

POLY BUSINESS MEETING – ACS SPRING NATIONAL MEETING 2024
IN PERSON (MARCH 17, 2024)
NEW ORLEANS, LA – NEW ORLEANS MARRIOTT HOTEL (STUDIO 1/2)

Present: Total at start of meeting 52

Highlights Summary of Motions and Votes

Motion 1 (Kennemur): Approve minutes from Fall 2023 (San Fran) ACS meeting (2nd M. A. Meador)

Vote: Yes – 7, No – 0, Abstain – 1

Detailed Minutes and Discussions:

Start 12:15

CHAIR’S WELCOME (Dawanne Poree) + quick introductions of POLY ExComm

VICE CHAIR COMMITTEE REPORTS (Laura Stratton):

National Meetings & Programming (Levi Moore)

(SLIDES) See slides for - *Information and statistics on recent programming.*

- Welcome Graham Collier as new rotating program chair. Upcoming Chairs include:
 - o Levi Moore(NOLA S24)
 - o Danniebelle Haase (Denver F24)
 - o Julia Kalow (San Diego S25)
 - o Graham Collier (Washington DC F25)
- Fall 2024 ACS – Denver: Program is full and set.
- Spring 2025 – San Diego: Still Recruiting Symposia Organizers but Program is filling out.
- Fall 2025 – Wash. DC: Wide open, submit symposia & ideas on POLY website
- NOLA is the official rollout of the “Future of Meetings” Initiative by ACS.
 - o POLY is already having the poster sessions more intimately located this meeting to go along with ACS initiative to enhance poster experience.
 - o ACS wants more collaborative symposia in the future.
 - o Sunday programming will be eliminated in the future.

IAB (Haley Brown)

(SLIDES) General information, members, focus of the IAB in 2024, small company recruitment, and new initiatives.

- IAB is working on budgeting differently at ACS meetings to conserve budget due to increasing meeting costs. (example: the IAB breakfast this meeting has no A/V requests)
- New initiatives – Company recruitment and retainment

- New symposium at Fall 2024 “Elevating the Power of Data for Materials and Chemical Scientists in Industry”
- Congrats to the ACS POLY Student Travel Award winners (see slide and website)

Awards (Stratton for Alan Hopkins)

(SLIDES)

- See slides for award winners.
- Please see the upcoming awards on the POLY site, nominate those you think are deserving of an award.
- Discussion: Kennemur – checking to ensure we have a system in place to convey the information on awards winners to Coralie for the website so she can keep that updated as they roll in and are announced. Kathy answered that they do have a system.
- Congrats to Sara Orski and Kathy Mitchem for the POLY Service Awards!

MEETINGS WORKSHOPS, and INTERNATIONAL (Derek Patton)

Regional Meetings (Mark Dadmun)

- (SLIDES)
- Working hard to connect POLY to the regional meetings (want more of a presence)
- Trying to fold in the student chapters for more programming. Will be doing more activity to reach out in the near future. (symposia, networking events, etc)
- Discussion:
 - o Kennemur: Are there any budgetary items being implemented to help support/encourage student chapter support? A: Dadmun – yes, a larger budget is in place to be able to support the Student Chapters at the regional meetings more.
 - o Poree: What do you need from POLY to help? Answer (Dadmun): two things that can help are 1) additional budget is needed for some of the proposed activities and 2) from a personnel standpoint, being able to call on POLY Board members to act as POLY ambassadors at the regional meetings. Both of these will help serve our presence at these meetings.

Workshops (Patton for Beth Elacqua)

- (SLIDES)
- Beth Elacqua is now leading (chairing) the Workshops effort. Thanks to Marc for all his efforts.
- 2024 Workshops: Fire and Polymers, Advances in Polyolefins, and also Polymer Women Empowerment & Research (POWER).
- Next NGRPC was awarded to Arizona State University.
 - o Discussion - Tim Long: NGRPC will be in close partnership with UCSB, this is the first time the conference has been on the west coast! They are excited.
- 2025 POLY Workshops – Fluoropolymers and the other one is being decided (proposals collected) and will be voted upon at the ExComm meeting.

