

***2021 POLY WINTER EXECUTIVE MEETING DRAFT MINUTES***

***JANUARY 15 – 17, 2021 (VIRTUAL)***

Intro (Voice of Andrea):

Things that are exciting: New Virtual format.

Things that are a drag: new virtual format.

But! We have the boxes and they are fun!

Welcome to all our new officers!

Congratulations to all those present for recent accomplishments! There are many!

2020 was a dumpster fire (direct quote). Life has changed for everyone.

But there are some positives: DEI efforts nationwide have improved for example.

For this year: Let's solidify and improve our digital and virtual presence, along with increasing value of our membership.

Some members only content, for example, is one way to do this.

DEI efforts are also going to be a major initiative this year.

Anyway - on the format:

The hospitality box is to help stay engaged and have some fun.

Box item 1: notebook! An analogue item for the digital meeting. This whimsical juxtaposition serves as a nostalgic reminder of simpler, bygone times.

Budget:

Approving the budget will also approve Carlee to go to full time (good).

The budget is complicated but let's go through it!

We had a balanced budget (+\$3k) because everything was cancelled last year. So we'll spend more this year.

See slides for more details.

Q: IPG is typically only 2 at a time. Is that requirement waived since the one we had for a meeting was postponed?

A: we'll find out.

Long term nonprofit delta still looks ok.

**ACTION ITEM:** Everyone to continue to aggressively seek sponsorship!

From the chat box:

Emily Pentzer to Everyone (3:36 PM)

i think it would be good to address initiatives to support diversity to engage sponsors, (Industry seems keen to invest in events/initiatives that support diversity)

@Emily: agreed. seeing more DEI advisors in companies in the past year

Andrea Kasko to Everyone (3:36 PM)

@Emily - I agree

michael meador to Everyone (3:37 PM)

An event/activity in this area might also be a good topic to propose for an IPG

Update on investments:

Crushed it this year (up ~\$139k). Should we look to alter our risk appetite?

How much do we want on hand at all times.

Chat:

Sarah Morgan to Everyone (3:43 PM)

The university endowed funds allow 5% spend each year. Why not try to spend \$50K per year

As long as we don't fall below 1 million

Kathryn Uhrich to Everyone (3:44 PM)

I agree with Sarah's point - I suggest choosing a % rather than \$ amount and set a floor (at \$1M?)

Andrea Kasko to Everyone (3:45 PM)

I like the idea of an ideal budget but also a floor - a few different metrics to evaluate when making budgeting decisions.

\*ideal meaning a %.

Overall proposed budget is a bit lower because of virtual spring meetings but overall we're still -\$171k as per the usual.

Q: for proposed 2021 budget. \$58k is playing catch up from the Pandemic (MACRO symposium) and also Pacifichem is rescheduled so these are 2 non typical expenses.

Q: Macro 2020 is virtual. What are they gonna spend it on? Postpone reception?

A: we don't have to spend it. We're just holding it.

Voice of Lesia: They might want to move this to CRP workshop budget.

Discussion ensued on if this is ok. The sponsors are in the loop so it's fine. Everything is fine.

Voice of Andrea: we don't want to cash out 200k per year but we didn't spend last year so it's not as bad as it looks.

On symposium funding:

Should we keep doing it? Should we fund only those that meet a DEI requirement?

Discussion on this idea was vibrant. This could be a carrot.

Idea: decouple symposium support from symposium support.

Voice of Berda: would this even effect programming if we took this away?

Response: pitchforks and torches from Christine and Alan

Q: Can we put restrictions in place?

A: note right away but soon.

To be discussed with programming chairs.

From the chat:

Laura Stratton to Everyone (4:28 PM)

From my conversations in thinking about this subject from the last year, even a statement of inclusivity and welcoming all on the materials, such as Poly website main page, and on the information sent to organizers would be useful and no cost

We will continue to discuss this throughout the weekend.

As it turns out we have guidelines for symposium organizers.

Minutes from Fall:

**Motion to approve Fall Exec minutes.** Carried Unanimously.

Session 2.

Counselors report:

How can we improve networking in a virtual setting?

**ACTION ITEM:** provide info to Kathryn U. with regards to virtual networking platforms you've been involved with.

We're moving to a 2 week format.

