

**Virginia Section of the American Chemical Society  
Executive Committee Zoom Meeting Minutes  
Friday, June 19, 2020  
Meeting – 10:00 - 11:00 AM**

**Attendees (all via ZOOM):** Samy El-Shall, Joe Pompano, Ken Chapman, LaChelle Waller, Kristine Smetana, Tom DeVore, Julian Bobb, Mike Hunnicutt, Jim Beck, Joe Crocket, Rob Davidson, Kathryn Deibler, Linette Watkins, Sarah Porter

**Samy called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.**

**I. Approval of Minutes from January 25, 2020 Executive Committee Meeting**

**Minutes from the January meeting were approved as posted.**

**II. Officers' and Committees' Reports**

**1. Past Chair – Joe Pompano**

Joe summarized his report. The report to Nationals was submitted in January and was approved. Several ChemLuminaries were submitted but the Project SEED ones did not seem to be completed. Joe is hopeful that they were accepted.

Joe discussed the elections for next year. We need nominations for Secretary and for Vice Chair. Rob's term is up but he is willing to serve one more year. Joe will make an informal committee consisting of Sarah and the previous chairs to identify some good candidates.

**2. Chair - Samy El-Shall**

Samy summarized his submitted report. He said that the January and February meetings were both very successful, awards were given at the January meeting. March and April section meetings were cancelled due to Covid-19.

He discussed that we were successful in getting nominations for the chemistry students awards (outstanding senior undergraduate award). The students were mailed a copy of the book, and 9/15 of them submitted the membership application for ACS.

Nominations were sent to the Historical Chemical Landmark committee at the ACS to designate the lab at UVa. That nomination was approved. We will discuss later how to celebrate that exciting designation.

Samy mentioned the grants awarded to YCC but Rob said we had not received the money yet. Rob and Julian will inquire with Nationals.

**3. Chair Elect – LaChelle Waller**

LaChelle mentioned the September, October, and November meetings are scheduled. Fall will probably work best as a virtual meeting. VSU (working with Colleen) will host the September meeting with the teacher awards. A teacher named Rodney Robinson (National Teacher of the Year and VSU alum) will hopefully be the speaker and LaChelle hopes that he will broaden our reach with students and graduates at VSU. Kristine mentioned that the online Zoom meeting might be a good opportunity to expand our reach across the section. The October meeting will be hosted by Virginia Union. She is working with a

chemist, Dr. LaTia Scott, who is an alumnus of Virginia Union to be the speaker. November meeting will be hosted at JMU (working with Tom). Dr. Christine Hughey will speak on the chemistry of beer analysis.

LaChelle asked the Exec committee for suggestions about how to recognize the award winners, since we were not able to do it in person in March. Samy recognized that we can mail awards but agreed that we should recognize them in person if possible. Kristine asked about the Bass award when we will recognize Ann. Samy suggested that we do this at the October meeting since the teachers will take up most of the September meeting. Joe also mentioned that we have an award for Mike Hunnicutt for Project SEED. We will add that to the October meeting as well.

Kristine asked Joe what happened about the Project SEED ChemLuminary. Mike and Sarah worked on the submission, no one is sure why it didn't get finally submitted. Joe said that it was marked as incomplete. Kristine said that if it was mentioned in the Chair's report it should be considered for the section awards.

#### 4. Vice Chair – Vanessa Lopez

Vanessa was not in attendance at the meeting.

#### 5. Secretary - Sarah Porter

Minutes were submitted prior to the meeting.

#### 6. Treasurer- Rob Davidson

Rob summarized his report. Since we had to cancel many activities due to Covid-19, we have extra money that was not spent as anticipated. Revenues were basically where we expected (received ACS allotment) but expenditures were way down. Rob's best guess is that at the end of the year, we may have more of a \$3K surplus without transferring any money from the trust fund, but it's hard to predict because we don't know all of what will happen in the fall.

