

# **SPE-STX Board Meeting August 12, 2025**

## **Minutes**

### **Attendees:**

Steve Torchia	Kumar Sanketh
Preston McDaniel	Angela Padilla
Clifford Lee	David Hansen
Yangwei Liu	Janell Helton (non-voting)

### **Standing Agenda:**

- Approve Minutes
- Counselor Report
- IPOC Update
- Treasurer Report
- Programs Update
- Membership Report
- Treasurer Report
- Educational Committee
- New Business

### **Quorum established at 5:07 PM**

### **New officers read into minutes by Janell Helton:**

Jason Ball	President
Steve Torchia	President-Elect
Preston McDaniel	Past President
Donna Davis	Treasurer
Fernando Candau-Cevallos	Secretary
Kumar Sanketh	Councilor

**Approval of July minutes:** Motion Preston McDaniel Seconded Kumar Sanketh

**Discussion of open board positions:** Several BOD have reviewed membership role and have suggestions. It is also believed that people from the technical committee for the IPOC may be interested.

**Councilor Report(Kumar Sanketh):** 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the councilors is in September so there is no update currently. Kumar plans to attend the meeting. Expenses to be covered by SPE-STX

**IPOC(Preston McDaniel):** Program committee is actively meeting with many new ideas as well as new committee members. Discussion focused on sending out call for papers by email and linked in.

The 1<sup>st</sup> deposit for the GICC is in September. 2<sup>nd</sup> deposit is in December.

**Treasurer Report(Donna Davis, via email):**

- Transitioned the Chase account to the new officers and Janell (Jason Ball, Preston McDaniel, Donna Davis, Janell Helton)
- We have distributed section scholarship checks to three of the four recipients, with the exception of one which is pending at Chase.
- Checking account: \$359,913.41 as of 0919, Aug. 11, 2025
- Savings account: \$119,203.24 as of 0919, Aug. 11, 2025
- We currently receive <<0.1% interest on our funds. The board previously approved investing some of the funds into instruments to keep up with inflation. We will develop those options and bring them to the board for endorsement.

We are developing the data for a 2025-2026 budget. I hope to have a *proposal* ready by the September meeting, 9/9. Approving a budget implicitly reflects the section plan and strategy. It should drive discussion.

As a teaser, it will not surprise you that our data shows we raise funds via IPOC (99.8%). There is almost no income otherwise (no section meetings, golf outings, etc.) Essentially all expenses are incurred for IPOC (83%), the Education Committee (14%), and section support (2.5%). Education Committee expenses are all allocated to student chapters and scholarships. Retained earnings have been growing about \$20k/year for the past 10 years.

I think we will benefit from a budget discussion to reaffirm our strategy and plan.

**Programs Report:** None given. Potential Astros game mid-September. Kumar & Preston to follow-up with Dell.

**Membership report(Yangwei Liu):** Current membership: 443 members, 29 members have expired with another expiring at the end of August. They will be contacted, encouraging them to renew membership.

Discussion about attracting members. ***What is the value proposition?***

Ideas: Utilize anchor IPOC speakers to give sneak peak talks, conference discount, short courses, access to library(currently the only access to IPOC material is for IPOC attendees).

Sub-membership committee to be headed by Yang to determine *What can we do to attract new members?* Present proposals at September meeting.

Sub-membership committee: Yangwei Liu, Steve Torchia, David Hansen, Angela Acevedo, Donna Davis, Janell Helton

If you would like to help with this endeavor contact Yangwei.

**Education Report(David Hansen):** Committee met last month and put together budget of \$100,000. This budget is very similar to last year's budget although there will be no endowment. Student chapters of 9 universities receive \$1200 for operating expenses and scholarship money of \$3500.

Member Earned Scholarship is approximately \$15,000, giving up to \$2500 per applicant.

We also contribute to the science fair, faculty advisor SPE fees, travel allowance for IPOC liaisons and students what live a great distance from Galveston, and equipment grants.

The committee established supplemental scholarship program based on number of students and activity level of chapter. Awards given in January.

Also, an increase in travel allowance.

Please see attached budget for consideration. A vote at the September BOD meeting will be taken for approval of the education budget.

Meeting at U of H is tentatively scheduled for October 9<sup>th</sup>. Confirmation of ballroom is needed.

It was pointed out that this conflicts with the K-show(Oct. 8-16)

Megan Robertson will give talk and there will be an update of U of H student chapter.

Support of this event will be approximately \$5000.

**New business:** Seek new ideas for section meetings, networking opportunities or member interactions through use of single click survey.

**Meeting Adjourn: 5:58 PM** Motion Preston McDaniel Seconded by David Hansen

**Next Meeting: September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Respectfully submitted by:**

Janell Helton

Section Coordinator

**Code of Conduct:**

- Exercise consideration and respect in your speech and actions.
- Attempt collaboration before conflict.
- Refrain from demeaning, discriminatory, or harassing behavior and speech.
- Be mindful of your surroundings and of your fellow participants. Alert SPE staff if you notice a dangerous situation, someone in distress, or violations of this Code of Conduct, even if they seem inconsequential.
- While at an SPE event no participant should engage in harassment in any form.

