

ACS-GHS Transition Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2021

1. **Welcome/Introductions:**

Meeting convened at 1:05 p.m. over Zoom (Online) by Dawn Friesen

Attendees:

Board Members:	Position	Active Volunteers:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dawn Friesen	Chair	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jerry Yang
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kevin Ramirez	Secretary	<input type="checkbox"/> Cotton Star
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sam Lewis	Treasurer	<input type="checkbox"/> Maryanne Mores
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laura Smith Callahan	Director	<input checked="" 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"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> David Germack	Councilor	General Attendees:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mamie Moy	Councilor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Rehm
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Larry Dennis	Councilor	<input type="checkbox"/> Tracey Simmons-Willis
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amber Hinkle	Councilor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Zlata Simunic-Grenoble
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carolyn Burnley	Councilor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Misty Flores
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Valerie Lafitte	Councilor	<input type="checkbox"/> Guty Francisco
<input type="checkbox"/> Javoris Hollingsworth	Alt. Councilor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Usha Devathosh
<input type="checkbox"/> Snigdha Chennamaneni	Alt. Councilor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stephanie Daifuku
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kerry Spilker	Alt. Councilor; Community Affairs Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Safia Mohamed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Botto	Alt. Councilor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Catherine Faler
<input type="checkbox"/> Tom Malloy	Alt. Councilor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> William Ryan
<input type="checkbox"/> J.C. Kuo	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"/>
Needed for Quorum:	12	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quorum Met		<input type="checkbox"/>

**WELCOME TO OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS AND ATTENDEES!!
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR & WELCOME BACK TO OUR RETURNING MEMBERS!**

2. **Volunteer Recognition:** Crystal Young

Just as a reminder the ACS-GHS was nominated for 6 Chemluminary Awards and was awarded 3 for Best Activity or Program Highlighting ACS Change Drivers or Strategic Planning, Outstanding High School Student Program Award, Outstanding Performance by a Local Section – Large Size.

Thanks for everyone making the ACS-GHS so successful in 2020!

Thank you, **Laura Smith Callahan**, for your tireless efforts as our Technology and Communications chair! She has been instrumental in helping welcome new section members and is the powerhouse behind our social media accounts! We appreciate all your hard work!!!

3. **ACS-GHS Strategic Goals:** Amber Hinkle

The board of the ACS [National] has updated the strategic plan of the Society, which is important for us as a local section so that we can stay aligned with the overarching Society and continue to leverage and represent the Society in the best way we can

One of the Core Values was updated to include Equity: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Respect

There have been a number of years where the Society has had 4 goals, but the board voted to add a 5th goal:

Embrace and Advance Inclusion in Chemistry which aims to *Promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and respect; identify and dismantle barriers to success; and create a welcoming and supportive environment so that all ACS members, employees, and volunteers can thrive.*

There has been a change in the Vision and Mission of the Society, with the addition of the word “all”

Change drivers have been updated as well, they are available in an infographic at [Strategic Plan – American Chemical Society](#) (acs.org).

David Thompson asked the question of if the Society’s goals speaks to our unique position as an American Chemical Society, in order to build a bridge to those who may be feel threatened by inclusivity.

Lisa and David to follow up on this topic.

Local Section Goals:

****PLEASE SEE THE STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE SLIDES PROVIDED BY AMBER****

Vision & Mission haven’t changed appreciably since they were written

Goal 2:

PR makeover expected to begin next month or so

At this point, Twitter and Facebook have been running the same content, but Laura hopes to separate those channels in the future and target audiences through specific channels

