# Minutes of Meeting (Teleconference) January 20, 2012 at 11:00 am – 12:00 pm EST

(Phone: 800-867-6144; Pass Code: 3806 #)

### Attendees:

Eton Codling
Rufina Ward
Ernst Cebert
Asheesh Singh
Karletta Chief
Emily Fuger
Soni Pradhanang
Harjit-Singh Rekhi - Presiding
Felicia Armstrong- Secretary

- 1. The meeting was called to order at 11:00 am EST.
- 2. Welcome to the new members
- 3. Harjit-Singh Rekhi welcomed two new members, Soni Pradhanang and Nithya Rajan, to the ACS528 Committee in 2012.
- 4. Approval of minutes
  - a. Rufina Ward and Felicia Armstrong will make necessary corrections on the Combined 2011 Minutes prior to submission of the annual report.
  - b. Harjit moved to approve the minutes; it was seconded by Asheesh Singh.
- 5. Proposals to obtain funds for committee activities during the 2012 ASA/CSSA/SSSA Annual International Meetings in Cincinnati, OH
- 6. The drafts of the following three proposals e-mailed earlier to the ASC528 members for comments were discussed:
  - a. Platinum Scholars Orientation and Motivational Program
  - b. ACS528 Student Poster Competition
  - c. ACS528 Annual Business Meeting in Cincinnati, OH.
  - d. The comments made by Rufina Ward and Eton Codling were discussed in detail and consensus was drawn regarding the funds to be requested for various items in the proposals.
    - Transportation of invited high school students cannot be directly provided by the Societies because of liability issues. Felicia will provide cost estimates for 12-person van in next conference call.
    - ii. Food cost will follow San Antonio model.
  - e. Committee members agreed to send comments/suggestions to Harjit regarding the proposals by January 25, 2012 (Wednesday)..
    - f. Nomination of committee members

g. Rufina will include the nomination of Maria Monteros and Eton Codling for membership in the Committee in the annual report she is submitting to Ms. Rebecca Polk. She also recommended that Keith King who has been a great help in the past be asked to remain a member of the committee.

### 7. Future Conference calls

- a. Everyone agreed to hold the Monthly meetings (teleconferences) on the 20th of each month. February 20, 2012 is a federal holiday, therefore the next teleconference will be on February 21, 2012.
- b. Email will be sent with Doodle scheduling message and link to determine meeting time for February 21.

# 8. AOB

- a. Ernie said that he was working on the Survey conducted during the Platinum Scholars event in San Antonio, TX. He would be sending the deduced information at the earliest.
- b. Need to discuss on how to increase Society membership and activity in committee programs. Need more membership from 1890s schools. Discuss this further during next committee call.
- 9. The meeting adjourned at 12:04 pm EST.

# Minutes of Meeting (Teleconference) February 21, 2012 at 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm EST

(Phone: 800-867-6144; Pass Code: 3806 #)

### Attendees:

Maria Montero
Emily Fuger
Harjit-Singh Rekhi - Presiding
Felicia Armstrong- Secretary
Kent Buckingham - Guest (Hughes STEM High School, Cincinnati)

