



Minutes of Executive Meeting of
Maryland Section of the American Chemical Society
Virtual Meeting on Zoom
Chair Eric Cotton, presiding
April 19, 2021

Present: Fasil Abebe, Nicole Carbonaro, Eric Cotton, Merle Eiss, Kelly Elkins, George Farrant, Louise Hellwig, Jan Kolakowski, Lee Lefkowitz, Pumtiwitt McCarthy, Sara Narayan, Rose Pesce-Rodriguez, Beatrice Salazar, Jim Saunders, Angela Sherman, Stephanie Watson, Therese Yu, Sarah Zimmermann

Eric called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

The Agenda was approved.

The Minutes from the February 15, 2021 were approved.

Jan, Stephanie, and Eric, have been looking over the Section By-Laws. Eric brought up various points in the By-Laws for discussion. The attendees decided to leave the terms of the Treasurer, Secretary, and Members at Large as two years.

There was discussion of the Awards section, the idea of an annual financial audit, and the idea that 15 Section members can petition to have a particular issue put on the agenda. It was agreed that all these sections should remain as written. Eric will send the By-Laws to the national ACS for approval, then submit them to the Section membership for approval.

Lee gave the Treasurer's Report.

Lee suggested that we make online payments using such apps as Paypal, Venmo, etc., rather than checks. Members retain the right to ask for their reimbursements by check. A motion was carried to accept online payments.

Rose proposed a Younger Chemist Award, to encourage and feature younger chemists. A motion was approved to revive a Younger Chemists Committee and establish a YC Award.

Jan gave an update of the investment funds.

Merle reported on the 50, 60, 70 Year Members awards. There will be no face-to-face luncheon this year.

Sarah reported that Rob Clapper will help her with constant contact, and Nicole Carbonara will help her with the website.

Eric reported on a conversation he had with the national ACS concerning spending of Section money. The representative of the national advised us to not just save up our Section money, but go ahead and spend it wisely for chemistry-related programs. It is OK to pay speaker fees. For example, George can offer an honorarium for the speaker at Student Awards meetings.



The issue of a Chemical Landmark for Ira Remsen was discussed. Johns Hopkins University supports this and so do we.

We need nominees for the Maryland Chemist Award. The question remains whether we should offer an honorarium for the winner.

Louise applied for stipends for two high school students to do summer research at Morgan State University. This is similar to the national Project SEED program, which is only virtual this summer. The students would each be supervised by a professor. Half of their stipend would be paid to them after three weeks, and the remainder would be paid at the end of the six weeks after they submit a report and a recorded presentation about their summer work. The decision was made to set aside \$6000 (\$3000 for each student) for these two students.

Jan described an oral presentation "Hot water hydrolysis and biodegradation of the chemical warfare agent bis-(2-chloroethyl) sulfide: A breakthrough technique" he made on April 12. It is available on-demand at the ACS meeting website through April 30th.

Jan and Beatrice reported on their work as councilors at the national ACS meeting.

Beatrice reported this is the second year that the Chemistry Olympiad (USNCO) has been virtual. A course was created at ACS to have fast and more accurate contact with all participants. Forty-seven students registered for the competition in Maryland. Thirty-eight students took the Local exam. From this group 15 were nominated to the National Exam April 17th. We attribute the lower number (38) of students to their lack of experience with the new online system, the creation of an ACS account and the inability to comply with all requirements from ACS and the Maryland local section in a timely manner. The nominees to Part-I of the National exam competed with approximately 1300 students nationwide. The students who qualify in this second round will take the National Exam on April 24th.

The 15 nominees received a beaker coffee cup with all the chemical formulas present in coffee etched in the glass, an unforgettable souvenir. The Maryland Section proctored the exams for the Maryland participants using Zoom, a program donated by ACS. A press release with the 15 nominees' names will be sent to schools and an article about USNCO experience will be written in the Chesapeake Chemist.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Louise Hellwig, Secretary