4. **ACS-GHS Executive Board and Committees:** Dawn Friesen
- I. **Programming Committee:** Eme Abu
 - a. **Younger Chemists Committee (YCC):** Kevin Ramirez & Safia Mohamed
 - b. **Women Chemists Committee (WCC):** Lynn Foster
 - c. **Minority Affairs Committee (MAC):** Javoris Hollingsworth
 - d. **Engineering Council of Houston Liaison (ECH):** Larry Dennis
 - e. **Senior Chemists Committee (SCC):** Carolyn Burnley/Mamie Moy, Member: Zlata
 - f. **Seminars & Summer Social:** Eme Abu
 - g. **Science Café:** Kerry Spilker
 - h. **Technician Affairs Group:** Carolyn Burnley
 - II. **Awards Committee:** Lisa Houston
 - III. **Education Committee:** Roxie Allen
 - a. **Project Seed:** Carolyn Burnley & Javoris Hollingsworth
 - b. **Chemistry Olympiad:** Jerry Yang
 - c. **AACT Liaison:** Amiee Modic
 - d. **High School Chemistry Clubs Liaison:** Usha Devathosh?
 - e. **Middle School Liaison (Teachers Coordinator):** Reese Johnson
 - f. **Scholarship Exam:** Tai-Yen Chen
 - g. **Student Affiliates:** Loïc Samuel
 - h. **Science Fairs:** Larry Dennis
 - IV. **Community Affairs:** Kerry Spilker
 - a. **Chemists Celebrate Earth Week & National Chemistry Week: CCEW:** Reese Johnson & **NCW:** Valerie Lafitte, Member: Usha Devathosh
 - b. **Chemistry & Kids:** Bob Botto
 - c. **Education Rainbow Challenge:** Eme Abu
 - d. **Industry Relations:** J.C. Kuo
 - e. **Government Liaison and Affairs:** Kerry Spilker
 - V. **Nominations Committee:** Crystal Young
 - VI. **Communications & Technology:** Laura Smith Callahan
 - a. **Newsletter Editor:** Cotton Starr
 - b. **Website Administrator:** Loïc & Dawn
 - c. **Social Media Coordinator:** Laura Smith Callahan
 - d. **YouTube Channel Administrator:** Dawn Friesen
 - e. **E-Blasts and New Member Welcome Letters:** Laura Smith Callahan
 - VII. **Strategic Planning:** Amber Hinkle
 - VIII. **Membership:** David Germack
 - a. **Volunteer Coordinator:** Maryanne Mores
 - IX. **Financial Advisory:** Member: Lynn Foster, Larry Dennis, Mamie Moy. Members to decide Chair
 - X. **Fundraising (ad hoc committee):** Snigdha, Member: Lisa, Carolyn

All Chairs, please review our Operations Manual to refresh yourself on the scope of your committee.

Thank you!

5. **Budget Review:** Sam Lewis

Budget copies are available on the DropBox.

Budget still looks good, expenses have been lower than typical.

The income for the section was about \$2000 more than what the section spent.

2020 was an unusual year for scholarship redemptions. 50% higher than a typical budget, however, even in a “normal” year, scholarship redemptions typically don’t meet the expected budget anyway.

File labeled “2020_Budget_2021” has all of the line items that were expected pre-COVID. There is a tab added to that file that rolls all of that over

Action Item: All committee chairs look through the 2020/2021 Budget (full version) and see what items you expect to repeat or not for your committee budget. Send budgets to Sam ahead of Feb 2021 Meeting.

The file labeled “2020_Budget_Clean” excludes all the line items that were \$0 or zero outflow. This file is much easier to look at. This file also has a 2021 tab that rolls over the budget for this calendar year

The budget was not balanced however that is typical for us since we usually have a number of small grants that come in throughout the year to balance the budget

We do have a fair bit of room to add things into the budget, since expenses dropped after March 2020

If there is an event you are interested in doing, and are worried about funding for any reason, do ask the Board. Very possibly there will be funding available for your event as long as it serves the needs of the section

a. **Scholarship Disbursement:** Roxie Allen

In light of not doing an in-person scholarship exam and the very high probability of UofH not allowing for the in-person scholarship exam this year due to the pandemic.

In lieu of scholarship exam and encouraging more students to take the Olympiad exam and not having such high value scholarships but be able to recognize more students with lower value scholarships.

