



Councilor Report: Summary of Governance Issues and Actions

American Chemical Society 250th National Meeting
Boston, Massachusetts
August 16-20, 2015

The following summary is provided to help Councilors report to their Local Sections and Divisions on key actions and information from the ACS Council and Board of Directors at the 2015 fall national meeting. **Full reports will be posted on the [ACS Website](#) as they become available.**

Actions of the Council

Elections

- By electronic ballot, the Council elected **Christopher J. Bannochie, Michelle V. Buchanan, Alan B. Cooper, Donna G. Friedman, and Carolyn Ribes** for a 2016-2018 term, and **Jetty Duffy-Matzner** for a two-year term, 2016-2017, on the **Committee on Committees**.
- By electronic ballot, the Council elected **Frank D. Blum, Mary K. Carroll, Lisa Houston, and Lee H. Latimer** for a 2016-2018 term on the committee on the **Council Policy Committee**.
- By electronic ballot, the Council elected **Mary K. (Moore) Engelman, Roland F. Hirsch, C. Marvin Lang, Les W. McQuire, and Donovan R. Porterfield** for a 2016-2018 term on the **Committee on Nominations & Elections**

Past President Report Tom Barton said that he will continue to provide a travel stipend of up to \$100 for each high school teacher attending a regional meeting traveling more than 100 miles (calculated liberally).

Executive Director Report Tom Connelly indicated that since March the society designated three National Historic Chemical Landmarks: The Keeling Curve celebrated at NOAA's Mauna Loa Observatory in Hilo, HI; The William Eddy Pneumatic Iron Process in Eddyville, KY; and Edwin Land & Instant Photography at MIT in Cambridge, MA.

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International Chemical Sciences Chapters

- On the recommendation of the Committee on International Activities, Council **VOTED** to approve the establishment of the Australia, Brazil, Nigeria, Peru, and United Arab Emirates International Chemical Sciences Chapters, subject to confirmation by the Board of Directors.

Reports of Elected Committees (Highlights)

Nominations and Elections (N&E)

N&E announced the candidates for the fall 2015 ACS national election:

Candidates for President-Elect, 2016

- **G. Bryan Balazs**, Associate Program Leader, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, CA
- **Allison A. Campbell**, Associate Laboratory Director, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, WA

Candidates for Directors-at-Large, 2016-2018

- **Lee H. Latimer**, Head of Chemistry, NeurOp, Inc., Oakland, CA
- **Willem R. Leenstra**, Associate Professor, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT
- **Ingrid Montes**, Professor, University of Puerto Rico - Rio Piedras Campus, San Juan, PR
- **Mary Jo Ondrechen**, Professor of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Northeastern University, Boston, MA
- **Thomas W. Smith**, Professor, Chemistry & Microsystems Engineering, School of Chemistry and Materials Science, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY

Reports of Society Committees (Highlights)

Budget and Finance (B&F) reviewed the Society's 2015 probable year-end financial projection which expects a Net Contribution from Operations of \$15.5 million, or \$2.1 million higher than the Approved Budget. Total revenues are projected at \$512.1 million, which at \$481,000 favorable is essentially on Budget. Total expenses are projected at \$496.6 million, which is \$1.6 million or 0.3% favorable to the Approved. This variance is the result of lower-than-budgeted expenses across almost all major expense categories.

Committee on Divisional Activities (DAC) announced the themes for the upcoming meetings: San Diego (Spring 16)- Computers in Chemistry; Philadelphia (Fall 16)- Chemistry of the People, By the

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People, and For the People; San Francisco (Spring 17)- Advanced Materials, Technologies, Systems, and Processes; Washington (Fall 17)- Chemistry's Impact on the Global Economy.

Reports of Standing Committees (Highlights)

Local Section Activities (LSAC) will award 20 Innovative Project Grant (IPG) grants totaling \$39,886. This brings the total for 2015 to 34 IPG awards totaling over \$75,000. Since the inception of the program, a total of 166 Local Sections have received at least one award.

The committee voted to keep the current Local Section allotment formula in place for the next three years, and developed a new process for managing the annexation of unassigned territories by multiple sections.

Membership Affairs (MAC) reported that as of July 31, the ACS membership was 156,561; 2,055 fewer than on the same date in 2014. The number of new members who have joined this year is 14,457; 147 fewer than this time last year. The Society's overall retention rate is 84%. The number of international members has increased to 25,989; 1,014 higher than in July, 2014. The international retention rate is 85%.

The committee intends to submit a petition for consideration in San Diego to permanently extend the Unemployed Member Dues Waiver Benefit period from two years to three years.

