

Virginia Section of the American Chemical Society
Executive Committee Meeting Agenda
Virginia Commonwealth University
Virtual: Zoom
Saturday, 10th July 2021
Meeting – 11:01 AM- 1:00 PM EDT

Attendees: Julian Bobb, LaChelle Waller, Joe Pompano, Kristine Smetana, Jack Brown, Colleen Taylor, Ken Chapman, Rob Davidson, Phil Burks, Denise Walters, Tom DeVore, Jim Beck, Vanessa Lopez, Ann Sullivan, Charlene Crawley, Stephanie Mabry, Janet Asper and Robert Yokley (Guest, ACS SCC & CNC-ACS)

I. Call to Order at 11:01 AM

II. Approval of the Agenda

Agenda is approved.

III. Old Business

Approval of Minutes from January 30, 2021 Executive Committee meeting (via Zoom).
Minutes was approved.

IV. 2021 Budget Review & Discussion (Rob Davidson)

See treasurer's report

V. Officer's Reports

a. Past Chair – Samy El-Shall

See report.

b. Chair – LaChelle Waller

LaChelle said that she is grateful for Cindy Knight and Jim Demas (UVA) regarding the job they did with the Outstanding student awards and ceremony event back in April. LaChelle will touch base with every officer/committee chair to learn more about what they are doing. She will reach out to Samy to see if he has the gavel.

Conversation about doing a virtual meeting. Recommendations:

1. LaChelle will send out a survey to the executive board to gauge their feedback.
2. See if VCU is willing to host in September. Need to look into VCU's policy.
3. For in-person meetings: people should be vaccinated or wearing masks if not vaccinated
4. Need to move very quickly if meeting will be in-person to have all the plans put together ASAP.
5. Need to reach out to the National ACS to see if they have any updated policy.

c. Chair Elect – Vanessa Lopez

Goal is to have a breakdown of all the meetings that happened during the first half of this year along with the plans for the Fall.

d. Vice Chair – Jack Brown

Jack has been attending the virtual training through the ACS Leadership Institute.

Jim Beck, we will need speakers for the Fall meetings. Please let us know if you have any suggestions for speakers. Camille Schrier could be a potential candidate. She is not an ACS member.

e. Secretary – Julian Bobb

I'll be taking the minutes and consolidating the reports. I'll get the minutes sent out by Monday. I have downloaded and uploaded copies of the recent full membership roster, activity roster, student chapters report, and demographic report. Let me know if you would a copy of these.

f. Treasurer- Rob Davidson

Key things to remember, we developed a budget in January 2021 to account for in-person events. We received double allotment from ACS National. We are expecting a surplus by the end of the year in light of spending by the councilors going to the Fall meeting and having in-person Fall

meetings. We are still getting fraudulent requests so be mindful. The local dues will increase to \$8 for 2022. Agreed at the last meeting to have a trustee have access to the credit card. Rob will be getting QuickBooks and will work on this. Cost for this isn't too much. We don't need to spend the \$2300 on the website. We can fix it slowly. Rob, will think about continuing as treasurer for 2022. He suggests getting an assistant treasurer. What officer position is needed: vice-chair. LaChelle will reach out to Samy about nominations for new officers.

g. Councilors - Janet Asper, Kristine Smetana, and Linette Watkins

The meeting in Atlanta is a hybrid meeting. They are discussing who is going to attend virtually or in-person. Kristine, Linette, and Janet are planning to attend in-person.

h. Trustees – Kenneth Chapman, James N. Demas, Stephanie Mabry

Investment account balances

June 30, 2021 (Current)	\$132,965.90
January 1, 2020	\$132,146.12
June 30, 2020	\$126,442.48

No request from the treasurer with nay withdraws from the account. Once we get past the pandemic, the spending costs will go up

VI. Selected Standing Committee Reports (~ 2 minutes each, please)

a. Awards

No report

i. Education- Larry White

They have selected the 3 teachers to be recognized at the September meeting. Larry may step down next year.

ii. Industrial and Service - Yezdi B. Pithawalla, Kathleen Spangler

No reports

b. Community Activities - Kristine Smetana

Still waiting to get information about the Spring event done in Greenville County. Given two educational grants (1) Churchill academia and (2) Greenville County. The both needed STEM kits. Kristine will work with YCC for joint outreach activities in the Fall.

