



## COUNCILOR TALKING POINTS AND SUMMARY OF GOVERNANCE ACTIONS/REPORTS

*Revised March 21, 2014*

**American Chemical Society  
247<sup>th</sup> ACS National Meeting  
Dallas, Texas  
March 16-20, 2014**

The following summary is provided to help Councilors report to their local sections and divisions on key actions of the ACS Council and Board of Directors at the 2014 spring national meeting.

### ACTIONS OF THE COUNCIL

#### **Election Results**

- The Committee on Nominations and Elections presented to the Council the following nominees for selection as candidates for President-Elect, 2015: Peter K. Dorhout, William A. Lester, Jr., Christopher K. Ober, and Henry F. Schaefer III. By electronic ballot, the Council selected **Peter K. Dorhout** and **William A. Lester, Jr.** as **candidates for 2015 President-Elect**. These two candidates, along with any candidates selected via petitions, will stand for election in the Fall National Election.
- The Committee on Nominations and Elections announced the results of the election to select *candidates* from the list of *nominees* to serve as Directors from District III and District VI on the Board of Directors for the term 2015-2017. Nominees for District III included Dee Ann Castell, Pat N. Confalone, Anne S. DeMasi, and Kathryn E. Uhrich. Nominees for District VI included Allison A. Campbell, Paul W. Jagodzinski, Lee H. Latimer, and Eleanor D. Siebert. By mail ballot, the Councilors from these districts selected **Pat N. Confalone** and **Anne S. DeMasi** as **District III candidates**; and **Paul W. Jagodzinski** and **Lee H. Latimer** as **District VI candidates**. Ballots will be mailed on or before October 10, 2014 to all ACS members in District III and District VI for election of a Director from each District.

#### **Candidates for Directors-at-Large**

- The Committee on Nominations and Elections announced the selection of the following candidates for Directors-at-Large for a 2015-2017 term: Dawn A. Brooks, William F. Carroll, Jr., Barbara A. Sawrey, and Ellen B. Stechel. The election of two Directors-at-Large from among those candidates and any selected via petition will be conducted in the fall. Ballots will be mailed to the Council on or before October 10, 2014.

#### **Committee Continuance**

- As part of a regular performance review, the Council VOTED unanimously to continue the Committees on Chemical Safety, on Chemistry and Public Affairs, and on Minority Affairs. Continuation of these three committees requires Board concurrence.

#### **2015 Member Dues**

- The Council voted to set the member dues for 2015 at the fully escalated rate of \$158. This rate is established pursuant to an inflation-adjustment formula in the ACS Constitution and Bylaws.

### **Divisional Allotment Formula**

- After voting to postpone its implementation by one year, the Council voted to approve a revised formula for allocating dues funds to divisions. This formula, which was presented by the Committee on Divisional Activities, will be effective with allocations for 2015 division performance.

### **Changes in Local Section Territory**

- On recommendation of the Committee on Local Section Activities, the Council voted to approve the petition from the North Jersey Section to include the area of the former Monmouth County Section in its territory, effective immediately.

### **New International Chemical Sciences Chapter**

- On recommendation of the Committee on International Activities and subject to the concurrence of the Board of Directors, the Council voted to approve petitions to charter the South Korea International Chemical Sciences Chapter and the Malaysia International Chemical Sciences Chapter.

## **COMMITTEE ORAL REPORTS (Highlights)**

### **Society Committees**

#### **Budget and Finance (B&F)**

- In 2013, ACS generated a Net from Operations of \$15.1 million, which was \$2.0 million favorable to the budget. This represents the Society's tenth consecutive year of positive operating results. Total revenue was \$490.5 million, which was \$8.8 million (or 1.8%) lower than budget, and essentially flat when compared with 2012. The result was largely attributable to cost containment measures throughout the ACS. Unrestricted Net Assets rebounded in 2013, rising to \$207 million, and more than doubling from the 2012 level.

#### **Education (SOCED)**

- SOCED approved a pilot program to form ACS International Student Chapters.