Live Q&A, on demand talks.

Poster sessions are a question. RSC handles this without a "live" interaction.

Voice of Maryanne: can we use personal zoom rooms.

Flash presentations with a 3-5 min video, with a live video Q&A.

It's important that we don't lose the live component so presenters get real time feedback.

Tenor of discussion primarily centered on live interactions. We'll never duplicate an in-person meeting but we need some live portion.

Membership:

It's important to encourage academic member to encourage students to join.

New member gift?

Why do people leave after 1 year?

Is it clear to undergraduate students that they can join a division?

Student chapters are doing well. New student chapter coordinator: Liz Bright (go wildcats!).

Other initiatives:

Student chapters and symposia from HBCUs for examples

Invite junior colleagues or members of organizers/invited speakers research groups to give talks.

Other IPG ideas?

Outreach:

Fantastic ideas on better optics/engagement. Check slides.

Day 2 (session 3):

Programming.

Slides on line.

Awesome work by programming team this year. There is a lot of hesitation on the virtual setting especially with awards. So there is a backlog building up. People didn't like the technology format, nor did they like the cost. This has somewhat mitigated for the next virtual meeting.

One thing that would be helpful is a review period/tech check.

Voice of Kathryn U: Thank you, we're going to be well positioned because of your efforts. A week doesn't seem long enough to go through these files. Thoughts?

A: this will be on the symposium organizer level and really only checking for technical problems.

In general, we need more breathing room to make sure it all runs smooth.

Attendance was down, of course, and submissions were low but we did ok.

The question again: how do we deal with posters? We want to make the posters more prestigious moving forward but this is almost impossible to do in a virtual setting.

Views sort of tracked what we saw for in person meetings.

We're taking time zones into consideration here for live viewing moving forward.

Spring is still under construction. 2 week time frame. Record and upload the talks.

All the "live" sessions will be recorded but with a live Q&A. It's going to be weird.

Still a lot of unknowns.

A critical point though, is how can we make sure there is networking component, and make it simple.

Fall ACS Atlanta (likely hybrid format):

Several things got shuffled to this meeting. A lot is up in the air here and will be an extra burden due to the format. The more we are on top of it the nimbler we can be.

All aspects of programming are going to have an improved DEI focus (in all respects).

Thursday programming is back because of all the crazy.

There are still some openings for symposia.

Idea: student chapter symposium competition. They submit proposals to organize a session. Great professional development opportunity.

AGAIN: thank you to the programming team. Amazing work.

Q: was there a programming meeting in SF (virtual)?

A: we had an open virtual happy hour. It was ok but it's not the same as in person. We need to think this through for the hybrid format especially.

From the chat:

Katrina Knauer to Everyone (1:07 PM)

Hello everyone! I have some ideas for the POLY poster session for spring and how to get students more motivated to participate. Yesterday a few people suggested the "speed talk" style. I am thinking we can recruit a panel of judges (mix of industry, academic, and gov) and split the posters and judges into three sessions. The students in each present to the judges for only 3 minutes. The judges in each session will pick a winner. Additionally, at the end of each session, the judges can serve as a panel for the students to ask questions about career options and professional development. We can advertise it as a way for job hunting. Also, since it's virtual, we don't have to worry about judges not wanting to show up :)

Laura Stratton to Everyone (1:08 PM)

I like it, Kat!

Emily Pentzer to Everyone (1:08 PM)

@Kat networking plus engaged presentations, I like it!

Katrina Knauer to Everyone (1:08 PM)

I can work on recruiting a panel of judges if it's an idea we all like.

There is a task force on DEI in programming/awards and the initiatives look great. Check the slide.

The DEI initiatives sparked a vibrant discussion on persons identifiable demographic information, privacy, etc.

Voting items:

**Motion:** Swap years with PMSE for plenary symposia. Carried 8-0

**Motion:** formally recognize the symposium organizers at the plenary session and send a one-time collectable recognition pin for virtual meeting organizers for \$500.  
Carried 8-0

Motion: have excom draft and endorse a letter on DEI. Tabled until later discussion.

Awards:

Nominate!

The solicitation committee did a great job. Very successful.

