



Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting of The Electrochemical Society

**Held Digitally
June 2, 2021**

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS OF THE 2021 SOCIETY ELECTION

The secretary announced the results of the election for the offices of President and 3rd Vice President. The new President is Eric Wachsman from the University of Maryland and the new third vice president is Colm O'Dwyer of University of College Cork, Ireland.

III. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

President De Gendt welcomed everyone to the 240th ECS meeting of the Society. De Gendt mentioned some of the events that took place in 2020, specifically the effects of COVID-19 on the society. The ECS offices closed on March 10, 2020 and transitioned to 100% remote operations. Since then, a major focus of ECS's volunteer and staff leadership has been to ensure the health and safety of the team while finding the means to maintain the critical operations and financial well-being of the Society. In ECS's 119-year history, the Society had previously canceled only one in-person meeting, during WWII. In 2020, two ECS in-person meetings were cancelled which involved freeing ECS from the over \$3M in contractual obligations assumed for the Montreal and PRiME meetings. In addition, finding a way to convene our community digitally was something we had never tried before. We created a unique and successful paradigm for hosting digital meetings, which not only generated significant, unplanned revenue, but also led to the largest single event ECS has ever hosted, PRiME 2020!

There was tremendous growth in key areas of our operations, in particular, for ECS publications. JES reached an impact factor of 3.721, a new high, and JSS at 2.142, crossing over "the 2 threshold" for the first time. In addition, the launch of the ECS digital Library on IOPscience yielded tremendous increases in content downloads, revenue, and margins generated in our publications area. Fortunately, launching a new publishing partnership during a global pandemic did not appear to have hurt ECS's efforts: 2020 saw a 33% increase in content usage over 2019 figures.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

President De Gendt presented the secretary to present the minutes from the previous meeting. 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 digitally on June 30, 2020.

ACTION: It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Annual Business Meeting held digitally on June 30, 2020 be approved. **The motion passed.**

V. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY – MARCA DOEFF

Secretary Doeff reported in the following areas.

PRiME 2020 Meeting Attendance: there were nearly 7,000 attendees from 79 countries. Among the 50 symposia, the Society received 3,900 abstracts. Symposium sponsors and ECS Divisions contributed over \$120,000 in presenter registration support for PRiME 2020.

ECS-sponsored conferences: a list of the conferences that ECS will sponsor in 2020 were displayed.

Future meetings:

A list of the dates and locations for upcoming ECS biannual meetings was displayed. The 244th ECS meeting will take place in Gothenburg, Sweden in the fall of 2023.

In 2021, ECS will host the SOFC 17, one of the longest running conferences on solid oxide fuel cells. Originally scheduled to take place in Sweden, this meeting is also being held online due to COVID, taking place July 18-23.

Individual Membership: The impact of COVID on our membership is clear as the total membership dropped to 8,046, with about one-third being student members. This is an overall decrease of 8.3% from 2019.

Student Chapters: Thanks to the continued student engagement around the world, ECS added 14 new chapters in 2020, bringing the total to 107. ECS provides student chapter funding to support chapter activities and awarded more than \$16,000 in student chapter memberships. In addition, ECS divisions provided a total of \$2,150 in Awarded student memberships.

Education Programs:

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

- 3 ECS Toyota Young Investigator Fellowships, totaling \$150,000.
- 4 ECS Summer Fellowships, totaling \$20,000.

Institutional Membership: Our institutional members are truly partners in advancing the science and the mission of ECS. This elite group of over 40 supports scientific education, sustainability, and innovation. A complete list of institutional members was displayed.

Publications:

Digital Library

Despite the challenges presented by COVID-19, ECS saw significant growth in dissemination of its scholarly content. ECS Journals received over 3,600 manuscript submissions.

Content access increased over 2019 figures, with 4.2 million articles and abstracts downloaded in 2020. Much of this growth was driven by JES reaching a new milestone of over 2.99 million downloads; an increase of almost 20%. The most highly downloaded issue of 2020 was a fully open access issue; the "JES Focus Issue on Sensor Reviews" yielding 138,197 downloads, which is ~5% of all JES downloads for 2020. This demonstrates not only the high quality of the content ECS publishes, but also the importance of providing open access to ensure the broadest dissemination of our publications.

Free the Science Week, when the entire ECS Library is opened to all, also yielded significant usage of our content, with over 110,000 downloads between March 30th and April 5th of last year.

VI. REPORT OF THE TREASURER – GESSIE BRISARD

Treasurer Brisard reported that ECS had revenues of \$5.6M in 2020, including Investment and Real Estate income. The majority of the revenues (75%) came from three program areas: Publications (49%), Meetings (16%), and Membership (10%). The Investment portfolio contributed 9% to the revenues with a gain of ~\$503K, which included interest & dividends, realized losses, and unrealized gains. The remaining revenue came from rental income (10%), and constituent programs, contributions, and grants (6%).

Publications – Publications revenues were \$2.74M, with about \$2.6M from Subscriptions/IOP Publishing.

Meetings – Due to the cancellation of the Spring meeting and virtual-only Fall meeting, Meetings revenue was significantly less than expected in 2020.

Similar to revenues, Publications and Meetings are the main sources (60%) of expenses.

Although the Spring meeting was cancelled and the Fall meeting was virtual, all personnel expenses associated with the Meetings department were applicable for both.

Overall, our program services expenses combined were ~40% under budget for the year.

ECS achieved an increase to net assets of \$529K, due to surpluses in the Publications area of \$820K, Membership \$183K, Fundraising \$65K, Rental Income \$98K, and Investment gain \$503K, and offset by deficits in Constituent Programs \$93K, Meetings \$289K, Awards \$215K, and Support Services costs.

Interest, dividends and realized losses on investments yielded a \$1.12M loss, due to realized losses of \$1.3M, augmented by interest and dividend income of \$183K. This loss is a result of investment securities from our portfolio that were sold during the year at a lower value than when they were purchased. After adding in unrealized gains (investment securities in our portfolio at year-end, which had a higher value than at the start of the year, but have not been sold) of \$1.62M, the net investment gain for the year was \$503K.

During our annual audit process, the external auditors found an immaterial error in our financials, for which we needed to make a prior period adjustment of \$276K. The error was related to a point in time in which we had not deferred enough revenue, and had overstated assets. This prior period adjustment, deemed to be immaterial in relation to our total assets, resulted in a decrease to net assets of \$276K.

The financial activity for the year yielded an increase in net assets of \$529K, and after the reduction for the prior period adjustment, net assets increased by \$253K. 2020 was a difficult year for many, including the Society, but we are grateful to say that, in a year like we have experienced and are still recovering from, the surpluses from program services and gains in the investment portfolio contributed to the increase in our net assets.

VII. A LOOK AHEAD – ERIC WACHSMAN

Vice President Eric Wachsman began his presentation by discussing the importance of the technologies within the ECS technical domain, noting the role of the Mars Oxygen In-Situ Resource Utilization Experiment (MOXIE) device on the Mars Perseverance. MOXIE successfully produces oxygen from the toxic Martian atmosphere.

He continued his talk, outlining his vision for his upcoming term as ECS President, noting that beyond the Society's role in advancing science, The ECS community—made up of our members,

volunteers, supporters, and staff—is uniquely positioned to use its voice and expertise to ensure that the contributions science makes to society are understood and valued, that policy decisions are grounded in scientific fact, and that our government funds scientific research.

Respectfully submitted,
Marca Doeff
ECS Secretary