

## ACS-GHS April Meeting Minutes

April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021

1. **Welcome/Introductions:**

Meeting convened at 6:35 p.m. over Zoom (Online) by Dawn Friesen.

**Attendees:**

Board Members:	Position	Active Volunteers:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dawn Friesen	Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amiee Modic – AACT Liaison
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eme Abu	Chair-Elect	<input type="checkbox"/> Tai-Yen Chen
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Crystal Young	Past Chair	<input type="checkbox"/> Jerry Yang
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kevin Ramirez	Secretary	<input type="checkbox"/> Cotton Star
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sam Lewis	Treasurer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maryanne Mores
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laura Smith Callahan	Director	<input type="checkbox"/> Kiresha Johnson
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David E. Thompson	Director	<input type="checkbox"/> Sunny Tang
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lynn Foster	Director	<input type="checkbox"/> Dave Singleton
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Loïc Samuel	Director	<input type="checkbox"/> Usha Devathosh
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Germack	Councilor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Safia Mohamed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mamie Moy	Councilor	General Attendees:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Larry Dennis	Councilor	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amber Hinkle	Councilor	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carolyn Burnley	Councilor	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Valerie Lafitte	Councilor	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Javoris Hollingsworth	Alt. Councilor	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Snigdha Chennamaneni	Alt. Councilor	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kerry Spilker	Alt. Councilor; Community Affairs Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Bob Botto	Alt. Councilor	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Tom Malloy	Alt. Councilor	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>VACANT</b>	Alt. Councilor	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lisa Houston	Awards Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roxie Allen	Education Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Needed for Quorum:</b>	<b>12</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quorum Met		<input type="checkbox"/>

2. **Adoption of March 2021 Meeting Minutes:** Dawn Friesen

**ACTION ITEM: Kevin to send out March Minutes to voting Board members via email.**

3. **Approval of 2021 Budget:** Sam Lewis

Budget has not changed much since the last time it was presented to the group.

Sam updated any receipts and disbursements he has received up to this point.

We received our dues allotment but have not yet received our annual allotment.

Annual allotment should be coming in soon enough.

If you will recall from previous meetings/notices, ACS National has indicated that we are going to get a second allotment.

Sam has not received any additional updates for budget requests.

When you look at the bottom line of "TOTAL" it shows our expected income to be ~\$57,500 and our expected expenses to be ~\$35,500.

In general, we try to have the budget balanced.

The reason it is so skewed is because our normal spending sits around \$39,000.

Our spending was expected to come in low to begin with, from the carryover from 2020.

With the addition of the additional allotment, it threw off the budget slightly so we can get plan, budget, and hold events to promote outreach.

The budget sheet is currently available on the Dropbox.

Dawn brings up that we had a hiccup with our annual report and that is why we have not received our annual allotment yet.

She mentions that we believed that we had the full report submitted, but then later received a notice that a portion of the report still needed to be submitted, and if that was the cause for delay in receiving the allotment.

Sam confirms that the allotment is not released until the annual report is completed.

Sam mentions that now that the report is in, he expects the allotment to be in soon.

Dawn mentions that that is something we should watch out for next year, since we moved to a new system.

**NOTE: Take extra care when submitting the annual report through the new system to ensure that all portions are successfully submitted so the annual allotment is not delayed.**

Sam will follow up to ensure that the allotment is on the way.

Sam mentions that the annual report was submitted and approved, but it needed to receive another final approval.

Dawn mentions that after it passed the initial approval, the initial approver has no way to see that another approval is pending.

Dawn mentions that the Local Section Affairs Committee is aware of some of the hiccups that have come up with report submitting.

Sam clarifies within the budget that for the moment the E-balloting budget has been left inflated at \$6,000, even though the group has previously discussed that the charge is double of what is typically expected.

Sam continues that even with the overbudgeting, we are still running low from a budgeting standpoint.

Lisa asks if the reporting hiccups will deter any of the ChemLuminary nominations.

Dawn and Roxie respond that the ChemLuminary should be ok.

Larry mentions that when ACS National announced that they were giving sections an extra allotment, they wanted us to use it to enhance programs.

Larry asks the group to think hard about what kinds of programs we could hold this year to accommodate the budget.

