

ACS-GHS October Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2021

1. **Welcome/Introductions:**

Meeting convened at 6:34 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 type="checkbox"/> Kevin Ramirez | Secretary | <input type="checkbox"/> Cotton Star |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sam Lewis | Treasurer | <input type="checkbox"/> Maryanne Mores |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Laura Smith Callahan | Director | <input type="checkbox"/> Kiresha Johnson |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David E. Thompson | Director | <input type="checkbox"/> Usha Devathosh |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lynn Foster | Director | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Safia Mohamed |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Loïc Samuel | Director | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yangwei Liu |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Germack | Councilor | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mamie Moy | Councilor | General Attendees: |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Larry Dennis | Councilor | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tracey Willis |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amber Hinkle | Councilor | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stephanie Daifuku |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carolyn Burnley | Councilor | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Valerie Lafitte | Councilor | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Javoris Hollingsworth | Alt. Councilor | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Snigdha Chennamaneni | Alt. Councilor | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kerry Spilker | Alt. Councilor; Community Affairs Chair | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Botto | Alt. Councilor | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tom Malloy | Alt. Councilor | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> VACANT | Alt. Councilor | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lisa Houston | Awards Chair | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input 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"/> |

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

Quorum met. Move to approve minutes: Lisa; Seconded: Snigdha. October 2021 meeting minutes approved.

3. **Budget Update:** Sam Lewis

No update. Reminder to submit expenses to Sam and remind him if you have no response.

4. Committee Updates:

I. Programming Committee: Eme Abu

- Younger Chemists Committee (YCC): Safia Mohamed

Update on Social Mixer/Trivia Night: Good response from attendees despite rain and last-minute relocation to indoor space. Nineteen attendees registered, 15 attended. Good mix of repeat attendees and new faces. For next time, include non-chemistry questions into mix, and have visuals to add interest. Feedback – community looking forward to 2022 YCC events. HMNS event was crowd favorite, multiple requests to do it again. Was also able to connect an AACT member with HMNS to set up tours for their class.

Overall, just over \$100 left from original \$1000 budget for the year. Expense report for Trivia night submitted, event reports to be worked on later this month.

- Women Chemists Committee (WCC): Lynn Foster

No update.

- Minority Affairs Committee (MAC): Javoris Hollingsworth

No update.

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

The rules for the 2022 SEFH have been posted on their website, but the information regarding special awards from organizations has not yet been updated.

- Senior Chemists Committee (SCC): Carolyn Burnley

No update

- Fall Social: Eme Abu

Wine tasting at Sable Gate Winery – 8 attendees. Very enjoyable, expenses have been submitted to Sam.

- Seminars: Dawn Friesen

Allison Campbell (PNNL, Retired) – Thursday, November 18th. Topic: Biomineralization research and science advocacy. Final seminar of the year.

Lisa – encourages everyone to join if they can. Dawn – Brazosport has sent out invitation to their members.

- Science Café: Kerry Spilker

Report has been submitted.

II. Awards Committee: Lisa Houston

Event complete, Mamie channeling expense requests through Sam - some delay on that given the changeover in our bank accounts. Lisa having trouble contacting the event photographer. Photographer's mother became very ill after event and Lisa has not had a response from her regarding photo status. Feedback meeting for awards committee to be scheduled to go over improvements and what went well.

Mamie – has everyone received reimbursements for expenses? Lisa – still waiting on photographer's invoice, has not received her personal reimbursements. Dawn – hasn't received either. Snigdha – hasn't received either. Mamie – will follow up with Sam.

Tracey – lost receipt for cost of program printing, is there a way to submit without the receipt? Lisa – Yes, if you can provide proof of payment (bank/credit card statement showing expense) with reimbursement request, that would be fine.

Need to be actively looking for ACS Fellows nominees as we go into the new year.

Jennifer Notz of Jordan HS in Katy ISD (last year's GHS Excellence in High School Teaching Award Winner) won 2021 ACS Division of Chemical Education SW Region Award for Excellence in High School Teaching at SWRM. Lisa found out that regional winners of this award are automatically submitted as nominees for the James Bryant Conant Award in High School Chemistry Teaching (sponsored by the Conant Award Endowment) at the national level.

III. Education Committee: Roxie Allen

- Chemistry Olympiad: Jerry Yang

Will use hybrid approach next year to accommodate more students, assuming UH will agree to host the in-person event on campus. Chemistry Olympiad exam is typically held on the first Friday evening of March. Participating schools will also be asked to sponsor event locally so distant schools can have students participate on their local campus. Also proposing that the section sponsor award prizes at the district and school-level.

Scholarship exam – still discussing whether it will be held in 2022.

Scholarship budget allocation will be discussed next year as covid situation evolves.

- Project SEED: Javoris Hollingsworth
Call for Summer Project SEED mentors has gone out

- AACT Liaison: Amiee Modic
No update.
- High School Chemistry Clubs Liaison: Usha Devathosh
No update
- Middle School Liaison: Kiresha Johnson
No update
- Scholarship Exam: Tai-Yen Chen
No update. Uncertain if UH is willing to host the exams.
- Student Affiliates: Loïc Samuel
No update
- Science Fairs: ECH Liaison, Larry Dennis

IV. Community Affairs: Kerry Spilker

Kerry showed Community Affairs Committee Website – one poem submitted for poetry contest, has been submitted to ACS National. Supposed to hear back in mid-November but haven't heard yet. Encouraged people to visit the website and see resources. Estes Rockets video is now available for viewing. Ask a Scientist tour of Argonne National Lab is posted with additional information on Argonne and other resources; recording link will be available for 1 year. Has also set up a Teacher's Corner with ACS and other resources for teachers to access.

