

ACS-GHS October Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2021

1. **Welcome/Introductions:**

Meeting convened at 6:32 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 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 type="checkbox"/> Kiresha Johnson
<input type="checkbox"/> David E. Thompson	Director	<input type="checkbox"/> Usha Devathosh
<input type="checkbox"/> Lynn Foster	Director	<input type="checkbox"/> Safia Mohamed
<input 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 type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Amber Hinkle	Councilor	<input type="checkbox"/>
<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 type="checkbox"/> Bob Botto	Alt. Councilor	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" 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 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"/>

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

Quorum met. Move to approve minutes: Lisa; Seconded: Roxie. September 2021 meeting minutes approved.

3. **Budget Update:** Sam Lewis

Hasn't been much activity over the year so far where budget is concerned. Year to date, have received ~\$55,000, and spent just over \$10,000. Have about \$5k in payments outstanding because in the middle

of dispersing awards funds at the moment. No major issues to note, but a reminder that our national funds allotment doubled this year, cash inflow to the section is higher than usual.

Has been some discussion among Finance Committee and Sam noted that the working copy of the GHS budget is kept locally on his computer, not updated regularly on DropBox. He will try to update the DropBox copy more regularly, but please reach out if you need budget information and follow up if you don't get a response.

For the Board's information, the GHS bank acct was with BVVA and has now transitioned to PNC – the transition happened last week and changed all bank account and routing numbers. If there are any issues with reimbursement checks sent recently, let Sam know to follow up.

Snigdha – is there any clause on having to spend extra funds from ACS National by end of year? Sam – not to his knowledge, supposed to help us get back up and running. Lisa – confirmed that the funds have no strings attached as approved by council and will remain with the section.

4. **Committee Updates:**

I. Programming Committee: Eme Abu

- Younger Chemists Committee (YCC): Safia Mohamed

Invitation from Rampur Viswanath for GHS YCC to organize an event for the 2022 ACS Western Regional Meeting was declined due to limited resources and short notice. Connected Rampur to Eastern US YCC Partnership and they will be hosting an event for WRM 2022.

YCC Social Mixer/Trivia Night

- Registration open, will be held at Axelrad Beer Garden on Saturday, Oct 23. Currently 17 people registered.

- Women Chemists Committee (WCC): Lynn Foster

No update.

- Minority Affairs Committee (MAC): Javoris Hollingsworth

No update.

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

ECH meeting held as usual in October. Annual Science Fair will be held Feb 26, 2022 at George Brown Convention Center. Not completely sure if it will go ahead as a live event, but are planning as if it will be. Applications for group award sponsorships to go up on website in November.

Larry also mentioned GHS YCC activities to people at the meeting, several other groups involved with ECH (e.g., AIChE, mechanical engineers, geological society, etc.) also have young engineer groups that host many events and expressed interest in potential joint events. Larry will send National and local YCC chair contacts to ECH contacts.

Tom Rehm talking about climate related events; they are getting people together to look into ERCOT grid reliability and possibly provide some guidance or recommendations.

ECH reported on their annual – each society pays in, leaving ECH with a current balance of ~\$4700. No outstanding payments, run all operations on those funds.

- ECH 2021 invoice for \$200 received and sent to Sam for payment.

- Senior Chemists Committee (SCC): Carolyn Burnley

Looking into some plans but not ready to report yet.

- Fall Social: Eme Abu

Rescheduled to Friday, November 5th at 6 pm (approx. 1.5 hr - 2 hr), still 6 people registered. Invite your friends! Recommend that ticket holders be surveyed by email to make sure they can still attend, since some registered for the original date.

- Seminars: Dawn Friesen

Roger Bertholf (Houston Methodist) – approx. 10 attendees, recording is now up on GHS YouTube channel.

Upcoming Seminars:

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

- Science Café: Kerry Spilker

Science Café: The Chemistry and Craft of Bread Making

Went very well, talk focused on art of bread making more than the chemistry. Held Thursday September 30, 2021 from 6-7 pm CDT. Approximately 40 virtual attendees (including ACS North Carolina section invitees and Brazosport members) and 10 in-person participants at White Elm Café. Two of the individuals attending in person drove 1.5 hrs to be there and enjoyed it greatly.