Carolyn mentions that Project SEED will be virtual again, so there will be very little spending again this year.

Carolyn asks if the upcoming National meeting will be a mix of virtual/in-person.

Lisa clarifies that the National meeting will be hybrid, but that governance will not take place at the meeting. The Council will still meet virtually.

Amiee requests that Line 103 in the budget be correct to reflect the current year and not 2018.

Dawn requests that the budget title be corrected as well.

Sam accepts the corrections.

David Thompson that if we add a program to the budget later, do we approve the budget now and just add the program?

Sam responds that what we have done in the past is put the budget proposal before the Board for approval, and if we have the bandwidth later in the year the program just gets added as a line item.

Roxie asks if the Scholarships budget still allows for us to award students as was previously approved by the Board in January 2021.

Sam confirms that Scholarships budget is sufficient to cover the student awards.

Lynn suggests that we give out more scholarships.

Roxie clarifies that we are not giving out scholarships this year since we are having an un-proctored test that we could give out \$2,500. The tests were proctored by the student's instructor so we will recognize the winner at each school with a small gift, and how ever many students take the national exam with a larger gift, and probably recognize the instructor with a small gift as well.

Sam brings up an issue that we might have in underspending our income when preparing our taxes. There is a certain amount of spend you need to have to be considered nonprofit. He is concerned that we will have a cash inflow that is possibly double our outflow. He also asks that if we cannot find a way

to spend the money or earmark it for some use, what do we do with the money to preserve our nonprofit status?

Larry mentions that the source of the money is what is important. Many of the rules deal with where the money comes from, since both our monies are coming from ACS National it should count as charitable income. We need to be worried about long term income and assets, like if we were to gain a lot of money off our investments that is where we could get into trouble.

David Thompson asks if UIL results could be used to find scholars to support.

Roxie responds that private schools do not participate in UIL so it would not allow those students to compete.

Larry suggests that we consider all our various publics; students, members, professional members, public, etc. and what we can do to enhance our message to them.

Crystal suggests that we consider donating to other causes, engage in paid advertising on social media to boost engagement, and sponsoring students or unemployed members.

Kerry moves to approve the budget. David Thompson, Lisa & David Germack seconded.

**2021 ACS-GHS Budget: Motion Passed 12 – 0.**

#### 4. Committee Updates:

##### I. Programming Committee: Eme Abu

Eme talked with Dawn and Lisa about having a monthly meeting for the programming committee to brainstorm programs (and how to spend money).

Eme will send out the doodle poll.

She is thinking of holding the meeting the first week of the month, for about 30 – 40 mins.

If anyone would also like to join, they are free to join.

##### ▪ Younger Chemists Committee (YCC): Safia Mohamed

###### • Chair update

Kevin has stepped down as YCC co-chair effective April 2021.

Safia is the Chair of the committee. (YAY!!!)

###### • Webpage update

The YCC now has a Chemistry Comic Corner!

The webpage now includes new resources like links to ACS Webinars, ChemIDP, C&EN Jobs, etc. There are also technical resources.

Sent out 'Thank You' s to everyone who attended the tour.

YCC page links to Community Affairs page for Earth Week.

Slideshow is very eye catching and highlight everything.

- New members & collaboration with other LSYCCs

2 new members emailed using the link on the webpage stating their interest in participating in YCC, both attended HMNS event.

They knew each other and told their friends about YCC.

Dawn connected Safia to the Chair of the Brazosport Local Section.

Safia has been interacting with other LSs and LSYCCs via Twitter.

After wrapping up the HMNS event report & reimbursement, Safia will connecting with other local sections and their YCCs for the upcoming virtual networking (mentorship) event.

- HMNS event update

Sold out before first advertisement in newsletter.

Attendees were interested in getting involved after attending the event.

The goodies were all ACS branded and excellent!

Some Lessons Learned:

The HMNS tour guide was amazing, and we were given a treat.

Paid for 1 tour that was really 3 tours. Ancient Egypt tour, Gems & Minerals, Minerals Training Room (It was awesome!).

The attendees really appreciated the tour(s) especially since it was only \$5.

Very positive feedback from the tour.

Event did serve its purpose. YCC was able to generate interest in local section and YCC.

