

Minutes, MI-ASM Board Meeting Conference Call  
September 7, 2011, 5-7 PM  
Submitted by Jennifer Hess

Members in attendance: Jen, Joan, Sue, Sonia, Kris, Judy, Alan, John, Jim, Steve  
Meeting was called to order at 5:03 PM, EDT

- A. Minutes from the board meeting on April 9, 2011 were accepted.
- B. Treasurer's Report: Alan
  - a. The MI-ASM checking account contains \$16, 295.78, and there are no bills outstanding.
  - b. The branch made \$69.71 at the spring meeting at Aquinas College
  - c. The amounts in the CDs have been increased to \$8000 (from \$6000) or will be increased soon (the \$5000 one).
  - d. All of the tax paperwork has been filed for this year.
  - e. Alan will be stepping down as treasurer after this term, so he would like to have his replacement named so that that person can be trained before July 2012.
  - f. John will work with Joan and Alan to get nominees in place to be voted on at the October meeting.
- C. Student chapters:
  - a. The MI-Tech chapter will receive \$300 from the branch to underwrite their travel expenses for meetings, as voted upon at the April meeting. (They already received \$300 from national.)
  - b. Joan will talk to Kim at the regional office to see if additional funds are available.
  - c. The names of the officers of student chapters are out of date. Kris will contact chapter advisors so the information can be updated.
  - d. We will make a concerted effort to get the email addresses of attendees at the upcoming meeting so that the database of addresses can be updated.
- D. Paypal:
  - a. This form of payment is on the website and is ready to be used for the upcoming fall meeting. Thanks, John.
- E. Workshops:
  - a. Sonia contacted Amy Vollmer to see if she could offer a workshop at the fall meeting. She is not available until the spring.
  - b. The branch has been given \$1900 from national to use to fund workshops.
  - c. Sonia and Kris will work together to see if a workshop about preparing microbiology students for diverse careers can be formulated for the spring 2012 meeting.
- F. Survey
  - a. The surveymonkey survey designed to gauge members' preferences regarding meeting content yielded only 4 respondents, so it will be taken down.

- G. Fall 2011 meeting
  - a. The planning for the upcoming meeting on October 7 and 8, 2011 at the University of Michigan-Dearborn is complete.
  - b. The website is current and shows the details.
  - c. There will also be live streaming of the meeting's proceedings available thanks to the media specialists Sonia has enlisted. The links will be available both through our website and the UofM-Dearborn website.
  - d. Joan will contact Mike about corporate sponsors for the meeting.
  - e. Alan is concerned about low meeting attendance, and issues in that regard were discussed.
  - f. Sue mentioned that joint regional meetings or at least joint advertising might be considered.
  - g. Kris will contact community college chairs about the upcoming meeting.
  - h. We will hand out certificates for participation, not just the winning entries at the fall meeting. Judy will print the certificates and will send the template to Joan and Jen for our files.
- H. Spring 2012 meeting
  - a. Who will plan/host the meeting?
  - b. We could team up with the nano conference at U of M, but that would mean another meeting in the eastern part of the state.
  - c. WE might team up somehow with the biofilm conference, but it would be on March 8/9 during the week.
  - d. Steve from CMU will contact his colleagues and see if the spring meeting would be possible there.
  - e. Joan will contact Mike Ryan at Ferris to see about Ferris hosting the spring meeting.
  - f. Either way, we need a date and a topic ASAP.
- I. Other topics
  - a. Are Friday evening speakers practical? Should Friday evenings consist of a mixer/board dinner only? Do students feel deterred from attending the Saturday portion of the meeting if they cannot attend on Friday nights? Should we go back to having one-day meetings?
  - b. This topic will be revisited at the board meeting at the fall meeting.
- J. Next meeting: October 8, 2011 at the fall meeting
- K. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 PM.