

Minutes of the 71st Eastern Colleges Science Conference (ECSC) Board of Trustees Annual Meeting, April 1, 2017
Wilkes University, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

Officers in Attendance

Chairman of the Board: Donald Stearns (Wagner College)
Treasurer and Secretary: Lance Evans (Manhattan College)

Other Board Members and Guests in Attendance

Brandy Bessette-Symons (Ithaca College)
Charlene Blando-Hoegler (Pace University, guest)
Suzanne Deschenes (Sacred Heart University)
Zofia Gagnon (Marist College)
Carl Hoegler (Mount Saint Mary University)
Barry Hoopengardner (Central Connecticut State University)
Anthony Kapolka (Wilkes University)*
Martin Kapper (Central Connecticut State University)
Ghislaine Mayer (Manhattan College)
Andrew Miller (Wilkes University, guest)
Barbara Murdoch (Eastern Connecticut State University)*
Helen Murphy (John Carroll University)
Brian Palestis (Wagner College)*
Cyndy Scheibe (Ithaca College)
Stephen Slauson (University of Saint Joseph)
Mark Sweezy (University of Saint Joseph, guest)
Cyrilla Wideman (John Carroll University)
Janet Williams (Elms College)
Bryan Wilkins (Manhattan College, guest)

*Member, ECSC Travel Grant Program Committee

Action Items and Discussion

The meeting was called to order by Don Stearns at 12:35 p.m. with a welcome to all members and guests.

1. Approval of the agenda: Don Stearns stated that any board member could introduce any agenda item for consideration. With no additional agenda items, the agenda was accepted.

2. Current status of ECSC: Don Stearns provided a brief overview of the current status of ECSC. He stated that most of the work that ECSC officers do between annual conferences is focused on practical steps towards ensuring as much as possible the success of future meetings in a variety of locations. In that regard, the organization now has an updated set of general guidelines for host institutions, with a specific set of recommendations covering key aspects of the conference. Many of the revisions stem from feedback responses from board members after each conference.

Although this work helps ensure the continuance and sustainability of ECSC, it is primarily work that deals with each year's set of issues. The organization needs ideas and leadership regarding ways to better serve the mission of ECSC:

- For ideas that cost money, the board needs to consider and pursue ways for ECSC to be able to afford them. There was discussion pertaining to seeking funding from commercial sources. As an example, Don mentioned another, similar organization that that uses corporate money to fund undergraduate research stipends of a few hundred dollars each and has set up a mechanism for undergraduates to apply for those research funds, with successful students' presenting their research results at the next conference.
Carl Hoegler, Zofia Gagnon, and Janet Williams expressed an interest in creating a statement of purpose for such funds that could be used to approach firms (e.g., textbook publishers, chemical supply companies). ECSC could consider having recognition spots or advertisements from corporate sponsors included in the annual program and the option of including display tables for corporate sponsors at meetings.
- We need ideas and leadership in dealing with ways to encourage educational institutions that have not done so before to try out ECSC. Board members are encouraged to make more contacts to attract other institutions to participate in ECSC.
- We need to do what we can to expand ECSC participation by those in the social sciences. In that regard, members should encourage students in the social sciences who are doing empirical research. Members in the natural sciences should spread the good word of ECSC to other appropriate departments on their campuses, including the social sciences.

Don encouraged members who may be interested in serving in ECSC leadership roles, including interest in serving as an officer, to let him know. The organization can be sustained only through the influx of useful new ideas and leaders who wish to realize them. Present officers can serve as mentors.

3. Nominations to the board: The following individuals were nominated and unanimously elected to the board:

Charlene Blando-Hoegler, Lecturer of Biology, Pace University (nominated by Carl Hoegler)
 Andrew Miller, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Wilkes University (nominated by Anthony Kapolka)
 Catherine E. Newkirk, Professor of Medical Technology, Marist College (nominated by Zofia Gagnon)
 Mark Sweezy, Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Saint Joseph (nominated by Stephen Slauson)

4. Treasurer's report: Lance Evans reported that ECSC has a current balance of \$13,600, not including any surplus amount coming in after income and costs are determined for ECSC 2017. (Note: In May, 2017, that surplus was determined to be \$5,270.77.)

5. Registration and banquet discounts considered for spring, 2018 conference: The board unanimously approved a proposal to extend the current \$5 registration and \$7 banquet subsidies, with elimination of the \$100 institutional fee, for ECSC 2018, when the topic will be revisited.

6. Report from the Travel Grant Program: Don Stearns relayed a communication from Ron Priefer (Chair, ECSC Travel Grant Program Committee) that John Carroll University received a travel grant award for ECSC 2017. All institutions are encouraged to apply for travel funds if needed. Anthony Kapolka and Walter Steiner were unanimously re-elected to the ECSC Travel Grant Program Committee, each for a three-year term.

7. Old Business and Any Additional Items:

- The ECSC Logo Revision Committee reported no new information regarding a new ECSC logo.
- The board approved a motion that all future ECSC abstract submissions be restricted to no more than 200 words for the body of the abstract itself.

8. Future ECSC Meetings: Ithaca College (Ithaca, New York) will be hosting the next (72nd) annual meeting of the ECSC Saturday, April 21, 2018. Manhattan College (Riverdale, New York) will be hosting the 73rd ECSC in April, 2019. Please contact Don Stearns (DStearns@Wagner.edu) if you would like your institution considered. Having willing hosts is crucial for sustaining ECSC.

The meeting was adjourned 1:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lance S. Evans

Treasurer and Secretary of ECSC Board of Trustees

Original completed April 2, 2017; revision sent for posting May 19, 2017