\$1000 was given out this spring to two schools/programs. One was to help a teacher with her science program get some basic materials that could be used for both online learning and at the school and that were lacking for her lab at Church Hill Academy. The other was for the 4-H STEM Program in Greenville County to help promote. Both have helped significantly.

d. Chemistry Olympiad – Sarah Porter

We had a total of only 8 students participate in the Local Section Chemistry Olympiad this year. Out of those eight, seven qualified for the Part I national exam. No students in our section qualified for Part II. Due to the virtual nature of the exam, and the very early registration deadline set by Nationals, I believe that interest was just very down this year despite my best efforts to reach teachers in the section.

I did use the funds allotted to the Olympiad committee to purchase gift cards for the top three scoring students on the local section exam, as well as some buttons, t-shirts, and pins that can be used to promote the exam in the coming year. It is my goal for the next academic year to start promoting the exam earlier and try to reach some schools that have not historically participated.

e. Minority Affairs – Charlene Crawley

Charlene shared a report on this recent virtual Diversity & Inclusion in STEM ‘thru the lens of Chemistry’. The event was co-hosted by both Charlene and Jasmine Witt (VCU chemistry & biology student, vice-president of the student affiliate chapter). It was primarily a ‘share your story’ type of event by a diverse group of panels. About 73 people attended with mostly students out of the 109 registrants. Prizes were given out as ACS memberships and Amazon gift cards.

Charlene also shared on AVID which is a college readiness system and it is an academic regularly scheduled elective class during the school day. The curriculum is based on writing and critical thinking and reading, inquiry, and collaborative learning strategies. It is offered in grades four through twelve.

Charlene will be working with Boushall Middle School to engaged their students with STEM outreach activities.

Denise suggests reaching the indigenous tribes. Charlene will submit report for chemluminary awards. Partners for Prosperity Award – LaChalle will look in to it. Charlene is planning to do the meeting at Boushall Middle School for next Spring. Kristine is willing to help also and could encourage the student affiliate chapters to help.

f. Publications – Jim Beck

Deadline for the summer bulletin is July 22. He would need to have a place and date for the September meeting in the July bulletin. We need nominations for the distinguish service and research awards, and the other awards. Suggest using the science museum for the January 2022 awards meeting. Need to put the names together (the executive committee list) for January 2022.

g. Trustee's – Stephanie Mabry

See report above

h. Younger Chemists Committee- Julian Bobb

- We were selected as a finalist for two chemluminary awards (1) best activity or program stimulating member involvement (Day in the Life Series) and (2) outstanding local section industry event (Mentorship Program).

- So far for Virginia section YCC activities, we hosted a trivia night, day in the life of a chemist turned entrepreneur, graduation celebration, and supported the student affiliate chapter activities at Randolph-Macon College. Virginia YCC goals for the Fall is to focused more on STEM outreach with the aim to engage K-12 students. We are interested in collaborating with Kristine on any Fall activities.
- Regarding the mentorship program, we have about 22 mentors (current and new) and we will have about 24 – 30 mentees. Next steps: host meeting discussions with the mentors and mentees this July, have the new members complete their profile, and Fall plan a social for to initiate the program. Waiting to hear back about a submitted SCC mini-grant to support the program. Working with Christine Skaggs (Indiana section, 2021 global outreach volunteer of the year) to see if we can potentially launch a National YCC mentorship program for 2023.
- Leading a Book Club titled on Inclusive Leadership with a small group of YCC members discussing ways on we can develop as leaders.
- The YCC partnership has expanded to 10 local sections (Virginia, North Carolina, St. Louis, Chicago, Indiana, Philadelphia, Connecticut valley, Eastern NY, Northern NY, and Rochester) along with international groups (India, Brazil, Morocco, and Puerto Rico). Last year our events reached about 600 – 700 people. Events hosted so far includes self-care Saturdays, Day in the Life of a Chemists Series, Professional Development (CV/resume, interview, networking workshops, etc.). We are currently planning a research symposium and career expo for August 2 – 6 (4 – 8 PM EDT). About 100 abstracts were submitted (50% US/50% international). We will have oral/poster presentations, career expo (companies/grad school) and networking sessions. We will give out award prizes. Currently looking for judges, companies and grad school to represent at the expo, and **companies to sponsor**. We do have a YouTube channel where we have uploaded Zoom recordings.
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEJgX28mFQPEGW4eNH6Wvgw>

