



Minutes of Executive Meeting of
Maryland Section of the American Chemical Society
Virtual Meeting on Zoom
Chair Kelly Elkins, presiding
August 31, 2023

Present: Kyle Edwards, Merle Eiss, Kelly Elkins, Louise Hellwig, Jan Kolakowski, Lee Lefkowitz, Beatrice Salazar, Olivia Wilkins

Kelly called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

The Minutes from the June 6 meeting were approved.

Olivia reported on the Astrochemistry Symposium which the Maryland Section supported with \$150. Olivia showed photos from the event and stated that about 10% of the speakers were from Maryland. She has sent a write-up to the Chesapeake Chemist for publication.

Kelly reported that she, Jan, Stephanie, and Beatrice attended the national ACS meeting as councilors, and the meeting was excellent. Jillian Malbrough, one of our alternate councilors, was also at the meeting, although since all four of our regular councilors were present, she did not have to stand in as an alternate.

Jan reported that we have \$105,480.92 in our Fidelity Contra Fund, up about \$7000 since June and close to the highest it's ever been. We also have \$143,366.90 in our Nicholas Fund, the highest ever. This is an increase of about \$8000 since June. Lee suggested that we get a new brokerage account where we can have a Money Market fund as well as the investments. Our ordinary bank does not pay very high interest on its Money Market fund. Another alternative might be a 6 month Treasury Bill. Jan and Lee will discuss these options.

Lee suggested that we might want to get insurance for some of our in-person events. He will also have to step down from the Treasurer's position due to a busy schedule. Eric Cotton might be a candidate to replace Lee.

Louise reported that the Braude Award meeting will be Monday Oct. 23 at Matthew's 1600 on Frederick Rd. in Catonsville. It will cost about \$1900 based on about 30 attendees. We will charge \$20/person, but \$10/student. This will help us recoup a small amount of the cost of the event. A motion was made to allot \$2000 for the dinner. The awardee is Dr. Mark Marten of UMBC.

Louise also reported on the successful conclusion of Project Seed, the program for high school students to intern in academic or industrial labs. The national ACS Project Seed requires proof of low income and awards each student \$4000, \$1250 of which comes from our local Section.



Two students finished the summer with Dr. Iwunze and Dr. Peng at Morgan State. A third student was signed up but had to drop out due to illness. The Maryland Section has our own version of Project SEED which is not need based; these students get \$2000 each from our Section. We supported four students in this program, one with Dr. Peng at Morgan, and three with Dr. Devadas at Towson. A fifth student started but lost his transportation after a day or two and had to drop out. Lee suggested that we raise the stipend for the Maryland Section Project SEED students to \$3000 in the future.

Beatrice is in charge of the Maryland Chemist of the Year Award. She wrote to various companies and universities giving them the opportunity to nominate one of their chemists. The deadline for nominations is Sept. 30.

Eric Cotton has proposed a Chemistry Crawl in Frederick MD starting at 6 pm Weds. Sept. 27. Participants would make stops at four different pubs; a different person would make a 10 min. chemistry presentation at each pub as the participants enjoyed their drinks. Originally \$500 was allotted for each social event, but we will be taking a poll as to whether we can increase that amount to \$750.

Olivia reported on her work to revive the Sections Younger Chemists Committee (YCC). Olivia has a Google form for each new member to fill out. She already has 5-6 members as well as a volunteer to be Secretary. The ACS is having a YCC online event Oct. 3 at 6 p.m.; Olivia will be the speaker on "A Day in the Life of an Astrochemist". Olivia has also designed a logo for our YCC.

Merle Eiss was at this meeting briefly in the beginning but had to leave before we could hear her report on the 50 and 60 Year Chemists committee, especially whether the Certificates were sent out in June.

Kelly said Rose Pesce-Rodriguez reported that she has 15 (perhaps 16) National Chemistry Week Outreach sessions planned in 5 counties (Anne Arundel, Baltimore City, Carroll, Harford and Howard). The first program is on 9 Sept 2023 and the last on 19 Jan 2024. She thinks we could exceed 500+ total participants.

If you have any changes to make to the Section website, contact Nicole Carbonaro at ncarbonaro@towson.edu Include:

- 1) The specific change you'd like to the website
- 2) What page the change would be made on or what the title of new page would be
- 3) What heading the page should fall under
- 4) Your name
- 5) Your email address so I can ask for any clarification

Sarah Zimmerman is in charge of Constant Contact.