Economic and Professional Affairs (CEPA) reported that ACS ChemCensus data showed that Domestic Unemployment among ACS member chemists edged slightly upwards in the last year from 2.9% to 3.1%. Still, the current unemployment rate is lower than it was from 2009 to 2013. The ChemCensus also showed a modest salary increase year-over-year. For the first year since 2004, the percentage of ACS members working in manufacturing increased. These trends are mirrored by a slight decline in the percentage of members in academia. Other workforce categories remained relatively flat. ACS will hold a Virtual Career Fair on September 16. Go to careerservices@acs.org for more information.

Meetings and Expositions (M&E) accepted 9,271 papers for the Boston meeting. As of the Council meeting, total attendance for the meeting was 13,888. The Exposition had 475 booths with 325 exhibiting companies. There were nearly 5500 downloads of the Boston Mobile App. ACS was honored as the show with the Most Commendable Green Initiatives by the 2014 Trade Show Executive's Gold 100 Grand Awards.

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Constitution and Bylaws (C&B) certified 14 bylaws in 2015, and has reviewed bylaws for 9 Local Sections and 2 Divisions since the spring meeting in Denver. The use of C&B's new bylaw templates and expedited bylaw process enables faster bylaw reviews than in previous years.

New petitions to amend the Constitution or Bylaws must be received by the Executive Director no later than November 25, to be included in the Council agenda for consideration at the spring 2016 meeting in San Diego. Contact C&B at bylaws@acs.org for more information.

Reports of Other Committees (Highlights)

Chemical Safety (CCS) reported that it had been requested by the Chemical Safety Board (CSB) to assist in developing guidance with methods to recognize, assess, and control hazards in research laboratories. The CCS released its final report, "Identifying and Evaluating Hazards in Research Laboratories," in 2015. Councilors and their institutions who are engaged in research were urged to consider using this guide to help keep their laboratories safer. This report is available at www.acs.org/safety.

Chemists with Disabilities (CWD) The monograph "Teaching Chemistry to Students with Disabilities: has been updated. They also have produced posters of three well known scientists with disabilities: Thomas Edison, Joseph Priestley, and Sir Humphrey Davy, which are free to those who contact their staff liaison, Paula H. Christopher.

Community Activities (CCA) announced that National Chemistry Week (NCW) will be celebrated October 18-24 with the theme "Chemistry Colors Our World" & resources are available at www.acs.org/ncw.

International Activities (IAC) welcomed dignitaries from our sister societies in Canada, Cuba, India, Germany, Taiwan, the UK, as well as leadership of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the US National Academies of Science, the Iraqi Chemical Society, ACS International Chapters, and ACS International Student Chapters.

The committee approved the ACS Global Innovation Initiatives (Gii) Singapore White Paper and chose South America and Mexico for the 2017 joint ACS-Pittcon program to foster exchange and research collaboration in analytical chemistry.

Minority Affairs (CMA) focused its activities at this meeting on the 20th anniversary celebration of the ACS Scholars Program. The program has awarded more than \$17 million in scholarship assistance since 1995 to enable 2,500 talented minority students to pursue their dreams of a degree in the

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chemical sciences. The new Scholars Endowment Fund now has commitments of more than \$2 million.

Nominations are being sought for the Stanley C. Israel Award. Instructions for nominations can be found at www.acs.org/stan-israel-award.


Project SEED (SEED) announced another successful SEED program with the participation of 411 high school students. These students are currently placed in over 100 laboratories across the nation, under the supervision of over 400 volunteer scientists and coordinators in 39 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The committee awarded 32 first year non-renewable College Scholarships to SEED alumni in 17 states and Puerto Rico.

Public Relations and Communications (CPRC) co-sponsored a number of events in Boston to showcase ways to increase public appreciation for chemistry: the PBS preview of “Mystery of Matter: Search for the Elements”; a symposium on the public perception of chemistry co-sponsored with *Chemical & Engineering News*, and the ACS Office of Public Affairs; ChemChamps; and Wikipedia Edit-a-thon, co-sponsored with the Division of Chemical Information.

Younger Chemists (YCC) The Program in a Box effort continues to grow rapidly with a 43% increase in the number of disseminated boxes between the fall 2014 and February 2015, when 181 boxes were delivered to local sections and international chapters.

At this meeting YCC participated in the 5th Younger Chemists Crossing Borders, an exchange which brings younger chemists from parts of Europe to the meeting.

YCC is currently in discussions with N&E, ACS Webinars, ACS Office of Public Affairs, and the presidential candidates about holding a roundtable webinar, “Catalyze the Vote”, where the candidates can speak to the younger constituency about their vision for the Society in the future.



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