Linette brought up virtual Project SEED. Sarah mentioned that Nationals is paying students directly this year but Linette asked about the possibility for next year that the money could get funneled through the local section for the students rather than through the University.

Rob mentioned that we are still getting fraudulent requests from the "Chair" of the section for money and gift cards. Please do not respond directly to those requests. You can send them to Rob.

Rob had planned to increase our local section dues from \$7 to \$8 but decided to wait until next year.

#### 7. Councilors - Kristine Smetana, Ann M. Sullivan and Linette Watkins

Councilors Report was submitted by email.

Kristine summarized the community activities report. She was not able to do any activities for Earth Week. They made kits and supplies for teachers for classrooms. The STEM event involved 300 students for schools in southside Virginia (~ 5 schools). She is hopeful that they can get back to work in the Fall.

#### 8. Trustees – Ken Chapman, Stephanie Mabry and James N. Demas

Report was submitted by email. Ken summarized the report. No withdraws have been made this year. Originally, we planned on a \$10K withdrawal but since our expenses have been so far below anticipated we did not need to withdraw from the account. Ken and Rob discussed an audit later in the year, as it is currently overdue. They will plan a meeting (virtual or in person) later on.

## 9. Awards

i. Education- Larry White, Greg Grover

ii. Industrial and Service - Yezdi B. Pithawalla

Samy asked about the teachers' award nominations. Jim mentioned that three nominees have been submitted by Larry. They will go ahead and notify the awardees and order the plaques and disburse the award money. Jim will coordinate with Samy and Rob to get this taken care of and will work on recognizing the teachers at the September meeting. They will coordinate with Kathryn to add this information to the website as well.

Kristine mentioned that she was going to take over the education grants and she has not heard from anyone about this. Do we know if anyone has applied? We still have not heard from Ryan and Rob was not aware that we have received any applications. Kristine asked that a call for grant proposals be added to the next Bulletin. Ken mentioned that we should also look into the possibility of advertising through VAST. Their bulletin is quite expensive to put in an ad, but we might be able to get a one-time announcement in there for free. There is a July 1 deadline for their August newsletter. Ken will work with Jim to get the announcement into our Bulletin and to the VAST newsletter.

## 10. VAST- Kenneth Chapman

Ken discussed that we have had a presence at the VAST November meeting. Their fall meeting will be virtual, and they will still be charging \$350 for the virtual meeting. Ken will work on this and would ask for any assistance from anyone who has familiarity with their event software - WHOVA - for some help. The ACS has a lot of YouTube material for using this software but Ken would still appreciate any assistance with the exhibit.

Mike mentioned a workshop that YCC did at Longwood last year, with some materials related to professionalism, etc. Mike suggested that Julian might be able to share some of those materials and the agenda from that event. Julian said that he is teaming up with other YCC chapters and they are planning a number of virtual professional events this summer and fall. Julian will work with Ken and share whatever information he has.

## 11. Project SEED - Mike Hunnicutt

Mike summarized his report. Our goals were to maintain the two existing programs at VCU and Longwood, and to increase visibility across the section and increase participation through summer 2021. We communicated with all of the chemistry departments within our section. We were on track to have three institutions (VCU, Longwood, and JMU) for summer 2020. Longwood had a record number of applications. At VCU, they got official sponsorship for SEED through RPS. VCU invited the Governor's schools in Petersburg and Richmond to apply as well, moving outside of RPS. VCU program also got support from the CHS communication office to develop a poster to send to each participating school as advertising material (this was at the suggestion of past SEED students).

Mike discussed the Virtual Summer Camp option as the in-person SEED programs were all cancelled. Sarah summarized the involvement of Longwood and JMU in the virtual program. Students will receive a small stipend and a Chromebook to participate in an approximately 20 hour/week program. Mike and Sarah discussed the sections' participation in the Virtual Camp. There will be no financial obligation from the Section for this new virtual program.