VI. Section Statement on Diversity and Minority Affairs Committee Name

Rob is suggesting changing the name. Charlene suggests adding other objectives/goals that encompasses the committee. Collen suggests adding LGBTQ. LaChalle suggests adding chemists with disabilities.

VIII. VA Section ACS Planning (in-person events discussion, guidelines/policies to consider?)

- Officer Candidates

See discussions above

- Planning for National Historic Chemical Landmark

The Jefferson hearth was dedicated as a chemical landmark. We need to have an official ceremony. We could do it at the April 2022 meeting. Our section can attend. We need to get a committee really soon to get the planning going. We can work with Larry White. Denise will like to be involved with the planning and she does have contacts from UVA.

- Executive Committee Members recruitment

See above for related conversations

IX. Spring 2021 Activities: Randolph- Macon College Student Affiliate Chapter – President, Ana Leal

This spring, the student affiliate chapter at Randolph-Macon College (R-MC) reactivated their chapter led by current president, Ana Leal (junior, biology & chemistry major). R-MC is an undergraduate institution with 1,543 students with average class size of 16. Their chemistry department has 7 full-time faculty and an average of 10 chemistry majors per year. Their club events comprised of monthly meetings, trivia night, walk down memory lane with Dr. Michelsen, chemistry festival, and fun chemistry experiments with attendance ranging from 15 – 26 for each

event. These events were sponsored by the YCC and the funds were used to purchase Amazon eGift cards and supplies. They even sold R-MC branded t-shirts and were able to generate a profit of \$320.50.

X. How to Start a Virginia SCC – Robert Yokley

Robert shared about how to start a senior chemists committee. The national SCC is willing to help with this. Can do networking events to get them engaged. Joe made a motion to establish a senior chemists committee. All was in favor. Rob Davidson and Joe Pompano will co-lead starting this committee. The new chairs will set short term goals to accomplish.

- A 50, 60, and 70 service year event
 - Buffet (need to provide transportation)
- Quarterly breakfast meeting
 - Convenience is key
 - Decide on a presentation or networking session
- Local attraction outing and tours
 - Museum, plants, local pubs, wineries
- SCC resources
 - Chemluminary awards
 - Mini-Grant
 - Senior chemists' newsletter
 - Senior chemists on the move
 - Senior chemists' website (seniorchemists@acs.org)

XI. Science Museum of Virginia Grant Update – Denise Walters

Our enhanced collaboration with the Science Museum of Virginia has resulted in significant improvements to build chemistry into their programming. In 2020, we provided a \$1,500 grant to refresh and enhance the chemistry programming at the Science Museum of Virginia. The progress was delayed due to staff shortages related to Covid-19. The VA Section granted the Science Museum of Virginia a 1-year extension to complete the work.

I will work with the Science Museum staff on an article for the bulletin that summarizes this initiative and other activities resulting from our long-standing relationship that we have the Science Museum of Virginia. The Science Museum would like to present a proposal for funding at the September 2021 meeting.

Denise suggests that they are looking for new \$1500 grant for this Fall, Motion was made. All in favor. Denise will put together a plan.

XII. Other Reports

Joe is waiting to hear back about the grant application regarding the strategic planning that was submitted.

For the Fall, Stacey Sank (WCC) is planning to do the bi-monthly networking meetings and will try to do an in-person happy hour.

Julian will upload the minutes and committee reports on the website and to the shared google drive.

XII. Adjournment at 1:00 PM