- 1. Meeting was called to order at 4:00 EST
- 2. Contacting the Schools in Cincinnati: Dr. Buck & Dr. McLaughin
  - Dr. Kent Buckingham, Program Coordinator, Science Tutoring Program, Hughes STEM High School, Cincinnati, who is our contact person for communicating with the High Schools in Cincinnati.
  - He will start efforts to identify five high schools in Cincinnati that may be interested in participating in the Platinum Scholars Program and will inform us of the outcome.
- 3. Solicitations to raise funds/ gift items for Platinum Scholars Program
  - Contact prospective donor companies (see list), need phone number and emails of contact person at each company. Have 15 companies that could be potential supporters.
  - Send out email for volunteer for to get together and contact companies. Request to Montesano for items for bags (for 60 bags), printing, operation funds or a combination.
- 4. Approval of minutes of Teleconference of January 20, 2012. Corrected time. Maria Montero move to accept the minutes, seconded by Harjit-Singh Rekhi.
- 5. Information from the survey conducted during Motivational Event of Platinum Scholars at the 2011 Annual Meetings of the Tri-Societies.
  - Interest in poster session was quite low. Need to schedule time during the time when authors are present. If you have any suggestion, communicate via email. Request some feedback from members. Should get approval for program by middle of March.
  - Not satisfied (2011) with food in the morning; they wanted something more substantial. Did we tell student that we would have food? If we state that we will not have breakfast, then if we provide something (snack) it will be a bonus.
- 6. Increasing Society membership and activity in committee programs
  - There is a general decrease in number of members from 1890 Land Grants
  - Ways to have more membership from 1890s schools need to revise during next meeting.
  - Participation of undergraduate students in poster competitions probably do not want to pursue until
    graduate program is more solid.
  - Graduate recruitment for poster competition. Posted on website as October 18, 2012 deadline

# 7. AOB

- Van rental cost range from \$150 to \$200. Some rental agencies (Enterprise) will not rent to school groups. None of the other companies contacted had that restriction. Van rental cost increase in the mid-spring through the fall, so reservations need to be made in the early spring to get the best price.
- Recommended that we continue to reimburse schools for their travel using vans/busses at their disposal.

End of meeting 5:02pm EST

# Minutes of Meeting (Teleconference) March 15, 2012 at 9:00 am - 10:00 am EST

(Phone: 800-867-6144; Pass Code: 1653#)

### Attendees:

Maria Monteros
Emily Fuger
Eton Codling
Rufina Ward
Ernst Cebert
Harjit-Singh Rekhi - Presiding
Felicia Armstrong- Secretary

- 1. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am EST.
- 2. Funding (\$2000) has been approved for the Platinum Program.
  - a. This should be plenty of money, especially if we are not responsible for transportation.

    Question: Will the registration fee be waived for the students participating in the program?
  - b. We will be seeking outside sponsors for additional funding and support.
- 3. The poster competition was also approved with \$500 in funding from the Society.
- 4. Rufina suggested to reduce the amount of monetary award down to \$300, \$200 and \$100 for first, second and third prizes, respectively and offered to donate if donations could not cover the entire award. Harjit also offered to donate. Change in name of Platinum Scholars Program
  - a. This would help eliminate confusion with other programs in the Society and could be a good mechanism as a feeder to the Golden Initiative Program.
  - b. Some suggestions were Gateway to Gold Initiative or Gateway Scholars Program.
  - c. Voting through email will be sent out for members to vote on the new name. The due date for voting on new name will be Monday, March 19, 2012.
- 5. Modify solicitation letter to include some of the past achievements (and that the name has changed). Rufina Ward will modify letter before Harjit distributes it to other committee members.
- 6. Will have a teleconference on March 22, 9:00-10:00 AM (EDT) with contacts in Cincinnati about arranging schools. Attendees for the meeting will include Eton, Ernie, Rufina (maybe from the airport), and Felicia (first 20 minutes).
- 7. Solicitation of funding
  - a. Contacting City of Cincinnati through chamber of commerce to solicit businesses that will support the program to cover some of the expenses. Make it clear to Chamber of Commerce that millions of dollars are spent when the national meeting comes into the City. Ernie Cebert will draft a letter to the Chamber before the March 22 meeting with the Cincinnati contacts.
  - b. Looking for \$500-\$1000 donations from about 5 businesses or more for support. Business will receive advertising on our brochure/pamphlet.