Jerry proposes to use the Olympiad exam to recognize more students with lower value awards, even possibly distilling it down to the school level.

Question to the Board: “Do we have the ability to change the way we award the scholarship money, so that we can use those funds to recognize more students at a lower level in lieu of the pandemic”?

Lisa notes that the way we disburse those funds is not in the bylaws, but a proposal should be put together for the Board’s consideration

****See exact proposal details on Slide 21 of the Transition Meeting slide deck****

Jerry mentions that typically anywhere from 140 – 160 actually take the exam even though the registrants were in the 200s.

The hope with the proposal is that more students will be able to take the exam at their school for students to take at their home school (without travel to UofH).

Lisa makes a motion to approve the proposal as written, Kevin seconded the motion.

The original proposal, as written, was amended to mention that the proposal is for 2021 only.

This proposal is just for this year (2021), if in the future the Board decides to continue this model it will be put to a vote

Voting on scholarship disbursement: motion passed by 14 – 0.

b. **Outstanding Grants:**

METT (Members Engaging through Technology) Grant still on the books. We haven't used much of the money outside of an annual Zoom membership.

(IPG) Passport Grant; Passports were launched during the March Career Fair event, however due to the pandemic and no longer being able to hold an in-person event. The monies are planned to be used for the "Guess the Molecule" prizes and other promotional awards/materials

Mamie asked if the Passport Grant money has an expiration date or if National would be willing to allot that money to us completely to be used for other activities, and to close the grant.

Snigdha to follow up with someone from National to see about getting the rest of the funds disbursed to the Local Section.

6. **Upcoming Events:** Dawn Friesen

3rd IUPAC Global Women's Breakfast, in collaboration with Brazosport ACS

Set for Feb 9th, 7 – 9 a.m.

Currently in active planning

7. **Other Business:** Dawn Friesen

a. **Approval of November 2020 Meeting Minutes:**

Dawn makes a motion to accept the November meeting minutes as amended, Amber seconded the motion

November meeting minutes accepted as amended via vote by 15 – 0.

b. **Monthly Board Meetings:**

Meeting to remain on the 3rd Monday of the month at 6:30 via Zoom

c. **Grant Applications:**

New committee members/chairs, please take a look at what grants are available through the ACS, or ask anyone on the Board for idea of grants that could be applied for based on the activity

Snigdha mentioned that there are Corporate Associates Local Section and International Grants that are due on February 15th. This grant would be good any events for promotion to help further someone's career or resume writing

Lisa encourages those in programming to think outside of the box in this digital age. We are able to team up with people on the other side of the world to do international events

Kerry mentioned that we could purchase a Go Pro to shadow a scientist or day in the life of a HMNS Director to put together a science display or event

d. **ACS National Zoom Call**

Best Practices for Engaging in Science Advocacy (with legislators and other government officials)

Held on January 21st, 7 – 8 p.m. EST

Limited number of seats available

If you're interested, contact Dawn to get in contact with who to register with

Lisa mentioned that there are online courses available on the ACS website at <https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/policy/memberadvocacy/acs-chemistry-advocacy-workshop.html>.

e. **ACS Spring Meeting 2021**

Virtual, April 5 – 16

The Council meeting will be held on March 24th, virtually.

There will be 2 opportunities to participate in mock-council meetings

Councilors; please attend one of these mock sessions

f. **Annual Report:**

No longer using FORMS – can still be access as read-only for reference

Report filed on ACS Community Connection platform at:

<http://www.Communityconnection.acs.org/>

The following 2020 activity reports are still outstanding:

- Chemistry Career Roadshow – Kempner High School (February)
- Career Fair (March)
- “Meet Your ACS-GHS Leaders” YouTube Video Series
- YCC Networking/Games Night (budget info required)
- Annual Awards Ceremony

Meeting Adjourned At:	3:34 p.m.
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