Ask A Scientist and Rocketry Reactions reports have been submitted.

- Kids & Chemistry: Bob Botto

Unable to run annual event at HMNS due to Covid, looking at maybe hosting another event in spring if pandemic allows.
- Education Rainbow Challenge: Eme Abu

No update.
- Industry Relations: Kevin Ramirez
No update
- Government Affairs: Kerry Spilker
No update

V. Communications & Technology: Laura Smith Callahan

Erica Lopez has agreed to try out position of newsletter editor starting in January.

VI. Nominations Committee: Crystal Young

Elections in progress, close on November 24th.

VII. Strategic Planning: Amber Hinkle

Spring 2022 Council meetings for San Diego National Meeting will be held online only. Committee on Committees has suggested that national committees choose for themselves – meetings can be virtual or hybrid, but if hybrid then everyone at the in-person venue also has to access the meeting via the virtual platform individually to ensure all committee members can communicate directly with their colleagues.

Lisa – to clarify, council AND committee meetings will be entirely virtual? Amber – No. Council meeting will be completely virtual. Committee meetings can be virtual or hybrid (committee's choice) as long as above guidelines are met unless you are planning to have 100% in-person attendance.

Amber is part of committee working on fall 2022 meetings, looking promising to have a good hybrid meeting platform for council meetings in near future. Most committees are leaning towards virtual meetings, and committees that need to have actions taken at Council will be holding meetings prior to Council meeting at start of the conference, so virtual will likely be required just due to timing.

Mamie – if Council is online only and Councilor attends a committee meeting in-person, how is reimbursement handled? Amber – If you attend meeting, and participate at Council as required, you get travel reimbursement.

VIII. Membership: David Germack

No update. Need to talk to some people regarding how to communicate new membership structure to public and get brainstorming. If there are any ideas for membership drives next year, David is open to ideas.

Mamie – post membership options in the newsletter? David – yes, will submit for next newsletter. Dawn – next call for newsletter items will be November 29th.

IX. Financial Advisory: Larry Dennis

No updates this month. Will talk to committee this month regarding cash balance. Mamie – has \$30k been transferred to Fidelity account yet? Larry – unsure, will check with Treasurer.

X. Fundraising (Ad hoc): Snigdha Chennamaneni

Awards – Dow as Gold sponsor for awards dinner. Forms have been submitted for payment, waiting on funds.

XI. SWRM 2021 Update: Lisa Houston

Held in Austin, TX from Oct. 31 to Nov. 3, 2021. Hybrid meeting with 980 registered attendees. We were approved for two SWRM student travel awards; have received expense information from one student and working with Sam to send reimbursement. Haven't received second student's expenses yet.

SWRM Board Meeting – currently pay \$0.50/member to be a SW Region member. Were only charged half price in 2020 due to the pandemic and 2021 was back to full price. SWR Board is considering a \$0.10/member increase in dues to be enacted at a future date, but are waiting to see what the reaction from member sections is (especially larger sections like GHS, since financial burden affects them more).

SWRM Board approved DFW Section's bid for 2026 SWRM to be held in Fort Worth, TX. SWRM 2022 will be held in Baton Rouge, LA from Nov. 6 – 9.

5. Other Business:

- a. Need to change key holders for section PO Box by end of Q1 2022. Crystal has all 3 PO box keys but will no longer be working near mailbox location so will need to make arrangements for someone to hold keys and check mailbox routinely. Discussion of possibly moving PO Box location but not clear what a better location would be and complicated by need to change mailing address in multiple locations.

Mamie – should secretary not be responsible for checking mailbox? Dawn – Agrees, but notes that section will have new secretary next year so can be addressed then. Crystal – should have a policy of who holds keys and checks mailbox. Both Secretary and Treasurer are reasonable given most mail that isn't junk is section financial documents. Dawn – will check past meeting minutes, have discussed previously. Eme – how often is mail checked? Crystal – monthly, mainly Fidelity statements. Recently received a check to section related to Awards Banquet donation and a returned awards check which is still involves Treasurer. Do get other items occasionally that would involve Secretary. Eme is willing to take a key, Carolyn suggests asking Javoris as well since he is located at UST (Crystal will ask).

Decision on PO Box key will be deferred until January Transition meeting.

- b. Crystal is also holding a number of GHS supplies that need to be relocated. Eme will collect GHS supplies from Crystal.
- c. Brief discussion of Transition meeting location – UST has no restriction for onsite meetings held by outside groups so would be an option if section chooses to hold in-person meeting in January.

- d. Time to submit an Outreach Volunteer of the Year nomination to ACS national – Cotton Starr has been suggested for her work on the newsletter. Mamie – she deserves to be recognized for her hard work. All in agreement, Dawn to submit nomination.
- e. Community Connections page for our section is now functional and available for submissions. Lisa and Safia are also included on our list of authorized users. Please get event reports in and consider ChemLuminary applications.
- f. Dawn would like to set up a mentorship program for incoming board members to make sure they have someone to help them with new roles and that experience of exiting board members is captured. Will reach out to select board members before Christmas.

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| Meeting Adjourned At: | 7:35 p.m. |
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