- 8. Discussion of non-active members
  - a. Eton will contact non-active members to determine their status in the Committee.
  - b. If member is not an active member of the Society they can be removed immediately. Other removal of inactive members depends on whether our committee description allows for removal.
  - c. If not in description, suggest changing the description to include removal of inactive members. Add into policy of the committee for example: "This is a very active committee with events going on throughout the year; those that join the committee are expected to actively participate through emails, conference calls, and other forms of communication. Inactive members are defined as those that do not participate for 6 months or more and may be asked to leave the committee."
- 9. Meeting adjourned at 10:03 am

# Minutes of Meeting (Teleconference) April 30, 2012 at 8:00 am - 9:00 am EST

(Phone: 800-867-6144; Pass Code: 8990#)

### Attendees:

Maria Monteros
Emily Fuger
Rufina Ward
Ernie Cebert
Nithya Rajan
Harjit-Singh Rekhi - Presiding
Felicia Armstrong- Secretary

#### Minutes:

- 1. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM EST.
- 2. There were 12 votes from the name change poll, 83% selected *Gateway Scholars Program* as the new name for the high school program known as Platinum Scholars Program.
- 3. Outcome of the April 20 Teleconference with the Cincinnati group Rufina and Ernie provided an update
  - a. Teachers requested experiments or demonstrations to share with the students either during program, at the local schools or as a web-cast.
  - b. Search for transportation funding (Chamber of Commerce or alternate source).
  - c. Send electronic copy of brochure to? ASAP.
  - d. Get session titles for Cincinnati meeting and send to teachers so they have a better idea of what to expect from the conference. Another option is to have our own Gateway session with speakers selected for the high school audience. This would give the students a better chance to interact with the speaker and ask questions. Deadline to request space is in May. Request rooms from Stacey Phelps. The date of preference for the session is Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> (Tuesday).
  - e. Drop-Box is available for the Cincinnati schools. Ernie suggests that last year's sessions and information be put into the Drop-Box so they know what to expect.

#### 4. Solicitations

- a. Need a letter for the Chamber of Commerce in Cincinnati requesting support. Dr. Kent Buckingham from Cincinnati said it would be great if the letter came from the Tri-society. The Diversity Committee can put the letter but have it from the Tri-society if the Society approves. (Ernie Cebert) Suggestion that the teachers of Cincinnati be co-signee on the letter.
- b. Company solicitations letter needs to be finalized and sent to the list of identified potential sponsors.
- 5. Improvements to be made on the basis of feedback survey from the High school students during San-Antonio Annual Meetings of the Tri-Societies.
  - a. Suggest publishing something every year after the National Meeting using the survey results. The annual report sent at the end of the year can be summarized and used for CSA publication.
- 6. Still need to contact members who are not active.
- 7. Poster competition, are receiving correspondence from interested students. About 5 or 6 students have contacted the committee. There has been a response, not very high but may increase this week.

8. Meeting adjournment at 9:05 AM.

# Minutes of Meeting (Teleconference) May 30, 2012 at 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm EST

(Phone: 800-867-6144; Pass Code: 8990#)

### Attendees:

Alexander Barton
Emily Fuger
Ernie Cebert
Nithya Rajan
Eton Coding
Harjit-Singh Rekhi - Presiding
Felicia Armstrong- Secretary

- 9. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 AM EST.
- 10. Solicitations
  - i) Alexander confirmed solicitation letters with brochure were sent to a targeted list. Letters will be followed-up with a phone call.
  - ii) Agronomic Science Foundation established an account for the Gateway Program (Gateway Fund). Will need to send application to receive funds, deadline is **July 1**. Alexander will work with Harjit to get application completed. Currently have about \$2,000 should request \$3-5,000 so that there are some funds left for next year.
  - iii) Gateway Scholars Fund is not restricted and donations are tax deductable.
- 11. Progress made in organizing the Gateway Scholars program during Tri-Societies meeting at Cincinnati.
  - i) Ernie and Felicia will contact Cincinnati coordinators (Ken Buckingham) for list of participating schools.
  - ii) Program needs to be sent to schools and teachers that are participating.
  - iii) Room reservation for meeting:
    - (1) Need 30 minutes in morning, 5 hours in the afternoon. Work with Emily to confirm schedule for program and room needs.
    - (2) Consider having longer morning session (1½ hours) with invited speakers for presentations that are more applicable for high school age. Draw-back to this is that students are not selecting session they may find interesting.
  - iv) Emily will check on poster session time on Tuesday for high school students to attend.
  - v) Complete schedule of activities to include time when authors present at poster and motivation program from 2-5 pm.
- 12. AOB: Make list of inactive members and send to Eton for contacting before Cincinnati meeting.
- 13. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings
  - i) Eton Coding moved to approve February Minutes; it was seconded by Harjit-Singh Rekhi
  - ii) March minutes moved to approve by Harjit-Singh Rekhi; it was seconded by Eton Coding
  - iii) April minutes moved to approve by Eton Coding; it was seconded by Nithya Rajan
- 14. Meeting adjournment at 3:00 pm.

