

ACS Orlando Section

Executive Committee Meeting Draft Minutes

March 14, 2026, at 9:30 AM
Meeting called by Toufiq Reza
Location: *held digitally using Zoom*

Attendees: Toufiq Reza, Denisia Popolan-Vaida, Laura Sessions, Nicole Lapeyrouse, Pavithra Pathirathna, Van Quach, DK Weerasinghe

Approval of Minutes

- **Motion:** Nicole moved to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2026 ACS Orlando Section Executive Committee meeting (distributed by Meghan via email on March 11).
- **Second:** Pavi.
- **Outcome:** Motion adopted by acclamation.

Reports of Officers

Councilor – Laura

- Reminded members that when engaging in political action, they must not represent their views as positions of the ACS; any political statements should be made strictly as private citizens.
- Will attend the Council Meeting at the ACS Spring Meeting. The agenda is posted publicly on the ACS website; nothing unusual is expected. Notes will be shared afterward.
- Contacted the Florida Section about a possible joint industry networking event but did not receive a response. She will proceed with planning a small pilot event for the Orlando Section only, per last month's discussion.

Councilor – Nicole

- Reported that the councilor caucus will be held tomorrow, and she will also attend the upcoming Council Meeting.

Treasurer – Van

- Reported the following transactions and updates:
 - █████ paid for website maintenance.
 - Four Spring Meeting travel awards disbursed █████
 - █████ sponsorship for the A.H. Blatt Lecture at FIT.
 - █████ donation received from the South Florida Section for the Avogadro Award.
 - █████ local section dues received from ACS national.
 - █████ FDACS registration renewal submitted on time.

Chair-Elect – Pavi

- No report.

Chair – Toufiq

- No report.
-

Unfinished Business

FDACS License Renewal

- A motion to renew the FDACS license was submitted by Nicole via email on March 5 and seconded by Meghan (March 5).
 - The Chair did not previously move the motion to a vote because the fee amount was unknown; upon confirming the fee [REDACTED], the Chair put the motion before the Committee.
 - **Outcome:** Motion adopted by acclamation.
 - The Chair noted the importance of maintaining this registration to ensure that donations and gifts are properly covered.
-

New Business

2026 Earth Day Activities

- Stephen was unable to attend but provided a report to Toufiq. Toufiq relayed that Duy shared LSAC outreach activities aligned with this year's national theme.
- A volunteer recruitment email was sent to all members earlier today; members are encouraged to assist in recruiting volunteers.
- Stephen does not yet have specific plans but will develop them.
- **Event location discussion:**
 - Pavi asked whether the Section must participate specifically in the Earth Day festival, citing Stephen's safety concerns about crowding during demonstrations. She suggested the Orlando Science Center (OSC) as an alternative.
 - Laura expressed concern that OSC events are not open-access and require admission fees, limiting public engagement.
 - Van noted that the Earth Day festival is operated by FDACS.
- **Volunteers:**
 - FIT's student chapter is a potential source of volunteers; Pavi also suggested graduate student volunteers. With sufficient staffing, demonstration flow can be managed safely.
 - Nicole added that the suggested demonstrations (from Duy) are inherently safe (e.g., temperature-difference activities).
- **ACS 150th Anniversary:**
 - Pavi noted the opportunity to incorporate the ACS 150th celebration.
 - Laura stated there are ACS giveaway items available and will send Stephen the ordering link.

Industry Event

- Toufiq returned to the discussion of the proposed industry networking event.
- Laura will first contact the winner of the Entrepreneur Award (UCF Incubator Director). After that conversation, the Executive Committee will discuss next steps, including recruitment needs. A possible timeframe is the summer.

Fall 2026 ACS Meeting Abstracts

- Toufiq reminded the committee that abstracts are now open.

- The Section should encourage participation, especially from students outside research institutions. Laura will send a notice to these.
-

Announcements

- The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for **April 18, 2026**, from **9:30–10:30 AM**.
-

Adjournment

- **Motion:** Nicole moved to adjourn.
- **Second:** Pavi.
- **Outcome:** Motion adopted by unanimous consent.
- **Adjourned:** 9:51 AM.

Additional Notes: A motion was made via email on 3/22 to allocate [REDACTED] to FDACS license fee to cover the total amount for license renewal. The motion was seconded and voted on via Google Forms. The motion passed 8-0 in favor.