

Minutes of the 79th Eastern Colleges Science Conference (ECSC) Board of Trustees Annual Meeting, March 29, 2025 Wilkes University, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

Officers in Attendance

Chair of the Board: Lance Evans (New York Botanical Garden)
President and Assistant to the Board Chair: Helen Murphy (John Carroll University)
Treasurer: Bryan Wilkins (Manhattan University)
Secretary: Donald Stearns (Wagner College)

Other Board Members and Guests in Attendance

Kim Allen (Medgar Evers College and SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University, guest)
Suzanne Deschenes (Sacred Heart University)
Dan Furman (Medgar Evers College, guest)
Anthony Kapolka (Wilkes University)
HyeReon Lee (Wilkes University, guest)
Christopher Marra (Wagner College)
Barbara Murdoch (Eastern Connecticut State University)
Guy Robinson (Ford College at Lincoln Center)
Nicole Roy (Sacred Heart University)
Cyndy Scheibe (Ithaca College)
Cyrilla Wideman (John Carroll University)
David Zuckerman (Iona College)

Action Items and Discussion

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

- 1. Meeting called to order:** The meeting was called to order by Lance Evans at approximately 12:35 p.m. with a welcome to all members and guests, including two members who attended the meeting via Zoom.
- 2. Major thank you to the host institution:** Lance thanked Anthony Kapolka and HyeReon Lee as chairs of the 2025 Planning Committee, as well as all the excellent folks at Wilkes University who worked together to ensure a successful conference.
- 3. Announcement from the host committee regarding the conference:** Anthony Kapolka asked all those who had judged student presentations earlier today to please submit their evaluations for tabulation and identification of award recipients.
- 4. Introduction of members present:** Each meeting attendee briefly introduced themselves by name, institution, and general disciplinary areas of expertise. Each also briefly mentioned something personally relevant to them.
- 5. Approval of the agenda:** The board members unanimously approved the agenda for today's meeting.

6. Nominations to the board: The following individual was nominated and unanimously elected to the board:

Kim D. Allen, Ph.D., Research Assistant Professor, Neuroscience Division, Pathology Department. SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University, Brooklyn, NY; Adjunct Assistant Professor of Biology, City University of New York, Medgar Evers College, Brooklyn, NY
(nominated by Anthony Kapolka)

7. Treasurer's report: Bryan Wilkins reported that, as of March 2025, The ECSC has a balance of \$10,380.33, which is currently deposited in an ECSC account at Manhattan University. There was some discussion regarding the creation of an external ECSC account that would give ECSC full control of its funds without having to involve college personnel and approvals. It was suggested that future ECSC income be deposited in an external account, while covering expenses using the Manhattan University account until that account is zeroed out. Bryan will take the lead—perhaps with help from David Zuckerman—in working on establishing an external account for this purpose. Setting up an external account may require a W-9 tax form, and ECSC wants to make sure that the establishment of the account is done properly and legally. Bryan will let the board know what he learns about the process.

8. Update regarding new ECSC logo: ECSC has been discussing the adoption of a new logo for many years, with little progress. In the not-too-distant past, when Sacred Heart University hosted ECSC and called for proposed logo submissions for consideration, there were only two submissions. Guy Robinson displayed an image of a draft logo that a student of his worked on last year, for consideration. Anthony Kapolka said he could use AI to generate several possible logos for the board to consider.

9. Forthcoming ECSC conferences: Responding to Lance's call for a host institution to serve as the venue for the next conference, Cyndy Scheibe has looked into the possibility of Ithaca College's hosting the 80th conference in spring, 2026. She has learned, however, that the Ithaca College administration will not yet allow her to reserve college space for breakfast and plenary presentations, perhaps because administrators have not yet decided if/when they may need those spaces for other events related to student recruitment next spring. She will keep trying, however.

Kim Allen volunteered to discuss the possibility with Medgar Evers College administrators and will let us know what she learns in this regard.

Suzanne Deschenes brought up the possibility of having a joint conference with another institution, similar to when ECSC joined with William Paterson University in holding a joint conference on the WPU campus, sharing space on the same day. (Note: Such a joint venture would require an already established rapport, as well as careful communication and clear guidelines, as well as a commonality between the two conferences being held at the same time day. The host institution would need to see a clear benefit by having a joint meeting, compared with having their own conference.)

For those who are considering hosting the conference in the future, Lance included the following important note with his agenda:

ECSC is dependent upon the proposals and welcoming nature of our hosts. We encourage individual hosts to establish their own policies. The website has an entire section on hosting. There is good advice there. Also, contact Lance for more advice. We have a whole group of previous hosts [who] can give advice. Also, carefully view the conference materials from previous conferences on the website.

Lance reported that Manhattan University will host the 81st conference in spring, 2027.

10. New business (How to make ECSC better?): Lance asked the question, " How do we make ECSC better?" The resulting discussion focused on external funding possibilities that might cover conference travel costs and/or research costs for participating students. There may be funding possible through such well-established agencies as NASA, NSF, or AAAS. (Note: One should keep in mind and be clear-eyed about requesting such funding from federal funding agencies at this time, given the restricted funding policies now being sought by the national administration.) Kim Allen brought up the possibility of a professional development grant that might include travel funds for students. Don Stearns mentioned crowd sourcing for research or travel funds for student ECSC participants. There is also the ECSC account at Manhattan University that could be tapped. Collectively, these were suggestions, not proposals.

The meeting was adjourned 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Doanld E. Stearns
Secretary of ECSC Board of Trustees
Original completed March 30, 2025