## **DIVERSITY IN AGRONOMY, CROPS, SOILS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES**

### **COMMITTEE (ASC 528)**

Minutes of Meeting (Teleconference)

July 11, 2012 at 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm EST

(Phone: 800-867-6144; Pass Code: 8990#)

### Attendees:

Ernie Cebert
Rufina Ward
Nithya Rajan
Eton Coding
Maria Monteros
Felicia Armstrong- Presiding

- 1 Meeting was called to order at 1:34 PM EST
- 2 Funding Gateway General Fund, Solicitations for donations from Chambers of Commerce (in collaboration with Cincinnati group), donations from companies, etc.
  - Need more information on funds and budget, Harjit should have update at next meeting.
- 3 Solicitations for gifts/ items to be distributed to Gateway Scholars
  - Nobel Foundation will donate bags, pens, etc. similar to 2011
  - Eton will check with USDA ARS for some items.
  - Need a member to take charge of university solicitation: email letters and follow-up calls.
     Rufina will send last year's email letter. Will have to check with Emily for mailing address and what universities are scheduled to attend the meeting.
- 4 Gateway Scholars Program
  - Confirmation of Participating Schools
    - Five schools have been confirmed (Hughes STEM HS, Aiken HS, Western Hills HS, Withrow University HS and Woodward HS)
  - Schedule for Gateway Program (see Proposed Schedule document)
    - If time & schedules permit, will survey students and supervising teachers to select preference of topics. Then separate students by preference for oral sessions. A volunteer guide will lead each group throughout the day.
    - Suggested having three or four schedules that vary so that all groups are not visiting colleges/universities at the same time.
  - Confirmation of Motivational Speaker
    - Request title or subject from each motivational speaker. Felicia will send around an email for comment that will be sent to the motivational speakers.
  - Volunteer Guides
    - Do not have any confirmed guides. Suggested that we ask the poster competitors to act as guides.
- 5 Poster Contest authors present Tuesday 10-12

- Judges accepted appointment (Ernie, Felicia, Rufina, Eton and Harjit)
- Ribbons and Certificates will be provided by Emily
- 6 Business Meeting
  - Modify 2011 agenda for the 2012 meeting
  - Propose guidelines for non-active members
    - Change stipulations of membership
- 7 Minutes for May 30 will be approved via email
- 8 Meeting adjured at 2:29 PM EST

# Minutes of Meeting (Teleconference) September 24, 2012 at 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm EST

(Phone: 800-981-3173; Pass Code: 4164#)

#### Attendees:

Harjit Rekhi - Presiding Emily Fuger Eton Coding Rufina Ward Soni Pradhanang Nithya Rajan Maria Monteros Danny Singh Felicia Armstrong

