

**COUNCILOR TALKING POINTS**  
**SUMMARY OF GOVERNANCE ACTIONS/REPORTS**

**AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY**  
**241<sup>st</sup> ACS NATIONAL MEETING**  
**ANAHEIM, CA**  
**MARCH 27-31, 2011**

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 2011 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, 2012: Judith L. Benham, Dennis Chamot, Diane Grob Schmidt, and Marinda Li Wu. By electronic ballot, the Council selected Dennis Chamot and Marinda Li Wu as candidates for 2012 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 represent District III and District VI on the Board of Directors for the term 2012-2014. Nominees for District III included Susan B. Butts, Pat N. Confalone, David J. Lohse, and Judith A. Summers-Gates. Nominees for District VI included G. Bryan Balazs, Bonnie A. Charpentier, Carlos G. Gutierrez, and Victor J. Hruby. By mail ballot, the Councilors from these districts selected Pat N. Confalone and David J. Lohse as District III candidates; and Bonnie A. Charpentier and Carlos G. Gutierrez as District VI candidates. Ballots will be mailed on or before October 10 to all 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 2012-2014 term: Ken B. Anderson, William F. Carroll, Jr., Charles E. Kolb, and Barbara A. Sawrey. The election of two Directors-at-Large will be conducted in the fall. Ballots will be mailed to the Council on or before October 10.

**Change in Committee Charge**

- The Council VOTED to amend the charter of the Committee on Technician Affairs to include updated terminology.

**The Society's Finances**

- In spite of the economic challenges faced in 2010, the Society's operating performance held up remarkably well. Total revenue was \$463.7 million, up +0.8% from 2009, and \$2.4 million (+0.5%) higher than the 2010 budget. The Net from Operations was \$23.8 million, or \$11.9 million favorable to budget. This resulted largely from cost containment initiatives and lower-than-budgeted salaries and fringe benefits.

## **2012 Member Dues**

- The Council VOTED to set the member dues for 2012 at the fully escalated rate of \$148. This rate is established pursuant to an inflation-adjustment formula in the ACS Constitution and Bylaws.

## **Petitions to Amend the Constitution and Bylaws**

(For Consideration)

- The Council received one petition for consideration: The Petition on Position Statements. The Petition on Position Statements seeks to assure that the Board of Directors has primacy in issuing position statements that establish policy for the full Society and that Society bodies other than the Board may issue statements on issues that fall solely in their jurisdiction so long as they do not impair other Society bodies' ability to do the same. Action is expected on this petition at the fall Council meeting.

## **Local Section Name Change and Grant Deadlines**

- The Council VOTED to change the name of the Northeast Oklahoma Section to the Northern Oklahoma Section. This name change is due to the recent merger of the North Central Oklahoma Section and its territories into the Northeast Oklahoma Section. The proposed name change more closely reflects the combined territories of the two Sections.
- The Council was reminded of grant deadlines from the Committee on Local Section Activities as follows:
  - Science Café Grants – Ongoing
  - Bridging the Gap: Student Member Grant – December 1
  - Bridging the Gap: IYC Grant – June 1
  - Innovative Project Grants – June 30
  - Joint LSAC/IAC International Interaction Grant – TBA

## **Division Allotment Calculator**

- The Council VOTED to continue for three years the current formula for determining allotments to divisions.

## **Member Statistics**

- Membership recruitment efforts were exceptionally successful in 2010. It is particularly impressive that due to efficiencies in recruiting efforts, the net cost to recruit the more than 25,000 new members decreased from \$122 per member in 2008 to \$67 in 2010 despite increases in costs for postage and printing. The official membership number for 2011 stands at 163,111.

## **Attendance Report**

- As of March 30, 2011, the ACS spring national meeting had attracted 14,047 registrants as follows: Regular attendees, 7,336; Students, 4,682; Exhibitors, 1,097; Exposition only, 599; and Guests, 333.

## **Petition to Charter New International Chemical Sciences Chapters**

- The Council VOTED to authorize the formation of the following two new international chemical sciences chapters: the Shanghai International Chemical Sciences Chapter and the Thailand International Chemical Sciences Chapter.