For some attendees, the PayPal button was finicky. Safia had to send the link to some attendees so they could pay for the event. Good to know for anyone in the future.

We took a group photo, but it was in the classroom so Safia is unsure if we can post it on social media. She does have candid photos during the tour that will be included in the event report.

Safia posted daily on Twitter to hype the event in the days before.

Dawn mentions that Safia has been making great connections with others, HMNS and they are excited to work more with people excited to work with them so it is definitely something we should consider doing more.

Dawn mentions that HMNS said if things do get back to normal, they can do groups up to 25.

Safia confirms this is true, and they were excited to do this event since it has never been done before and they would love to do more events like this

- Women Chemists Committee (WCC): Lynn Foster

Lynn reached out to the Association for Women in Science – Gulf Coast Houston section this past month. <http://awisgch.org/>

90 – 99% of membership is women in all genres of science.

Advertise each other organization's events on website and social media.

- Co-networking event: Tuesday, July 13<sup>th</sup>

Volunteers (4 – 5) for potentially leading breakout rooms and keep conversation flowing, as needed.

To do:

Come up with ideas for flyer.

Gather gift cards (\$25?) to stir up excitement.

Each organization gets to introduce themselves.

Follow-up meeting with AWIS on May 25 @ 6:30pm to finalize networking ideas and further planning on fall professional development event

- Professional Development Event: October 2021

Planning to invite guest speaker to give 10 – 15 min talk.

Have an open discussion about ideas to overcome obstacles.

Possibly in person, if not then virtual.

- Minority Affairs Committee (MAC): Javoris Hollingsworth

- Engineering Council of Houston Liaison (ECH): Larry Dennis

Had monthly meeting on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Discussed summer program at HMNS.

ECH is a special awardee at the science fair.

Awardees are offered the chance to participate in the summer program at the museum.

The program lasts 2 – 3 weeks, and it is a paid internship.

Student works on projects like how to cook food on the moon using solar heating.

ECH discussed how many students were available to participate in the program.

Also discussed the Climate Change program that is upcoming later in the year.

May 26<sup>th</sup> Virtual ECH Awards Banquet at 5:30pm via Zoom.

Kerry selected May 20<sup>th</sup> for the Community Affairs Awards Banquet.

Kerry asks how this banquet is different than what ECH held last February.

- Senior Chemists Committee (SCC): Carolyn Burnley

- Seminars & Summer Social: Eme Abu

Nothing planned yet.

Eme to look at our history of events.

Upcoming Seminars:

Eva Marie Harth (UH) – Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup>

Corina Rogge (MFAH) – Tuesday, June 29<sup>th</sup>  
Conservator, inorganic analytical chemist by training.

Madeleine Swortwood (SHSU) – Tuesday, August 10<sup>th</sup>  
Forensics Dept. at SHSU

All seminars are planned virtual unless allowed otherwise. Event updates closer to date.

Roxie asks for more information on the upcoming seminars to share with students/teachers who may be interested.

Dawn will send out more info as she gets it.

Corina was contacted through MFAH speaker's bureau, they have expressed interest in attending Corina's seminar.

- Science Café:

Kerry has some ideas.

## II. Awards Committee: Lisa Houston

Not ramped up fully.

Thanks to Mamie and Carolyn, an ACS Fellows nomination was submitted.

Everyone needs to think about nominees for our Local Section awards.

We will be monitoring the situation for the SWRM that is expected to be in-person in November where we will also be putting forth nominations for awards.

## III. Education Committee: Roxie Allen

- Chemistry Olympiad: Jerry Yang

215+ students from 26 schools.

16 nominees to take the National test from 11 different school.

Those 16 students took part I & II of the National exam this past weekend.

The top 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of those students will be invited to take the lab portion of the exam the following weekend.

Roxie is sharing the ideas from other successful sections with Jerry to improve our testing process.

- Project Seed: Carolyn Burnley & Javoris Hollingsworth

Will be virtual again.

- AACT Liaison: Amiee Modic

**CONGRATS AMIEE FOR BEING AACTs HIGH SCHOOL CHEMISTRY TEACHER OF THE YEAR!!!!!!**

AACT is getting ready to hold elections, and membership is way up.

Hosting virtual 'Best of ChemEd' that is expected to be free over 4 days in July.

