Minutes of Ames Local Section Meeting

6:30 pm on Tuesday November 15th

IowaStater Restaurant in the Gateway Hotel, Ames IA

1. A new, updated, and MUCH improved Ames Local Section website has been created by Selena Russell: <http://ames.sites.acs.org/>. Send updates, and corrections, accolades to Selena at: smrussel@iastate.edu.
2. It was suggested that the Ames Local Section could serve as a clearing house for ACS chemistry ambassadors. For information about the ACS Chemistry ambassador program, visit: <http://portal.acs.org/portal/acs/corg/content?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=PP_SUPERARTICLE&node_id=75&use_sec=false&sec_url_var=region1&__uuid=a647123a-88cb-4282-bd2e-b5fef0134c50>.
3. SCUM representatives offered to send standard operating procedures for chemical demonstrations to interested parties.
4. Michael Nolan mentioned that he works with an ISU faculty member who participates in the RET (Research Experience for Teachers in Engineering and Computer science) and he suggested that this might be a fruitful collaboration with the Ames Local Section. Michael will consult with the faculty member and will get back to me about collaboration possibilities. For information about the RET program, visit: <http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5736>.
5. Jason Chen volunteered to assist with the Chemistry Olympiad. Tom Holme suggested that Jason might be able to hold training sessions to prep students for the Olympiad. Jason stated that he is a chemist today because of the chemistry Olympiad – this is a very powerful statement.
6. We discussed Jeff Hepburn’s email: *“Could you also discuss what you could provide for the HIGH SCHOOL or PRE-COLLEGE Teachers.  The ACS chapter does a super job with the Chemistry Olympiad but there isn't much else available.  I know that other ACS Chapters across the country do a lot more. I am willing to help with some of these arrangements for the High School Teachers.”* Discussion centered on determining what the needs are for high school teachers in the area. Tom Holme volunteered to work with Jeff to poll high school teachers in the area to see what they would find useful for the local section to do. Tom Holme suggested using SurveyMonkey to conduct the survey.
7. Joe Burnett brought up the possibility of applying for ACS minigrants to help finance novel local section events. One that is currently soliciting proposals is the Committee on Corporation Associates (CCA): *“Corporation Associates is soliciting grant proposals from ACS Local Sections for industry-related events next year. Events can range from job fairs with local chemical employers, resume writing workshops, networking receptions, hosted panel discussions with industry leaders and other similar forums to benefit those local section members employed in industry. Upon review of a well detailed event, Corporation Associates will fund local sections in the amount of $1,000 to help subsidize the costs associated with producing and hosting these events.”* To apply for the grant, visit: <http://portal.acs.org/portal/acs/corg/content?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=PP_ARTICLEMAIN&node_id=627&content_id=CNBP_028522&use_sec=true&sec_url_var=region1&__uuid=fa6f5d85-e6da-4e1b-a354-037edfb5c7f2>. This would be an opportunity in line with the goals mentioned by representatives of the YCC – bringing in more industrial speakers and representatives to the local section. The grant proposal is due December 12th 2011. Kathy Trahanovsky mentioned that it might be helpful to know who is on the CCA and I am looking into this.
8. Joe is planning to organize an employment workshop for early February. The plan is to invite an ACS Career Counselor to present the 4 ACS employment workshops, a talk on alternative careers in chemistry, and possibly hold resume reviews. This would occur 1 or 2 weeks prior to the ISU Career Fair and would be open to all local section members and all ISU and Drake University chemistry and chemical engineering students and postdocs.
9. Tom Holme lead a discussion of the update of the local section by-laws. Tom pointed out that the Ames by-laws are fairly general with the exception of the section outlining protocols for elections. Tom suggested utilizing the outline for the Division of Chemical Education elections for the local section. Basically, this would create a more general set of guidelines for elections that would allow the use of electronic balloting. The proposed wording for the “manner of election and terms of office” is being sent as a pdf. The group seemed to be overwhelmingly in favor of Tom’s suggested wording of the election procedures.