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

### **The Board's Committees, Advisory Boards and Working Groups**

The Board of Directors received reports from the Committees on Professional & Member Relations (P&MR), Grants and Awards (G&A), and Planning, along with its Executive Committee.

The Committee on Grants and Awards presented the Board with a screened list of nominees for the 2012 Priestley Medal and the 2012 Award for Volunteer Service to the ACS. The Board VOTED to approve the screened lists, and will now vote on, and announce, the winners of these two awards after its June meeting. On the recommendation of G&A, the Board VOTED that Regulation III, Section 13, paragraph 2 (and related language) be removed from the Charter, Constitution, Bylaws and Regulations (Bulletin 5) of the American Chemical Society, because effective January 1, 2011, the ACS Petroleum Research Fund no longer provides a 1% allocation to the ACS Green Chemistry Institute®.

The Chair briefed the Board on items arising from the Executive Committee meeting, including agreement of the Board's role at the Leadership Institute and attendance at various other conferences and events.

On the recommendation of the Board Logistics and Training group, the Board agreed to change the group's name to the Board Operations and Technology Team. Several topics were presented with regard to improving the effectiveness of Board operations.

The Board received a thorough report from the Presidential Task Force on Innovation in the Chemical Enterprise: New Technologies for the Society, New Jobs for Chemists. The Board heard the task force report recommendations on how ACS could help entrepreneurs create U.S. jobs for chemists. The Board reached consensus in support of the next steps outlined by the task force. The recommendations from this report will be sent to all Councilors.

### **Strategic Issue: ACS Worldwide Strategy**

At this meeting, the Board continued its discussion of a Society Worldwide strategy as a follow-up to the strategic issues retreat in January, and is also involving the Planning Committee in a more thorough review to engage other members and stakeholders in these discussions. The Board plans to wrap up its ACS Worldwide strategy discussions by year-end.

### **Plan for a Financial Planning Conference**

Every three to five years, the Board, with the Committee on Budget and Finance, holds a conference to discuss in greater detail the Society's finances and its financial objectives. In Anaheim, the Board was briefed on the preliminary plans and desired outcomes for the 2011 Financial Planning Conference, to be held in June. The theme for this conference is "Ensuring the Society's Financial Sustainability and Growth in a Period of Extraordinary Change."

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

The Executive Director/CEO and several of her direct reports updated the Board on the activities of CAS (Chemical Abstracts Service), the ACS Publications Division, and the Society's General Counsel. The General Counsel report included an update on the ACS vs. Leadscope litigation. ACS's appeal, which is supported by several prominent Ohio organizations and the Ohio Attorney General, has been accepted by the Ohio Supreme Court, and is under review by that body. As a follow-up to the Publications report, the Board VOTED to approve three editor reappointments to ACS journals.

## **Compensation of Society Executive Staff**

The Board received a report from its Committee on Executive Compensation and VOTED to approve several actions relative to compensation for the Society's Executive staff. The compensation of the Society's Executive staff receives regular review from the Board.

## **Other Society Issues**

The Board received a report from the President-Elect on plans and priorities during his presidential year. The Board also reviewed and discussed the presidential succession budget - particularly in light of increasing international and domestic travel demands.

The Board VOTED to ratify several consent actions taken since its December meeting, including editor appointments, an appointment to the Board Committee on Executive Compensation, and a reappointment to the Governing Board for Publishing.

## **The Society's International Activities**

The American Chemical Society and the Federation of Asian Chemical Societies (a federation of 28 chemical societies of countries and territories in the Asia Pacific) agreed to a three-year collaboration alliance characterized by mutual benefits, impact, and commitment to cooperation in service to chemical scientists, engineers and professionals represented by the respective organizations. The signing of this memorandum of understanding took place during a special ceremony at the Board's regular session.

The Board also received reports from several international guests representing the following scientific societies: the Chemical Society for Canada, the Latin American Federation of Chemical Associations, the German Chemical Society, the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC), the Mexican Chemical Society, the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC), and the Federation of Asian Chemical Societies.