#### Minutes:

#### AGENDA MONTHLY MEETING SEPTEMBER 2012

To discuss arrangements and schedule for

- 1) Gateway Scholars Program Room 233, Oct. 23;
  - a) \$3,000 (ASF) (Alexander Barton)and \$2,000(ASA-CSSA-SSSA); Schedule approved will be printed by Felicia and brought with her.
  - b) Emily will contact the two schools that have not submitted their student lists.
  - c) Students will get lunch ticket. But will need refreshments/snack in morning composed of bottle water and cookies, granola bars, or something wrapped; maybe an apple. Emily will check on arranging for the breakfast snack (Oct. 23 8:30 AM -10AM EST).
  - d) Schools need to send an invoice for transportation to be refunded for cost. The Committee should have funds to cover the cost.
  - e) Gift bags will be prepared Monday night after Annual Meeting. Room (237?) should be available from 5-8 PM to prepare gift bags for students. Emily will arrange for storage in another location Monday night and will need picked up Tuesday morning.
- 2) Diversity graduate students' poster competition 10 applicants
  - a) Poster judging on Monday, October 22 at 1:00 PM EST outside Room 237/238. Eton will have copies of posters printed.
  - b) Need judging sheet/judging criteria for posters (something from last year?).
  - c) Participation certificate will be printed for all poster competitors. Need blank certificates for first, second and third place. Checks will have to be mailed to awardees.
  - d) Still short \$200 for poster awards, LI-COR may be willing to send funds to sponsor program. Nithya will contact LI-COR and find out if they will support the event (both poster competition and Gateway program for next year).
- 3) Annual meeting of ACS 528
  - a) Follow schedule for the meeting from last year. Felicia will bring 50 copies of agenda.
  - b) Will prepare gift bags after annual meeting on Monday night.

# 4) Volunteers

- a) Email poster volunteers and ask if they will be willing to act as guides for the Gateway Scholar program (Felicia). Also need to send email to all Diversity Committee members with a request for volunteers.
- 5) Questionnaire for feedback from Gateway Scholars
  - a) Felicia will send out via emails for comments. Need comments by October 1, 12:00 EST.
  - b) Need a photo consent form for pictures. Emily will look for a standard form to send to schools for photo permission.

# 6) AOB

a) Dividing Gateway Scholar students by subject interest would be ideal but time consuming therefore we will keep student together by school for all activities.

### ACS 528 Diversity in Agriculture, Crops, Soil and Environmental Sciences Committee Annual Meeting

ASA/CSSA/SSSA International Meetings, Cincinnati, OH Monday, October 22, 2012: 5:30 PM-8:00 PM Duke Energy Convention Center, Room 237-238, Level 2

Presiders: Harjit Singh Rekhi (Chair)

Eton Coding (Chair-elect)

Secretary: Felicia Armstrong

In Attendance: Melissa Atwell, Mark Wuddivira, Miguel S. Castillo, Kamala Bhat, Thilini Ranatunga, Ranju Karna, Priscilla M. Fombep, Audrey Vryant, Shanoy Anderson, Annette James, Ann Marie Thro, Karletta Chief, Zamaka Thibodeaux, Dexter B. Watts, Phillip Defoe, Desalegn D. Serba, Erena Edae, Kishor Bhattarai, Ernie Cebert, Nithya Rajan

## Agenda:

# 1. Greetings/Welcome and Introductions (Harjit Singh Rekhi)

a. History and objective of the Diversity committee: Involve students in minority and underrepresented groups through poster competition and engaging high school students dominated in minority and underrepresented groups in the society activities. There is a great deficiency in representation in the STEM areas especially agriculture, crop, soil and environmental sciences.

## 2. 2011 Activities Report (Rufina Ward, 2011 Chair)

- a. Name change in the high school student program from Platinum Scholars to Gateway Scholars to fit with the ASA/CSSA/SSSA programs.
- b. Thanks to the ASA/CSSA/SSSA society for their continued support.
- c. Annual Report for 2011 can be found on the society web site.

# 3. 2012 Committee Activities Reports (Harjit Rekhi)

- a. New Mission Statement
  - ACS 528 Diversity in Agriculture, Crops, Soil and Environmental Sciences Student Poster Competition was Tuesday, October 23, 2012: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, Duke Energy Convention Center, Outside Room 237-238. There were nine qualifying participants (four others applicants did not submit posters by the deadline).