Monica Gomez won a copy of Emily Buehler's Bread Chemistry book as the door prize.

II. Awards Committee: Lisa Houston

>60 people in person, 5 people online, very successful! Surprise donation for \$500 at dinner, which was great. Please put all expense reports in folder on Google Drive, Lisa will send link. Venue was beautiful, especially with access to outdoors. Lisa has computer and web camera,

will hold onto them for now. Will be a follow up meeting with Awards committee and planning team to get feedback and recommendations. Lisa will send out thank you notes to sponsors. Roxie – Melissa was very happy to sponsor our group, and is sorry she couldn't attend. Mamie – when will photos be available for preview? Lisa – approximately a week, will let everyone know when they're available.

III. Education Committee: Roxie Allen

- Chemistry Olympiad: Jerry Yang
Everything has been scheduled for 2022. Doing training webinars as a new thing this year, information will be sent to teachers. Info is also up on website and social media. Lab exam will be written, but not likely to be in person. Jerry is planning to run the exam the way he did in 2021, and Roxie hopes to submit a ChemLuminary award application for the way the 2021 exams were run.
- Project SEED: Carolyn Burnley & Javoris Hollingsworth
Planning in progress for next year.
- AACT Liaison: Amiee Modic
No update. May be some upcoming AACT seminars, will forward info to GHS for sharing if so.

Roxie and Amiee hosted local teacher group, invited Brazosport teachers. Offered Zoom option but only a couple of people attended briefly via Zoom. 7 teachers in attendance.

- 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

National Chemistry Week - website has been updated with events and info. Illustrated poem contest is open, Kerry will ask Roxie and Amiee to assist with judging, depending on number of submissions. Contest closes on October 24th. CCA website has Teacher's Corner with links to AACT resources, as well as a poster contest for ACS Chem Clubs. Please share to teachers.

Ask a Scientist program with Argonne National Labs – will have 2 hosts. Not allowed to record. Will be giving virtual tours, and are sharing videos from their video library. Randy W. has not responded to emails so will not be involved. Kerry is looking for more people to participate, especially if they can show off their labs on video to give students an idea of what they can do with a degree in chemistry.

Reese will be helping out with some social media posts for NCW as well.

Rocketry seminar with Estes Rockets scheduled for October 21 at 6 pm. Kerry is still trying to get someone from NASA's rocket club to record another, more high-level talk.

- Kids & Chemistry: Bob Botto

San Jacinto has a STEM program running.

- Education Rainbow Challenge: Eme Abu

Not being held this year.

- Industry Relations: Kevin Ramirez
No update

- Government Affairs: Kerry Spilker
No update

V. Communications & Technology: Laura Smith Callahan

Cotton Starr is stepping down as newsletter editor at the end of this year; position is open if you are or know someone who is interested. Lisa – suggests reaching out to some of our new people to see if they would be willing.

VI. Nominations Committee: Crystal Young

We have a full slate to launch our annual elections, including two candidates for Secretary and 7 Director candidates. Will be using the same voting provider as previous years. Should be launching the election shortly.

VII. Strategic Planning: Amber Hinkle

No update

VIII. Membership: David Germack

Looking at Strategic Initiatives, would like to revisit Event Passport program next year as a method of increasing membership as we go forward – how to include hybrid events in the program?

Dawn – have been collaborating organization with SPE for spring/fall career fair. We could have an in-person table at these events to introduce organization and gain members/interest. AWIS has mentioned having a table at past events. Will send David a contact for future events.

Mamie – are there plans to market new membership tiers to community? David – needs to get going with that, will need to talk with people internally and would like to have ideas for how to promote. Mamie – Suggests a presentation to ECH highlighting the benefits of ACS memberships to engineering fields, especially Chem Eng. Crystal – to forward ECH meeting minutes to David as a starting point for contacts. Larry – good idea, will mention it at next ECH meeting as well.