### **Standing Committees**

#### **Membership Affairs (MAC)**

- For 2014, MAC authorized an individual member test for India to allow for a \$52 full Member dues rate. At this meeting, MAC extended the test to include new and renewing members in India for three years.

#### **Economic and Professional Affairs (CEPA)**

- Findings from the ACS 2013 New Graduate Survey have been compiled and reveal troubling news: overall unemployment among new graduates rose from 12.6% in 2012 to 14.9% in 2013. This is primarily due to the high unemployment among recent Bachelors degree chemists. New graduates must be at the top of our priority list for employment assistance in 2014.

### **Meetings and Expositions (M&E)**

- As of this morning (March 19, 2014), the ACS spring national meeting had attracted 13,680 registrants, including 6,853 regular attendees and 5,140 students. The meeting had 10,050 papers presented.
- The new ACS Mobile Application had over 6,000 downloads by meeting attendees.
- M&E voted to eliminate the author index in the hard program meeting program book beginning with the spring 2015 meeting. The searchable author index is now available via the mobile application and other electronic means.

### **Divisional Activities (DAC)**

- Operating as a DAC subcommittee, the Multidisciplinary Planning Group is proposing the following 2017 national meeting themes to the divisions for their consideration:
  - Spring, San Francisco: *Advanced Materials, Technologies, Systems and Processes*
  - Fall, Washington, DC: *Chemistry's Impact on the Global Economy*

### **Local Section Activities (LSAC)**

- LSAC will initiate the process to dissolve the Ocean County (New Jersey) Section as a result of the group's failure to meet the criteria to remain an active section.

### **Constitution and Bylaws (C&B)**

- In Fall 2013, C&B announced a new optional process for expedited bylaw reviews, offering limited customization but faster than the current three month turnaround. C&B has now created a new, easier way for local sections and divisions to prepare bylaw revisions for C&B review. They are not as restrictive as those permitted through the expedited process. After a unit indicates its willingness to update its bylaws, C&B would then offer to create a first draft of proposed bylaws changes for consideration by the unit. Alternatively, the unit may still propose its own draft changes for C&B review.

## **Other Committees**

### **Chemical Safety (CCS)**

- CCS has published its first-ever Safety Alert concerning the Rainbow Demonstration, in *Chemical and Engineering News*, March 17, 2014. Copies were distributed to Councilors.

### **Chemists with Disabilities (CWD)**

- The committee has updated and digitized its publication "*Teaching Chemistry to Students with Disabilities.*" It will be available in April 2014 and linked to the CWD website.

### **Community Activities (CCA)**

- Copies of the publication *Celebrating Chemistry*, a product of the ACS Department of Volunteer Support in conjunction with CCA, were distributed to Councilors. Local Sections can order up to 750 copies of this publication for Chemists Celebrate Earth Day.

### **Minority Affairs (CMA)**

- The committee reminded Councilors that the ACS Scholars Program is celebrating its twentieth anniversary in 2015. The program has enabled 1,400 students to achieve university degrees in the chemical sciences. CMA will highlight accomplishments and successes of the Scholars Program throughout 2015.

## **Special Discussion Item**

- A special discussion item was put on the Council agenda for this meeting. ACS President Tom Barton presented and moderated a discussion on “What can ACS do to increase the quality of science education in grades K-12? Following the presentation, 39 Councilors engaged in a robust discussion on the factors impacting the quality of K-12 science education in the U.S.

## **ACTIONS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

At this meeting, the ACS Board of Directors considered a number of key strategic issues and responded with several actions.