Mike will work with Jim on getting an article into the summer Bulletin.

#### 12. Younger Chemists Committee- Julian Bobb

Julian summarized his report. He discussed two grants that the YCC obtained this year to support a fall Women's Workshop with a keynote speaker named Susan Stanistky (Eastern Lab director of DFS). This will probably end up being a virtual event. They will have breakout sessions with women leaders in the chemistry industry and government, etc. It will be a series of informal discussions. Julian will work with the WCC to plan this event. Another grant they received was for a fall luncheon that they may have to also run virtually. Julian is coordinating with Eastern NY, Philadelphia, Nashville, Chicago YCC sections to apply for some other grants to support virtual professional development events. They are planning a few workshops on navigating your career during Covid-19 and some informal discussions on CV's and resumes and interviewing. They are getting attendance from all across the country.

Julian summarized the mentorship program - 20 mentors and 18 mentees. Most mentors are in industry positions and the mentees are undergraduates from across the section. They have had some meetings to get the program started. He is planning some virtual events in the Fall for all participants.

Samy will email Julian's report to the Exec committee.

**Other reports:** Joe C. summarized the safety report. The letters and safety booklets were distributed to all of the high schools, and information about the Chemistry Olympiad.

### III. Zoom Service for the Section

Samy asked about signing up for ZOOM service for the section. Rob said that contracting for zoom services makes sense but it might be tricky to have an institution account since it is usually in an individual's name. Joe P. suggested putting into the Chair's name and just transfer it each year to the new Chair. It is about \$150/year for the account and you can have meetings with up to 150 people. Rob suggested that Julian would use it the most in the near future so maybe it should be in his name. Julian suggested that they could use their grant to pay for it, but we also have the money in the section budget. Rob told Julian to go ahead and sign up for it. Tom asked about the Fall meetings - we could use this same account for those virtual meetings.

### IV. Fall Meetings: September (VSU), October (VUU), November (JMU)

The meetings will be hosted by the institutions, but we need to decide how to run the meetings. We have to decide if we want to charge for it. Since we don't have meals, we should not charge for the meeting. We will announce this in the Bulletin and on the website. The host of the meeting will need to be in charge of organizing the meeting and managing attendees. You can usually just post a link to a ZOOM meeting. We have to be careful about posting links to the ZOOM meetings publicly to avoid the meetings getting hacked. Samy would like to see that we still reserve spots for the meetings and send the link to people individually rather than posting it publicly. A lengthy discussion followed about how to manage the meetings on ZOOM.

### V. Spring 2021 Celebration of old chemistry lab at UVA as a National Historical Chemistry Landmark

This application was approved by the ACS. Jim said that the approval had made it through the first step of the Landmark Committee but there is one more step before final approval (Board on Public Relations). This should take place soon. Samy asked for discussion about how we should celebrate and recognize this event. The April meeting at UVa would be a good place/time to recognize it. Jim recommended a special committee of a few people to keep up-to-date on the progress at Nationals. Jim and Joe P. volunteered to work on this. Joe C. recommended asking Larry White to also serve on this committee.

## **VI. Vice Chair and Secretary positions for 2021**

Joe will make an informal committee consisting of Sarah and the previous chairs to identify some good candidates. The list needs to be compiled before September to go into the September Bulletin, for elections to be held in October.

### **Other items:**

Tom mentioned the VJAS virtual competition. It was successful as a virtual competition.

Mike mentioned the newsletter. He asked if we could plan to put a piece into the upcoming newsletter about ACS core values of diversity and inclusion. Samy will consider using the Chair's message for this purpose. Jim suggested that we could copy the statements from the ACS national website. Mike also said he would help draft something. Jim asked for a formal vote from the Exec committee. Once Mike drafts something Samy will send it Exec committee. Joe C. recommended putting in the July issue but also repeating in the September issue because many people miss the summer Bulletin.

Samy adjourned the meeting at 11:37 a.m.