IX. Financial Advisory: Larry Dennis

1. To ensure Section financial information is readily available to the Board, the following is suggested as normal operating procedure:
 - a) The copy of the section budget on Dropbox should be kept up to date, at least on a monthly basis so that any Board member can consult it and see current section activity.
 - b) The treasurer should discuss the financial activities of the previous month at each monthly board meeting or submit a short, written report to be included in the minutes of the meeting.
2. The section financial assets are held in a checking account (\$92,234), a money market account (\$43,990), and a Fidelity Investment account which has two parts: a core cash account (\$26,413) and a mutual funds account (\$112,286), giving total Assets of \$249,924 as of **1 Jan 2021**.

Currently the mutual fund account holds one investment in Fidelity Puritan Fund, which is a balanced investment of stocks and bonds. The fund has a long history of relatively good results. Over the last few years this investment has grown, but no new cash has been invested in it. Our cash accounts have grown over the years due to annual surpluses in the budget, and due to reduced spending as a result of curtailed activities in the wake of the Covid Pandemic. **It is our recommendation to move \$30,000 from checking into the Fidelity Puritan Fund.** We have made no adjustments to the accounts for several years, and the earnings on our cash investments has been very low over the past few years. This adjustment will allow us to perhaps earn more on our assets while leaving sufficient cash for daily operations and financial security. We feel this adjustment is in keeping with proper stewardship of the assets of the section.

Mamie – is there any way to minimize core cash account (\$26k) and move it to investment fund as well? Larry – our checking account is likely more than adequate to operate without additional cash funds, so that's a possibility. Mamie – recommends reassessing financial situation in February 2022 and moving additional funds then; could set up support for a number of long-term programs at that point. Larry – do need to consider how to spend funds, particularly if we sell investments, since where funding comes from can impact non-profit status. Regular funding from ACS is not an issue.

Roxie – have paid for teacher memberships previously, and charge students for taking scholarship exams. Exam charge may be intended to have students committed, but teachers often end up paying. Mamie – we could commit to reimburse teachers if they are paying for students, or otherwise commit funding. Will discuss when exams are running again. Larry – also an option to support people in attending conferences/meeting as has been done in the past.

Decision to go forward and move \$30,000 from checking account into Fidelity Puritan Fund was supported, with further decisions to be made on distribution of funds around February 2022. Sam will have to update Fidelity accounts with new bank account information as well.

X. Fundraising (Ad hoc): Snigdha Chennamaneni

Tasked with raising funds for awards ceremony: \$4335 raised this year!

Now focused on getting sponsorships throughout the year instead of single events.

Kerry – have had seminar sponsorships in the past, possible to get related companies to sponsor individual seminars? Logos on website and advertising, etc. Snigdha – good idea. Fundraising committee is making a list of events we hold regularly, and will reach out to sponsors once the list is compiled.

5. Other Business:

- a. **ACS Strategic Planning Retreat Grant for Local Sections (Nov. 15 Deadline).** In 2019, the ACS Board of Directors authorized a pilot program to help support ACS groups (initially local sections and divisions) that wish to conduct an ACS SPR. Funding to support this initiative is limited to six local sections and will be available to support ACS SPRs held in 2022. Due to the limited resources, this opportunity is being extended to a select group of local sections in the medium - large size categories. The pilot will provide a \$5,000 credit towards each group's retreat fee expenses. In addition, LSAC will provide an additional \$2,000 in matching grant funds to support sections that host an ACS SPR. Not directly relevant to GHS this year, but wanted to bring to board's attention.
- b. Ideas welcome for December Social
- c. Committee chairs and event organizers are reminded to start preparing event reports and annual reports early, as laid out in the GHS Operations Manual. ACS Community Connections page for our section is not currently functions, ACS has been notified.
- d. Consider volunteer needs for fall/winter events – reach out/advertise needs early.

Meeting Adjourned At:	7:50 p.m.
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