Session 4

Workshops:

Catalyst webshop did well.

Layered was the only workshops held in 2020..

Our next one is scheduled in September. We'll make the call in May. IF we have to postpone it gets dicey.

Grad student conference will be a virtual event.

We're still plus on the budget even with cancellations.

Q&A:

Q: Are webshops going to have enough buy in?

A: they are a good idea but they will never be a big money maker. Also people are zoomed out. This is not a replacement for sure.

Q: Industry and National Labs travel budget?

A: Industry isn't encouraging any movement let alone travel. Probably through Q1 2022

From chat:

Sara Orski to Everyone (5:21 PM)

we don't have anything definite re: travel on the government side. at the moment - only critical mission travel is authorized until further notice. When this changes, travel budgets are still there, unchanged, as we can't carry money over year to year

Q: Doing more workshops?

A: The classic question. Let's ask to move to a later date first and see what happens.

Q: We're zoomed out. Also it's always hard for industrial folks to travel. What about a hybrid approach?

A: That should be easier to do as we are all more familiar with zoom. Maybe it's time to do the experiment and try it in 2021.

Q: DEI in workshop speakers (and organizers)?

A: We have work to do. **ACTION ITEM**: put in the workshop proposal template language about this.

Webinars: These have been good. A few thousand attendees over the year. We coproduced with ACS for no charge.

We are planning to continue this year and make sure the topics are unique from the workshops.

Questions moving forward:

Do we want to keep working with ACS.

Comments: seems like a no brainer. Great publicity.

Do we want to do a few of our own?

Comments: the advertising is a big deal for sure. Talk to Dominik.

Do we want to address broader topics?

Comments: as long as there is a real expertise.

**ACTION ITEM**: ask about timing of the IAB webinar (meeting fatigue from the spring ACS meeting)

Regional meetings:

None in 2020.

We usually use the \$2000 we budget. Slides have a snapshot of the futures 2 years.

Comments:

We should invest more in regional meetings. It was proposed as part of the allocation calculus but it didn't get legs.

Regional support: should we require poly membership for money? Idea: sign them up.

Election slate.

"regular old white feller" is the only thing you need to take away from this discussion.

Day 3.

Session 5:

Fellows, ACS Fellows, Distinguished service awards.

As always cross check the lists. Ideas?

ACS Fellow -

Note: Feedback needs to be requested by the nominator.

Names in the chat transcript.

**ACTION ITEM:** follow through with nominations.

Discussion on Macro:

Website is up and populated with content. It's growing.

The outreach component in particular could use info on:

Age group/topic/materials/cost

Video tours for virtual visits.

Kathy had some groups in mind that could use contacts in sciences.

Laura: community colleges as well.

IPG application potential for sure.

Coordinate with regional meetings.

Overall amazing work.

## Session 6

IAB:

Digital networking was done with small attendance topical sessions.

There was an open call to member companies to get younger (fewer than 5 years at the company) to send people to a virtual networking session and talk about what would work well in 2021. It was quite successful!

Budget is fine. A few companies dropped but might return after the pandemic. Budget slightly down for 2021.

Webinars and webshops are a newer initiative and it's going well. We're monitoring the attendees to see if it is worthwhile to industrial members to run these.

Q: can we invite ExCom to the virtual meeting?

A: sure

Q: Can IAB be involved in the career panel?

A: yes please.

**ACTION ITEM:** Corrine and Sarah M to talk about this.

International:

IUPAC MACRO is scheduled. Likely to be cancelled

Pacificchem scheduled for December. We'll see.

Macromex: not sure.

What else can we do?

**MOTION:** Move responsibility to the international relations under the vice chair.  
Carried 9-0.

Final Budget discussion:

Tenor of discussion was positive. Very strong support for requiring some information about how symposia organizers are spending money. The inorganic division has some great language.

**MOTION:** Add a request for mirroring the language from INORG requiring a statement of purpose for all requests for divisional support.

Edited: To include a statement/question on requests for funding from the POLY division to indicate how the funding will support the division's goals of diversity and inclusion; may be a factor considered for funding.

Carried 9-0

Budget discussion went on much like it has this past age. No big surprises though.

**MOTION** to approve the 2021 budget. Carried 9-0