Elections are coming up. Eric Cotton will supervise the election. We need some nominees for President Elect (perhaps Evon Ford from CCBC), Treasurer, 3 Councilors (Beatrice and Jan said they will run), 3 Alternate Councilors, and 5 Members at Large (Olivia said she will run). Please contact Eric with any nominations.

Kelly is requesting \$1000 support for a Joint ACS-ACS-ASM Local Section Student Research Event with Keynote, student poster awards, 3MT, microbiology activity, dinner. The event will be held at Towson University Oct 27 or Nov 4. Registration will be \$10 students/\$20 n online vote.

Kelly had been looking into the Strategic Planning weekends offered by the national ACS in Washington D.C. But between various changes at the national ACS and Kelly's busy schedule, such Strategic Planning will have to be deferred till 2024.

The last E-board meeting of the year is tentatively scheduled for Weds. Nov. 29. We are looking for a venue, so the gathering can also be a holiday social.

Louise mentioned that applications for Student Travel Awards will start being accepted Dec. 1, with decisions coming out in January. Currently we award about \$500 per student, but it was suggested that we raise that amount to \$750 since travel is more expensive now. That increase will be sent out for a vote by the E-board.

Beatrice requested funds for framed certificates, gifts, and various ways to recognize Anurag Sodhi, the Centennial High School student who was one of four students representing the US in the international Chemistry Olympiad in Switzerland, and in fact won a gold medal at that event. Her various suggestions will be put up for an online vote by the E-board.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Lee's Treasurer's reports from June and August are attached.

Respectfully submitted,
Louise Hellwig, Secretary



ACS Section Treasurer's Report – June 2023

M&T Checking Balance as of 4/20/2023
\$28,363.24

Details:

Money In:

05/30/2023 ACS Deposit for Allotment 16,211.42

Total Credits: 16,211.42

Money Out:

04/24/2023 Check # 2714 to TS for Student Travel Award 149.00

05/01/2023 Check # 2725 to MJ for Student Travel Award 304.18

05/08/2023 Check # 2729 to S. Narayan for Student Awards 704.48

05/09/2023 Check # 2728 to B. Salazar for Councilor Travel 2,469.92

05/10/2023 Check # 2727 to B. Salazar for USNCO Expenses 1,114.05

05/30/2023 Check # 2732 to T. Carey for Poetry Contest 25.00

06/05/2023 Check # 2734 to Rose for CCEW Expenses 608.00

06/07/2023 Check # 2733 to C. Torres for Poetry Contest 25.00

06/12/2023 Check # 2731 to G. Cataldo for Poetry Contest 50.00

Total Debits: \$5,449.63

Current Checking Account Balance as of 6/20/2023 \$39,125.03

Pending Transactions: Not Listed

M&T Money Market Account: Balance as of 06/30/2023 is: \$61,741.70



ACS Section Treasurer's Report – August 2023

M&T Checking Balance as of 6/21/2023

\$39,125.03

Details:

Money In:

07/28/2023 Dep. of Check for Overpayment of Student Awds 100.00

08/16/2023 ACS Deposit for New Member Commissions 150.00

Total Credits: 250.00

Money Out:

06/22/2023 Check # 2726 to Dr. Martinez/Remsen Award 2,500.00

06/22/2023 Check # 2730 to K. Elkins for Councilor Travel 1405.22

06/27/2023 USPS Debit Card Purchase 37.66

07/07/2023 Check # 2741 to M. Johnson/Summer Res. Intern. 1,000.00

07/13/2023 Check # 2735 to Dr. Martinez/Remsen Travel 629.28

07/17/2023 Check # 2738 to O. Amadife/Project SEED 1,500.00

07/17/2023 Check # 2742 to C. Connolly/Summer Res. Intern. 1,000.00

07/18/2023 Check # 2736 to L. Peng/Summer Res. Internship 1,000.00

07/19/2023 Check # 2740 to T. Snyder/Summer Res. Intern. 1,000.00

08/11/2023 Check # 2743 to M. Johnson/Summer Res. Intern. 1,000.00

08/11/2023 Check # 2744 to C. Connolly/Summer Res. Intern. 1,000.00

08/15/2023 Check # 2747 to O. Amadife/Project SEED 2,000.00

08/16/2023 Check # 2739 to E. Onafuwa/Project SEED 1,500.00

08/16/2023 Check # 2748 to E. Onafuwa/Project SEED 2,000.00

Total Debits: \$17,572.16

Current Checking Account Balance as of 8/18/2023 \$21,802.87

Pending Transactions: Not Listed

M&T Money Market Account: Balance as of 07/31/2023 is: \$61,746.94