipend or additional benefit to the section chair? Councilors get a travel benefit when going to councilor meetings at ACS. Multiple members expressed concern about providing a monetary stipend but expressed support for travel to ACS meetings. Some members expressed concern that adding as stipend might encourage graduate students to run for the chair position. Does this comply with bylaws? The chair must be a full member, not a student member. The section is happy to have graduate student leaders as committee chairs and on YCC.

6. Outreach

- a. Outreach Chair Kaarina Lokko would like some recognition for volunteers at local section sponsored events. She suggested a certificate and a Visa or Mastercard gift card. She will look into finding out if there is an ACS form for the certificate.
- b. ACS Volunteer and Youth Protection Policy (see e-mail from ACS National below)
- c. National Chemistry Week – Kaarina is organizing this and she needs volunteers. She will be working with ETSS to arrange for the kids to do experiments and receive chemistry information. She has ordered kits for this activity. She is also organizing the Chemistry Poetry Contest. Let us know if I have missed anything or misinterpreted anything here, Kaarina!
 - Recommendation: ask for volunteers for specific activities.
 - Bob knows how to make certificates for volunteers.
 - Background check form: this is new. ACS asks people to be patient with this new policy. If the event is ACS sanctioned, ACS should cover background check cost. If the event is school sanctioned, the school should cover background check cost. Volunteers should not have to pay for this background check.

7. Website: should we organize a Website Subcommittee to oversee (and jump start) website improvements?

- a. ExComm discussed working on the website over the summer, but other tasks took higher priority. Thus, the website has not been updated yet. Seth sent an email to national ACS to see if we can use the same payment provider and did not receive a response. He will reach out again, as this is likely the easiest and cheapest way to incorporate electronic registration and payment for local meetings.
- b. Members expressed support for the idea of a website committee, but also expressed a lack of time to devote to this initiative. Recommendation: use the same payment provider as national ACS. We can also discuss electronic payment and registration in the strategic planning retreat.

8. New Business

- a. Should we nominate a local section member for the ACS fellow award? With lots of members in the section, we can certainly nominate someone highly deserving of the award.

ExComm expressed strong support for this idea; we need to read more about eligibility and timelines. Claudia Turro (OSU Chem/Biochem dept chair and new NAS member) was floated as a potential nominee (and to talk to the local section).

- b. Councilor Talking Points (see email from Kayla on 9/11/24). Report from councilor meeting: elected people to committees and approved resolution for national representation on council (there is a desire to keep councilors in states in certain proportions). For more information, consult Kayla's email.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.