Webinars (Tomonori Saito)

- POLY Webinars have been working closely with ACS. (e.g. ACS picks the dates).
- See (SLIDES) for recently held webinars and statistics on attendance and satisfaction. Spoiler alert: satisfaction is very very good.
- 2024 Upcoming: Alternative Approaches to ROP (5/2/2024) (Presenters: Niu and Nicolas)
- Webinar committee always welcomes conversations on new topics for these webinars.
- Welcome to Bob Lambeth – ARL who has joined the webinars team!
- DISCUSSION
 - o Advincula: AI in Polymer Science would be a good topic, Saito agrees.
 - o Poree: Wants clarity on the mechanism for suggesting a webinar topic. Saito will chat with Kennemur on a website submission option.

International (Rigoberto Advincula)

- (SLIDES)
- PPC18 was a great success. The next meetings are decided to be in Fukoka, Japan (2025) and in Busan, S. Korea (2027), then Vancouver, Canada (2029).
- DISCUSSION:
 - o Beers – Mentioned the PMSE effort to collect money from sources and opportunities from collaborative efforts with other countries. This might be something that International program at POLY should look into (for example, NSF funding opportunities)
 - o Stratton: List of international meetings would be nice to put on the website? We would need a metric for what conferences meet International Committee “stamp of approval” for advertisement.
 - o Poree: What is the international committee looking for from international collaborations? A: (Gobet) More interested in long-term partnerships over singular events. Working with established international organizations in collaboration

OUTREACH & EDUCATION (Alan Guymon)

- **MACRO update (Guymon for Phil Constanzo)**
 - o The MACRO site has great educational resources and web panels that they have implemented on their website. Highly encouraged to look at the MACRO website to see what they have been doing.

SECRETARY (Justin Kennemur)

- **Motion to Approve the minutes from Fall ACS SF Meeting (Kennemur) (2nd by M. A. Meador)**
 - o **Yes – 7, Abstain – 1, No (0).**
- Starting (again) this year, Website and Publicity now under the umbrella of Secretary per the POLY bi-laws.

Website (Kennemur for Coralie Backlund)

- A “Volunteer Button” is now present on the website.
 - o Semra Colak Atan: More information and organization will be forthcoming to assist those who are willing to volunteer on areas in need of volunteers.
- The website committee is working towards moving the .net site to the .org site.
- Tayler Hebner is now on the website committee and will likely be taking a larger role with it in the future.

MEMBER AT LARGE & OUTREACH (Kat Knauer)

(SLIDES)

- New initiative to get the POLY/PMSE Student Chapter to decorate tables at the National Meetings.
 - o FAMU-FSU SC has decorated the table at NOLA.
- Looking for a “logo” for the new POLY mentorship program. (Launch at Denver)
- Kat has a lot of cool activities and plans ongoing for ACS Denver (see slides!)
- They are always looking for new ideas, talk to Kat if you have some.
- DISCUSSION
 - o Is there a way that mentors/mentees are going to be assigned for the POLY Mentorship Program. A: (Knauer) First asking the mentees what they are looking for in a mentor. Then hope to go from there in the pilot.
 - o Wei Gao: Geographical location matchups may facilitate more face-to-face mentor-mentee interactions. Knauer agrees.

TREASURERS REPORT (John Matson)

(SLIDES) Budgets, income sources, etc.

- Thanks to POLY Business office for all they do.
- 2023 major notes: It would be nice to take less out of our investment account. It doesn't look bad to take out 15+% on a good year for the market, but on a bad year that will be unsustainable.
- Major income sources: Dues decreasing a concern, Bonuses from ACS are good but nobody understands the oft changing formula, Workshops are slated to get better with new POLY policies, Sponsorships are an area of focus and need.
- 2024 Budget has been approved.
- Discussion: More fundraising, sponsors, memberships, workshop considerations, etc.
 - o Orski: Is there a mechanism for POLY to communicate with ACS on decisions with Meeting Locations. (e.g. many were unhappy with cost of San Fran for example). Kathryn may know, ask at ExComm?
 - o Long: Do we have information or know what the membership sustainability is for students after the first or one or two years as POLY Members? A: (Kathy & Kat) there does seem to be a drop-off after ~2-3 years. Maybe due to graduating. More effort is being made for the retention of members in that area.