Amiee will share more on that as she gets more information.

Still planning on doing a virtual teacher program at the National meeting in Atlanta later this year.

Sherry Rooks, section chair near Chicago and past president of AACT, is planning the programming.

Amiee wrote a proposal for the "Best of the associated chemistry teachers in Texas" by request from Sherry.

Amiee is putting together a video montage to get people from other areas to get interested about teaching chemistry in Texas.

A ChemLuminary Roxie read had the teachers of the students that were nominated to take the National exam receive AACT membership.

This could something that we could implement in the future to those teachers to buy more into AACT, ACS, and the Local Section.

- High School Chemistry Clubs Liaison: Usha Devathosh

Usha has met with all the teacher that have HS chemistry clubs over Zoom several times.

They have been sharing ideas so far.

It sounds like most, or all, schools are planning on meeting face-to-face next year.

A more robust program will be planning if things get back to 'normal'

- Middle School Liaison: Kiresha Johnson

- Scholarship Exam: Tai-Yen Chen

No scholarship exam.

- Student Affiliates: Loïc Samuel

Reached out to the local student chapter's advisor about participating in our Earth Week event.

- Science Fairs: ECH Liaison, Larry Dennis

Awards ceremony email was sent out on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

Event will be held on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

Will hold a meeting next week just to talk about the program for the winners of the ECH Chemistry category and Chemistry Olympiad winners.

Will not be able to do it how it has been done in the past. Where we had the winners set the projects up and visit with them ahead of time.

Kerry will need help with Zoom on how to set the rooms up for each award winner and funnel participants to the room. Alternatively, could post their projects on the website.

Kerry has asked Dawn to MC the overarching event.

Roxie has volunteered to give out the Chemistry Olympiad awards.

Kerry still needs to figure out how to plan everything for a 1.5 – 2-hour event.

Plenty of content, but not enough time.

Kerry has sent out a draft presentation to give everyone an idea of what Kerry was thinking for how to present the awards.

Kerry will ask Larry to present ECH award winners at the senior level.

Roxie will be holding a Zoom presentation with breakout rooms where each student will present a brief slideshow of their project with participants free to go into whatever breakout room they want.

Roxie will follow up on that with Kerry post-event.

Eme has volunteered to assist in the awards ceremony.

#### IV. Community Affairs: Kerry Spilker

Community Affairs website is live!

- Chemists Celebrate Earth Week & National Chemistry Week (CCEW & NCW): Kiresha Johnson and Kerry Spilker

Trying to draft volunteers way too late in the year.

Next year, in January, reach out to the student affiliates to get together a volunteer group.

No responses from the student affiliates.

Wanted to get in contact with the student affiliate leaders to see about future volunteer activities but have not heard anything yet.

Discovery Green event was virtual this year.

A week before the event, they had confirmed we could have a booth.

It was too late to plan it properly and find volunteers willing to hold in-person demonstrations.

Reese has been very active on across all social medias to engage with the public.

Please participate in the Earth Week contest and let us know what you did!

We are going to celebrate Earth Day all year, and Kerry has an idea for a Science Café.

Trying to engage with compostable vs. recyclable.

Kerry is learning for herself on how to eliminate plastics from her life and use more compostable materials.

As Kerry learns more, she will ask YCC to help get the word out on how to encourage more people to use more compostable materials than recyclable plastics.

Lisa watched a talk at the ACS National meeting from Chevron Chemical about some breakthroughs they were having in the recycling of plastics.

We may try to get someone from Chevron Chemical to speak on the topic, since they are in Houston.

Kerry also has another idea for a Science Café on the science of bread.

Amiee mentions that there is a company called Beyond Benign that has created a bunch of labs that incorporate the 12 principles of green chemistry. They focus mostly on college level materials but have teachings that can be distilled to the lower grades.

They have a program on compostable vs. recyclable.

ACCT invited them 3 summers ago to their Texas Conference.

They held a simulcast where all the teachers were in the classroom and they were at home in Massachusetts, and they held a live lab where the teachers had all the materials in the room.

They used compostable cups to make soap!

Kerry had another lead at Happy Compostable to discuss compostable materials, what is compostable, and how to do it.