### b. Gateway Scholars program, Tuesday, October 23, 2012

- Orientation starts at 8:30 AM Duke Energy Convention Center, Room 233.
- Students attend Oral Presentations 9:00 AM-10:30 AM; Exhibit Hall 10:30 AM 2:20 PM
- Motivational Program, 12:00 PM-5:00 PM, Duke Energy Convention Center, Room 250.
- Financial Event Sponsors/Donors Agronomic Science Foundation (ACS); ASA/CSSA/SSSA; LI-COR Environmental
- Gift bag donors Noble Foundation, Youngstown State University Department of Geological & environmental Sciences, National Oceans Science Bowl, New York Department of Environmental Protection, United State Department of Agriculture- Agriculture Research Service
- Participating Cincinnati Schools: Hughes STEM High School, Aiken High School, Western Hills High School, Withrow University High School, and Woodward High School
- Volunteer guides: Dr. Karletta Chief, Miguel Castillo, Rodrigo Werle, Samuel Haruna, Allia Abu-Ramaileh, Priscilla Mfombep
- c. Thanks and review of financial support for this year's programs:
  - ASF \$3000; ACS \$2000; Li-COR \$500; and the many donors for the student's gift bags.

### 5. Nomination of New Officers for 2013

- a. Secretary nominations: Dexter Watts nominated by Rufina Ward, seconded by Eton Codling
  - Unanimous vote to approve Dexter Watts as 2013 secretary
- b. Chair-elect nominations: Nithya Rajan, nominated by Rufina Ward, seconded by Pricilla Mfombep Annette James, nominated by Phillip Defoe, seconded by Zamara Thibodeaux
  - Members present voted by show of hands for Chair-elect. Annette James was elected as 2013
     Chair-elect.

### 6. Long term plans

- a. Have approximately 15 official members. In 2008 had 9 official members. Membership number is determined by the Societies. Need a way to include more people in committee activities.
- b. Suggest compiling a database of interested members and have quarterly open conference calls for any interested members.

# 7. Awarding of Poster Competition winners

- Thanked the poster competition judges for their time and efforts.
- a. First place \$300: Nikita Mullings, Title: Effects of select surfactants on soil enzyme activity.
- b. Second place \$250: Allia M. Abu-Ramaileh, Title: Simulating and predicting arsenic mineralogy controlling arsenic solubiliation into groundwater in semi-arid environments.
- c. Third place \$200: Asim Biswas, Title: Fractal behavior of soil water storage at multiple depths

### 8. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM

# Minutes of Meeting (Teleconference) November 29, 2012 at 4:00 pm -5:00 pm EST

(Phone: 800-981-3173; Pass Code: 4164#)

### Attendees:

Harjit Rekhi - Presiding Emily Fuger Eton Coding Karletta Chief Maria Monteros Dexter Watts Rufina Ward Felicia Armstrong

### Minutes:

- 1. Discussion about the election conducted for Chair and Chair-Elect, 2013
  - Discussion about the election conducted for Chair and Chair-Elect, 2013
  - Rebecca Polk requested names of Chair and chair elect
  - Eton was elected as chair elect, but was not added as a member
  - Eton elected 2013 chair, Dr. James elected chair elect. no objections
  - The names of chair and chair-elect shall be communicated through annual report

## 2. Annual Report – details of Accounts

- Felicia will send Emily names and addresses of winners to send cheques (look on website for amounts)
- Nithya will verify LICOR cheque was received by Societies.
- 3. Non performing members
  - Emily will update Clay Robinson's email address
  - There was unanimous agreement on removing members of the committee who attended no meetings in a year.
  - Emily will copy text to remove members into new document and send to committee for review.
- 4. New members who want to volunteer for ACS 528 but are not able to do so online
  - Removing inactive members should make way for new.
- 5. Continuing the membership of active members whose ACS 528 membership has expired/going to expire.
  - Harjit, Rufina, J. James, Dexter Watts, Felicia Armstrong, etc.

## 6. AOB

• Conversation continued about what we can do with the high school program. Why did we have two schools not participate? How do we avoid it in the future?

- Need a subcommittee to handle the communication with the schools; leadership needs to help if nothing is happening. Subcommittee should give report at every meeting.
- Next meeting Dec. 14, 17 or 18<sup>th</sup> depending on availability; Felicia is sending out a Doodle Poll.