- Garvit Nayyar (President of ASU Student Chapter): Incentivization of student membership is problematic if they don't attend the ACS Meeting (to get a discount). Coltrain: We still need tangible benefits that are only for POLY members to encourage membership.
- Danniebelle Haase– we need to take a more nuanced approach to the value we are offering.
- R. Moore – Why were workshops such a great source of revenue historically and what is different now? A: (Guymon) – What happened in the past is the organizers had a mindset of Workshops being a benefit for POLY and they would fundraise and funnel extra money to the division. Many workshops now are working towards breaking even. (Kathy) The expense of workshops and their locations are much higher. FrB at hotels require 20-30K min. when it used to be 10K. Also, increased registration costs and expense of locations reduces attendees. It's a “domino effect. Our economy is digging deep into the costs of workshops and their profitability. (Moore) Are there any specific reasons for why money can't be raised better. (Coltrain) Sponsorship is more difficult now. (Advincula) Past treasurers would see Workshops as the moneymaker for POLY. (Long) Could we strategically place the Workshops near the industries, this may alleviate the industry challenges for sponsorship. (ex: in Phoenix near the semiconductor industry for a semiconductor-based workshop). Could the workshops have a more webinar aspect for a reduced fee for virtual attendees. (Guymon) We thought about that but worry about what the value proposition is for virtual attendees. (Kathy) Let's not forget how much people love these workshops, people really enjoy them and the personal networking/community. It's unlikely they will have that experience virtually.

Councilors Reports

- **Mary Ann Meador (MnE)**

- Feel free to ask her and talk to her about things going on at ACS Meetings outside this meeting.

- **Kate Beers (DAC)**

- Translational grant for POLY with BIOT is approved!
- They don't have enough committees submitting ideas, so keep it up.
- ACS wants to add international representation to the council. Through something they call “zones”. DAC has voted to reject the proposal because there are other non-inclusive numerical issues with representation at the council, which would further suffer. Ask Kate for more details. Its “wonky”. (JK Note: I may not have captured this well in the minutes, talk to Kate later)

- **Kathryn Ulrich (FoM) (given by Stratton)**

Note: Most of these minutes were gathered from email communication. (Kathryn experienced travel issues)

- POLY and PMSE were not on the list of participating divisions for the reimagining and Future of Meetings at the ACS Leadership Conference. (see information on that meeting below)
- Turns out that POLY ExComm winter meeting was during the same time, which is why we did not have representation. Need to make sure we go to these and plan WM around it.
- *Notes from Kathryn on the FoM Meeting:*

Amber Hinkle (Chair, M&E) and XXX (Chair, DAC)

Started in 2020 (led by Rick Ewing)

- -now, reimagining ACS meetings through 2030 with 2025 operational rollout

Goals of strat operational plan

- Enhance programming
- Optimize footprint
- Increase program coordination and reduce redundancies
- Elevated poster sessions
- Better use of hybrid technology

Innovative programming

- Speakers largely by invitation
- Solutions-focused programing
- Thought-provoking sessions on innovations and challenges
- Limited hybrid programming

Digital experience

- global/virtual engagement
- New global constituent, focus on international attendees

For SP24 (4.5 days)

- Pilot Sunday evening event
- New mobile app
- First-time orientation event/workshop

For F24 (3.5 days)

- Innovative sessions
- Integrated poster sessions
- New session formats
- Virtual program and virtual global symposia
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For F24, committee meetings on Sunday and technical programming M-Th(am)

FINAL ADDRESS (Poree)

Meeting Adjourned 3:05 pm