



## **Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting of The Electrochemical Society**

**May 28, 2024**

**Marriott Marquis San Francisco  
San Francisco, CA, USA**

The annual business meeting was called to order by President Gerardine Botte. The secretary confirmed that a quorum was achieved as there were more than fifty members in attendance.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

President Botte introduced ECS Secretary, Marca Doeff, for approval of the 2023 ASBM minutes. The secretary advised that the minutes of the last meeting were available on the ECS website. She then called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Annual Business Meeting held in Boston, Massachusetts, USA on May 30, 2023.

**ACTION:** It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Annual Business Meeting held on May 30, 2023, be approved. **The motion passed.**

### **REPORT OF THE SECRETARY – MARCA DOEFF**

Secretary Doeff reported in the following areas.

*Results of the 2024 Society Election:* The secretary announced the results of the election for the offices of President, Third Vice President and Secretary. The new President is Colm O'Dwyer of University College Cork. The new Third Vice President is Robert Savinell of Case Western Reserve University. The new Secretary is Gessie Brisard of University of Sherbrooke.

*2023 Meetings:* We welcomed more than 6,281 meeting attendees to the two biannual meetings in 2023. Among the 94 symposia, the Society received roughly 6,347 abstracts from 65 countries. The symposia funding program that supports invited speakers to attend ECS meetings awarded over \$246,000 in speaker support. This program, along with the continued engagement of our volunteer leaders and corporate partners, helps drive the success of our biannual meeting program.

*ECS-sponsored conferences:* a list of the conferences that ECS will sponsor in 2024 was displayed. The Society's sponsorship of these meetings ranges from promotion of the event and, in many cases, ECS provides financial support and travel grants to student poster award winners that they can use to present their work at future ECS meetings.

*Future meetings:* We will once again host our PRiME meeting in person with ECS-J and K-ECS in the fall of 2024 in Honolulu, Hawaii. The 247th ECS Meeting will be held in Montreal, Canada and we will host our 248th meeting in the fall of 2025 in Chicago, Illinois, USA. We look forward to a return to Sweden, this time in Stockholm, for the 19th International Symposium on Solid-Oxide Fuel Cells in July of 2025.

*Individual Membership:* We continue to see growth in ECS membership, up over 10% in the last year. We now have more than 8,800 individual members. Over one-third of ECS members are students and early career researchers. This is an increase over the past several years and has helped to increase the number of student chapters world-wide to 136 – with 11 new chapters seeking approval at the Board meeting.

*Education Programs:* ECS continues to provide funding to support research through education programs. This past year, we awarded:

- 2 ECS Toyota Young Investigator Fellowships, totaling \$100,000;
- 4 ECS Summer Fellowships, totaling \$20,000;
- 1 ECS Colin Fink Summer Fellowship in the amount of \$5,000
- Divisions Awarded over \$107,005 in biannual travel grants.

*Institutional Membership:* A complete list of institutional members was displayed. We now have over 51 institutional member organizations, the most ever in ECS history.

*Publications:*

Last year, 1,763 journal articles were published and over 9 million articles and abstracts were downloaded in 2023. This is more than a 12% increase over the previous year and nearly a 300% increase since moving to IOP in 2020.

Impact factors remain high above their 2020 levels with JES now at 3.9 and JSS at 2.2.

Open access continues to be an important initiative of ECS. There were 614 open access papers published in 2023 and 35% of all content downloaded in 2023 was OA.

**REPORT OF THE TREASURER – Elizabeth Podlaha-Murphy**

Treasurer Podlaha-Murphy reported that ECS had revenues of \$8M in 2023. Most of the revenues (89%) came from 3 program areas: Publications (34%), Meetings (48%), and Membership (7%). The remaining revenue came from rental income (7%), and constituent programs, contributions, and grants (4%).

*Publications* – Publications revenues were \$2.75M, with about \$2.6M from Subscriptions/IOP Publishing.

*Meetings* – Meetings revenues were \$3.86M, with about \$1.82K generated from the Spring meeting in Boston and about \$2.04M from the Fall meeting in Gothenburg, Sweden.

Overall, our program revenue combined was 9% over budget for the year.

Publications and Meetings are the main sources (70%) of expenses. Our program services expenses combined were only 1.2% under budget for the year.