Kerry asks when a good time to hold this Science café would be.

Eme suggests June or August, preferably August.

Dawn suggests planning with enough lead time to get all aspects properly planned and engage with the appropriate audience.

Lisa shared an upcoming Kids Zone Virtual Activity by Beyond Benign Community Engagement, Choose and Reuse Compostable Plastics on April 22, 2021 with Greg Tucker.

Kerry shared the chemistry of bread ACS infographic and how it would make a good future Science Café.

Kerry is going to reach out several bakeries that offer bread making courses and ask them if they would be willing to offer a virtual event.

Laura suggests looking into a company called MisenBox. They do virtual cooking classes for groups and ship all the ingredients to participants.

- Kids & Chemistry: Bob Botto
  
- Education Rainbow Challenge: Eme Abu

No news yet.

- Industry Relations: **Vacant**
  
- Government Affairs: Kerry Spilker

V. Communications & Technology: Laura Smith Callahan

PR Makeover results received, need to review recommendations.

They suggested less words on the website, and that the information on the newsletter is less accessible and that could be hurting our engagement.

Working through those suggestions and figuring out how to implement them.

Change to Hootsuite terms of service and available features, have switched to managing GHS social media (Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn) through Constant Contact account – included in our current account package.

Constant Contact is in beta social media, so still working through that.

If we need to buy an account for Hootsuite, it would be \$25/month.

Another recommendation from the PR makeover was that they did not like our likes/shares on Facebook.

If you see our content on FB and you like it, please like it and share it to help the metrics.

If anybody has any events or news to let Laura know so she can get it out on social media and the newsletter.

VI. Strategic Planning: Amber Hinkle

VII. Membership: David Germack

Waiting for the talking points from Council.

Awaiting the rollout of the new membership levels.

Aggressively working on driving up National/GHS Membership

Dawn mentions that the new membership levels were revealed in the latest issue of C&EN News.

Kraton had an all-hands meeting recently and Safia & David put together a slide to discuss benefits/opportunities of membership.

Highlighted the networking and leadership opportunities, and the Industrial Relations vacancy.

VIII. Financial Advisory: Larry Dennis

IX. Fundraising (Ad hoc): Snigdha Chennamaneni

Committee has identified benefits to prepare fundraising documents focused on specific events (awards ceremonies, etc.).

Working on generating event specific fundraising templates for use.

Once documents are ready, can reach out to targeted companies/individuals and request funding.

Documents will be provided to the EC after approval from the Fundraising Committee.

Creating a list of companies and contacts, so if anyone has any leads they would like to include please share them with the committee.

5. Other Business:

- Councilor Talking Points

Passed a new committee structure petition.

The standing and various committees' definitions were changed.

Certain committees required that members be councilors and issues arose when members were not reelected to their councilor position.

New schedule of membership, that includes a free option.

They also chose to lower the basic membership and introduce new membership levels.

In their study, they found that many of those that signed up for the free membership later changed to the paid membership.

Larry suggests that we share the talking points with the rest of our membership.

David Germack asked how we typically share talking points.

Lisa suggested that the talking points be shared among the GHS councilors to add any relevant points and then post that on the website and include a link on the newsletter.

Mamie suggests that we aggressively advertise the free membership, and all levels, in our future events to encourage attendees to join.

Mamie suggests that the premier points be included in the newsletter in a concise, precise way since some members may not go to the website to see the full details.

David will include a write up in the upcoming newsletter highlighting these points.

- 50, 60, 70-year member certificates received – wait for Oct. awards, mail out now, other?

Lisa would like to get these out in October.

She wants to send a congratulatory email out and see if they would be available for an in-person event, if that could happen.

Lisa will also need to check the list and ensure that all recipients are available.

Ideally, it will be a part of the awards banquet in the fall.

- SWRM 2021 Happy Hour – Hosted by Diane Kneeland, Central Texas Local Section

Would you like to chat, over a drink, about the challenges and opportunities of planning a regional meeting? Please forward this to anyone on your local organizing committee for regional meetings!

Wednesday April 21, 5:30 – 6:30pm (Central Time), with regular meetings on the third Wednesday of the month.

Next happy hour on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

<b>Meeting Adjourned At:</b> 8:07 p.m.
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