Tom went on to describe the process of changing our by-laws:

1. Tom will make changes to the by-laws by January.
2. The proposed by-laws will be presented to the executive committee and modified as needed.
3. The by-laws then will be sent to ACS for approval.
4. After approval by ACS, the by-laws will be sent to the local section membership for approval via a paper ballot.

It was discussed and generally agreed upon that it be written into the by-laws that there be two nonvoting members on the executive committee: one representative from SCUM (the Society of Chemistry Undergraduate Majors) and one from YCC (the Younger Chemist Committee).

1. It was proposed that chairs have a two-year cycle, one year in training as Chair-elect and the second year in the position as Chair. It was pointed out that this need not be written into the by-laws but could be a generally agreed upon practice.
2. Some vigorous discussion arose as to whether it would be wise to have graduate students serve as local section chair. Joe is checked with national ACS (Cheryl Brown); graduate students are permitted to serve as local section chairs as long as they are ACS members. Tom Holme thought that it could be a valuable experience for graduate students in terms of leadership and service experience. Others expressed the opinion that in these tight economic times that employers are looking for applicants with professional and leadership experience above and beyond research experience.
3. Walt Trahanovsky suggested that the chair be offered a travel stipend ($1K) as an incentive to members to become local section chair. It was pointed out that this represents about 15% of the annual allotment to the local section ($6K) and may be unsustainable. Some participants argued that this wouldn’t be much of an incentive to faculty or industrial chemists. This is a topic that was not resolved and is likely to come up again in the future.
4. Tom Holme suggested that for success, the local section will need to collect a large pool of volunteers (hosting committee) who are willing to organize events.
5. We discussed upcoming elections. Tom Holme will be running for Chair, Jason Chen for Secretary, David Dolde for Treasurer, and Emily Smith for Executive Committee Member. The ballots will be sent out the week of November 29th. Joe will seek additional candidates for the Executive Committee Member slots.
6. Selena Russell reminded us that Malika Jeffries-EL suggested a holiday party for the local section to help jump start interest. It was decided that it is too late to organize prior to the end of the year and that we should schedule at the start of January to kick off the new year. It was mentioned that it would be good to have a science café in conjunction with it.
7. Selena Russell and Jakoah Brgoch have agreed to work with Lynette Edsal to initially organize the ACS webinars. Lynette can help with organizing and reserving a room. The local section will pick up the cost of refreshments. Selena and Jakoah would like to hand off the organization of this to others asap.
8. It was mentioned that it would be good for YCC to look to find some new members to take over leadership roles as Selena and Jakoah will be graduating this summer.
9. Tom Holme mentioned that he would try to get Tom Greenbowe’s assistance with the local section.

**Follow up to meeting:**

1. Via email on 11/, Emily Smith: *“I think it is a good idea for high school teachers to be aware of the latest advances in chemistry/science. If there is interest, although this would be primarily ISU based, a department visitation day for high school teachers might be the kind of minimal time commitment activity (on their part) that some teachers might be interested in.”*

*“I have also volunteered at the State Science and Technology Fair for the past few years. I don't feel the students get great feedback on their projects for a number of reasons. The ACS local section would be in a good position to give students feedback on independent chemistry projects. I assume this would be more applicable to some schools than others.”*

*“Finally, when I was looking to have high school students in my lab over the summer, I emailed about 5 high school teachers and heard back from no one. It wasn't until Tom gave me Mr. Hepburn's contact information that I revived a response. I had more applicants for the position than I could take. The local section might be a good clearing house for such opportunities.”*

*“One more item, regarding coordinating the ACS webinars and service activities, ISP might be a good resource for getting these started. They are a very motivated group of women and already have a lot of activities, so they know how to organize and advertise events. This might be a good catalyst to get the local section activities in motion.”*

1. Tom Holme mentioned that he will be working on reviving the Coover Lecture next semester.