## ADDITIONAL TALKING POINTS

### **BUILDING A ROBUST WORKFORCE IN THE U.S.**

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From the beginning of Joseph Francisco's presidential succession, he has focused on one overarching theme—ensuring that aspiring chemists and seasoned professionals in the U.S. have the skill sets, resources, and external environment to build and sustain a robust workforce in the U.S. Given the historic job losses in our enterprise in the past few years, he felt that this was by far his most important priority.

Last year at the ACS spring meeting, a Presidential symposium explored the skills needed by industry in a global environment and what universities could do to provide those skills. Also last year, President Francisco appointed two presidential task forces, both of which have now come to fruition. One task force completed its work late last year and developed the concept of an ACS international center, which would be the first place a U.S. chemist would come to learn about international education, research, and employment opportunities abroad and a non U.S. chemist would come to learn about those same opportunities in the U.S.

The second task force was charged with ensuring that the U.S. remains the most innovative and entrepreneurial country in the world. This task force was headed by Harvard University professor and entrepreneur George Whitesides and comprised eminent members of the chemical enterprise from industry, academia, and government, all with experience in entrepreneurship. They outlined the current landscape of innovation in chemistry, broadly defined; defined barriers and opportunities for stimulating innovation; and recommended specific programs that ACS could implement to help chemists become innovators and entrepreneurs and thus create new, high-paying sustainable jobs in the U.S. and stem further job losses

The Task Force had many recommendations, which fall into four major categories.

First, the task force recommended that ACS should **develop a single organizational unit—a kind of “technological farmers’ market”—offering affordable (or free) help to entrepreneurs.** This unit is envisioned as supporting entrepreneurs by facilitating more affordable access to resources that should foster the creation of small companies from startups. Relevant resources might include information, management expertise, key services, and mentors. The unit could also support entrepreneurs in making introductions to much-needed capital and fostering partnerships with large companies. ACS staff and several ACS governance units are already exploring how this one-stop portal can be implemented.

Second, the task force recommended that ACS should **increase its advocacy of policies at the federal and state level to improve the business environment** for entrepreneurs and startup companies. The task force suggested that ACS should urge reforms within the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to assure more accurate patents and faster issuance. The USPTO has a backlog of 700,000 patents, and the slow pace of issuance is a deterrent to keeping the U.S. competitive. ACS needs to lobby for legislative reforms, but in addition, ACS has talented unemployed members who could be of assistance to patent examiners. ACS has written to the head of the USPTO and have already heard back that they are interested in exploring a number of ideas. The task force also

outlined a number of financial policies that if enacted could encourage large companies to partner with small ones to promote entrepreneurship. These include preferential tax treatment for repatriated income invested in U.S.-based developers of technology and making the R&D tax credit more simplified, permanent, and transferable. And there was a host of other ideas.

The third recommendation urged ACS to **partner more vigorously with academic institutions and other relevant organizations to promote awareness of career pathways and educational opportunities** that involve or include entrepreneurship. The task force had several interesting suggestions that will be pursued by various staff and governance units.

And finally, the task force felt that ACS should **increase public awareness of the value of early-stage entrepreneurship** in the chemical enterprise with focused media coverage and information targeted to federal agencies that support chemistry. In addition, ACS should provide ways to recognize entrepreneurs publicly, to increase their visibility and enhance their opportunities for success.

In the near future, President Francisco plans to release the entire report to members, the public, and policymakers. If you have ideas, please send them to Madeleine Jacobs, [m\\_jacobs@acs.org](mailto:m_jacobs@acs.org).

As this Task Force was concluding its work, President Barack Obama delivered his January 2011 State of the Union Address. In that address, President Obama stated: “The first step in winning the future is encouraging American innovation. None of us can predict with certainty what the next big industry will be, or where the new jobs will come from. ...What we can do—what America does better than anyone—is spark the creativity and imagination of our people.”

To that end, the American Chemical Society is positioned to help stimulate entrepreneurial activities across the chemical enterprise to help spark the creativity and imagination of our country’s chemists and thereby create quality jobs in the U.S.