### **The Board’s Committees and Working Groups**

- The Board of Directors received reports from its Committees on Grants and Awards (G&A), and Executive Compensation.
- On the recommendation of the Committee on Grants and Awards, the Board VOTED to approve a Society nomination for the National Medal of Science, which is bestowed by the President of the United States to individuals in science and engineering who have made important contributions to the advancement of knowledge in the fields of behavioral and social sciences, biology, chemistry, engineering, mathematics and physics.
- The Board received an extensive briefing and approved several recommendations from its Committee on Executive Compensation. The compensation of the Society’s executive staff receives regular review from the Board.
- The working group on Society Program Portfolio Management briefed the Board on its activities. The working group was charged with delivering a process for portfolio management of Society programs in the divisions of Membership and Scientific Advancement, Education, and the Office of the Secretary and General Counsel (Office of Public Affairs).
- The Board held a discussion on operational issues relating to virtual versus face-to-face committee meetings, the appropriate detail and format of information presented to the Board and committee members, and the proper length of committee meetings.

### **The Executive Director/CEO Report**

- The Executive Director/CEO and her direct reports updated the Board on the following: ACS financial trends and near term outlook; the launch of the recently approved American Association of Chemistry Teachers, which will support K-12 teachers of chemistry by providing them with a professional home that addresses and is responsive to their needs; and the activities and plans of CAS (Chemical Abstracts Service) and the ACS Publications Division. As a follow-up to the Publications report, the Board VOTED to approve three journal editor re-appointments. The Board also VOTED to approve one appointment to the

ACS Green Chemistry Institute Governing Board and one reappointment to the ACS Governing Board for Publishing.

### **Other Society Business**

The Board also:

- Expressed its gratitude and thanks to Madeleine Jacobs, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, who on March 6 announced her plan to retire at the end of the year. The Board then began a discussion of the process and logistics of identifying and hiring her successor.
- Received reports from the Presidential Succession on their current and planned activities for the remainder of 2014 and 2015.
- Approved a resolution congratulating Robert Massie on his retirement at the end of this month for twenty-one years of successful leadership of the Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS).

### **The Board's Open Session**

- The Board held a lively, well-attended open session which featured a special forum focused on the question: "What is the one thing you like that ACS does, and why?" Members attending the session also received a brief review of the questions posed at the spring 2013 Board Open Session in New Orleans and the follow-ups undertaken by governance and staff. Board members continue to be pleased by the new format, turnout and quality of the discussions.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR COUNCILORS**

The following is a list of URLs and email addresses presented on slides at the Council meeting. You will find the information noted on these sites helpful.

[d.schmidt@acs.org](mailto:d.schmidt@acs.org), [president@acs.org](mailto:president@acs.org)

Contact information for ACS President-Elect Diane Grob Schmidt

[m.wu@acs.org](mailto:m.wu@acs.org)

Contact information for ACS Immediate Past President Marinda Wu

[www.yellowbook.acs.org](http://www.yellowbook.acs.org)

Update Councilor Preference Form (membership number required)

[nomelect@acs.org](mailto:nomelect@acs.org)

Email address for the Committee on Nominations and Elections and to submit questions to Town Hall Meetings

[www.acs.org](http://www.acs.org)

Click on “About Us” and scroll down to ACS Financial Information for information on the Society’s audited finances and IRS Form 990 filings

[safety@acs.org](mailto:safety@acs.org)

Email address for comments and suggestions about chemical safety to the Committee on Chemical Safety

[www.acs.org/bulletin5](http://www.acs.org/bulletin5)

ACS governing documents including information on petitions and certified bylaws for all units

[bylaws@acs.org](mailto:bylaws@acs.org)

Email to send petitions (deadline **April 23**)

[www.acs.org/earthday](http://www.acs.org/earthday)

Chemists Celebrate Earth Day (CCED) 2014

<http://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/about/governance/committees/cwd/publications.html>

*Teaching Chemistry to Students with Disabilities* digitized version will be published here in April 2014.

<http://www.acs.org/chemistry-over-coffee>

Conversations with Celebrated Chemists

#### Local Section Resources

- [www.acs.org/getinvolved](http://www.acs.org/getinvolved)  
Grant information, important deadlines and officer resources
- [www.acs.org/forms](http://www.acs.org/forms)  
Submit annual reports, record meetings, activities and events year round