

Minutes of the 80th Eastern Colleges Science Conference (ECSC) Board of Trustees Annual Meeting, March 21, 2026, Wilkes University, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

Officers in Attendance

Chair of the Board: Lance Evans (New York Botanical Garden)

President and Assistant to the Board Chair: Helen Murphy (John Carroll University)

Treasurer: Bryan Wilkins (Manhattan University)

Secretary: Donald Stearns (Wagner College)

Other Board Members and Guests in Attendance

Suzanne Deschenes (Sacred Heart University)

Anthony Kapolka (Wilkes University)

Del Lucent (Wilkes University, guest, del.lucent@wilkes.edu)

Christopher Marra (Wagner College)

Nicole Roy (Sacred Heart University)

Cyndy Scheibe (Ithaca College)

Jamie Schlessman (U.S. Naval Academy, guest, schlessman@usna.edu,
office 410-293-6606, mobile 410-375-4382)

Cyrilla Wideman (John Carroll University)

David Zuckerman (Iona College)

Action Items and Discussion

1. Meeting called to order: The meeting was called to order by Lance Evans at approximately 12:35 p.m. with a welcome to all members and guests.

2. Major thank you to the host institution: Lance thanked Anthony Kapolka and HyeReon Lee as chairs of the 2026 Planning Committee, as well as all the excellent folks at Wilkes University who worked together to ensure a successful conference.

3. Introduction of members present: Each meeting attendee briefly introduced themselves by name, institution, and general disciplinary areas of expertise.

4. Treasurer's report: Bryan Wilkins reported that, as of now, the ECSC has a balance of approximately \$10,000, which is currently deposited in an ECSC account at Manhattan University (MU). Lance Evans requested that those seeking reimbursement for ECSC 2026 conference expenses send him documentation regarding those incurred expenses, including receipts (when possible) and documentation regarding travel/lodging information, as well as registration/banquet costs covered using an individual's personal funds. Lance would then advise the sender what next steps to take. Continuing a discussion documented in the ECSC Board minutes for 2025, it was suggested that an external ECSC account be created separate from the current account at MU, so that ECSC could have more control over the handling of the organization's funds, such as providing some advanced funding to the next host institution if needed to cover costs before conference registration fees have been received. Currently there is only one ECSC board member at MU (Bryan Wilkins, ECSC Treasurer), and the association with MU and the ECSC funds held there could be jeopardized should ECSC eventually lose MU representation altogether. There was no disagreement from the board that Lance and Bryan should do what they can to establish an external account for future ECSC income to be deposited, while covering expenses using the MU account until that account is zeroed out. (Note: Reading from last year's minutes, "Setting up an external account may require a W-9 tax form, and ECSC wants to make sure

that the establishment of the account is done properly and legally. Bryan will let the board know what he learns about the process.”)

5. Update regarding new ECSC logo: To address the long-standing issue of development and adoption of a new ECSC logo, Cyndy Scheibe and Suzanne Deschenes volunteered to work together in a timely fashion as a logo steering committee. As a result of the board’s discussion of this issue, Cyndy sent an email today to all ECSC board members, describing how they plan to come up with a new ECSC logo. The email reads as follows:

Email any suggestions for new logos (or elements to be included in a logo) - in black and white. Send them no later than May 1, either replying all to this email or sending it just to me (scheibe@ithaca.edu) and Sue Deschenes (descheness@sacredheart.edu). We'll be sending out some options to vote on no later than May 15, with a tight deadline for the vote - and we'll adopt the one with the most votes. The ECSC board members present unanimously approved the proposal.

6. Forthcoming ECSC conferences: Although the official letter to host has not yet been received, the provost of Manhattan University says that MU will host next year’s 81st Eastern Colleges Science Conference Saturday, April 10, 2027. Both Queensborough Community College (per Lance Evans) and Sacred Heart University (per Nicole Roy) are interested in hosting ECSC for either 2028 or beyond.

For those who are considering hosting the conference in the future, Lance included the following important note with his agenda during the 2025 ECSC board meeting; it bears repeating here:

ECSC is dependent upon the proposals and welcoming nature of our hosts. We encourage individual hosts to establish their own policies. The website has an entire section on hosting. There is good advice there. Also, contact Lance for more advice. We have a whole group of previous hosts [who] can give advice. Also, carefully view the conference materials from previous conferences on the website.

7. New business (How to make ECSC better?): Nicole Roy thought that, for ECSC to retain and expand as an organization, it needs to do a better job of marketing. Towards that end, Lance Evans said he could present data regarding when past institutions stopped participating in ECSC, as a step toward understanding the situation better. Concerned about the general tightening of institutional budgets that restricts student ECSC participation, Don Stearns asked if anyone was aware of funding sources beyond institutional funding, to cover some costs associated with ECSC participation. There was some discussion regarding this issue, including past examples of corporate sponsorship of ECSC activities, but those examples seem less promising in today’s economic climate. This funding issue was also discussed last year and included in those minutes. (Note: If any ECSC board member has substantive suggestions here, please send them to Lance Evans at Lance.Evans366@gmail.com. Thank you.)

The meeting was adjourned 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Doanld E. Stearns
Secretary of ECSC Board of Trustees
Original completed March 23, 2026