For the year ended December 31, 2023, net assets increased by ~\$1.5M. The increase is a result of revenues of \$7.74M, which includes a realized loss from the investment portfolio of \$612K and interest & dividend income of \$347K, against expenses of \$8.28M, and an unrealized gain of \$2M. There were surpluses in Publications of \$408K, Membership of \$190K, Meetings of \$385K, and Fundraising of \$67K.

These surpluses were offset by deficits in Constituent Programs of \$251K, and Awards of \$258K as well as Support Services costs. The Real Estate LLC net income also resulted in a deficit of \$18K.

Interest, dividends and realized losses on investments yielded a \$265K loss, due to realized losses of \$612K, augmented by interest and dividend income of \$347K. After adding in unrealized gains of \$2M, the net investment gain for the year was ~\$1.8M.

The financial activity for the year yielded an increase in net assets of \$1.5M. 2023 turned out to be a strong financial year, primarily due to the investment portfolio. However, in 2023, ECS hosted both

biannual meetings in-person and saw an influx of attendees (~2,900 Boston, ~3,400 Sweden). We also continue to see significant revenue from Publications, specifically our subscriptions/contract with IOP. While programs have resulted in an overall deficit for the year (\$257 excluding investments and real estate), we had budgeted for a much larger deficit in 2023 (\$798K) due to investment spending in new society initiatives.

The treasurer concluded her report.

### **NEW INITIATIVES A LOOK AHEAD**

ECS Executive Director, Chris Jannuzzi provided an update of critical major new initiatives the Society is undertaking in the areas of membership and education, designed to grow our community and our reach to meet critical needs at a critical time, and diversify ECS's revenue sources.

Chris began by discussing the newly proposed "Community Associate" membership category that the Board will be voting on in October. This new member category will be a dues-free membership and as such will not have the same level of benefits full members receive, nor will community associate members be eligible to vote or join a division. However, they will receive appreciable discounts on ECS meetings, products, and services and be counted as being part of the ECS community. The goal of this effort is twofold: to provide a mechanism for keeping engaged, non-dues-paying community bound to us and more likely to join as full members; and to accurately account for the true size of the ECS community by creating a new class of membership which recognizes the contributions and engagement of all who interact with ECS.

Chris then provided an update on the Battery Workforce Development courses currently under development. He reported that beta testing was completed for the *Lithium Ion Battery Components* course. The team is integrating the feedback and recommendations from the beta testers into the "go-live" version of the course, slated for release in the fall. Chris also reported that beta testing was about to begin for the *Electrochemical Techniques and Diagnostics for Batteries* course, with the testing of the third course, *Fabrication of Batteries and Pack Design*, set to begin over the summer.

### **A LOOK AHEAD**

Vice President, Colm O'Dwyer provided a look ahead for his presidency in the coming year.

As part of a long-term vision to develop educational initiatives across major disciplines in ECS, he hopes to elevate our STEM education and outreach by ensuring the creation of innovative programs like our battery workforce development and upskilling education courses; to work with the leadership team and divisions to scope out parallel opportunities articulated in the US CHIPS and Science Act and the EU Chips Act in education and, with the Interdisciplinary Science and Technology Subcommittee, in linking existing topical interest areas to new activities in the sustainability space – plotting a path that is fundamentally linked to ECS' mission.

He is also committed to continuing the support of *ECS Sensors Plus* and *ECS Advances*, new journals that opened the door to full open-access publication. Additionally, he plans to propel the ongoing initiatives, including *ECS for Sustainability* launched by President Gerri Botte, and fostering new ones, to maximize the impact, attractiveness, and accessibility of our united science to all authors across academia and industry R&D.

Within the Society and throughout our worldwide membership, all forms of diversity are our strength. During this upcoming year, as the organization grows and expands in size and influence, the recommendations of the ECS Presidential Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Engagement, as initiated by Gerri Botte, will be embedded in ECS's future primary leadership and society-wide activities.

Continuing to support ECS Student Chapters around the globe is also central to growing our international community and fostering diversity within ECS membership. He put out a call to ECS members to consider founding an ECS student chapter at their institutions, thus, providing students with a direct pipeline to ECS—and provides ECS with a direct pipeline to students—the future leaders of ECS!

**NEW BUSINESS** – There was no new business.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was presented and passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Marca Doeff  
ECS Secretary