

DRAFT Minutes Virtual ACS Meeting Fall 2020

Awards:

Call for award nominations as usual. Get them in.

A committee is forming and we hope they will increase the diversity (broadly defined) in the awardee portfolio.

International fund: we are actually still talking about this. We ALMOST spent it down. But then, you know, the virus.

On the budgets: we spent a lot of money, but in 2019 we earned a lot money. But then, you know, the virus. So we got nervous. But now markets are back so we're less nervous. Baller.

Warning for 2021: we'll need to pull money next year. Probably more than we're going to want to. There will be discussions (again) about how we can't keep doing this (again).

Delta is ok for our nonprofit status.

Mike's slides:

How can we better engage during virtual national meetings? Some ideas to come.

First question: thoughts on virtual meeting?

There were some positive things: recorded presentations, several industrial members could get involved, and the students like the freedom and the number of ways they interact.

Negatives: technology was rough. Audio problems, and they couldn't seem to get it together. So that needs work.

POLY q&a seemed to work well.

No one was really using the zoom breakout rooms. In the future, this should be planned to get a critical mass in each one.

PMSE had the virtual member booth at those times. Interesting idea.

Emails were FLYING around about all of this.

What happens at San Antonio? Hybrid approach might give people a much broader chance to engage. Also the technology might get fixed by then.

For students it can be helpful to get them in a room, watch the on demand talk and focus, etc.

Some discussion on best practices for attending virtual meetings:

Interface was challenging. Jumping from talk to talk was tedious. The timing was rough because the timing wasn't synched the way we have them in person. On demand would be better. We need to consider time zones too.

Lack of interaction on the posters was frustrating. Some ideas kicked around on that but nothing definitive proposed.

Idea: plenary first, then break out rooms, that fit every time zones. Another idea: a few divisions get together and do things as a group

RSC has a 24 hour twitter poster sessions via hashtags. It's wildly successful and very engaging.

MACRO had a great panel discussion that was planned and budgeted. So this is a good strategy.

Make better use of the zoomRooms

Beyond the glitches how did it go?

Voice of Emily: one take. Done. (virtual mic drop)

Others: half a day in some cases.

Action Items: Business office to work on the poster stuff. Others to send points to Mary Ann to pass on to M&E.

On Diversity:

Could we do a few seminars or webinars to highlight underserved populations and underrepresented groups.

Engage HBCU and URM MSI with free webshops/webinars. Or highlight polymer research at these institutions via seminar and webshops. (some concern that this is performative and not as impactful as it should be)

Highlighting education might be better. Discussing free registration for folks from these institutions might help. This would help involve everyone. When you make it a separate event it can serve to separate people.

Someone with a PhD in DIE should be involved here.

Lee Jordon, Chief Diversity Officer from Chevron, gave a great talk on this. You have to be intentional and review things with a more equitable eye. Industry is doing a nice job here. The point is being proactive, train the committee, etc.

Definitely make sure deserving people are nominated. Also consider assigning awards with a diversity focus.

ACTION ITEM: email Mike POLY Fellow candidates by the first week in September.

Webinars and Webshops:

Increased output to keep pace with cancelled workshops. Discussion is ongoing.

Discussion about the right platform for all of this (demio vs zoom)

Action Items:

Laura to talk to committee on topics, POLY to produce this ourselves.

Voice of Laura: were any talk withdrawn because powerpoint was required? This would be a good place to start mining topics.

Voice of Kathy: Haley might have some names from the Philly meeting of people that felt put off.

Sponsorship:

We have a basic schedule for sponsoring but the business office could certainly use help here.

TOSOH is on the ball, they know exactly what they want and it's several routes. Other groups seem fixated on a very specific purpose for sponsoring.

Need to update the webpage here. Emily and Justin to check.

Commercial for the MACRO channel, POLY channel, etc.

ACTION ITEM: general sponsorship prospectus to be formulated and linked to the webpage.

Workshop organizers are sometimes very opinionated on how the sponsorship levels look like, so we should be flexible and make sure it can be tuned readily. Multiple angles are a good idea.

ACTION ITEM: Kathy to email the basic document around now to get everyone on the same page.