



Councilor Talking Points: 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 **Donivan R. Porterfield** for a 2016-2018 term on the **Committee on Nominations and Elections**.

Petitions to Amend Bylaws

- The Council **VOTED** to approve the **Petition on Preferential Voting** and the **Petition on Member Expulsion**, contingent upon confirmation by the ACS Board of Directors.

Procedures (relating to the Petitions, above)

- On the recommendation of the Committee on Nominations and Elections, the Council **VOTED** to approve the **Balloting and Preferential Voting Procedures for Elections of President-Elect, District Directors, and Directors-at-Large**, contingent upon approval of the Petition on Preferential Voting.
- On the recommendation of the Committee on Membership Affairs, the Council **VOTED** to approve the **Procedure for Expulsion of a Member**, contingent upon approval of the Petition on Member Expulsion.

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.

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Reports of Elected Committees (Highlights)

Nominations and Elections (N&E)

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

Council Policy (CPC)

The CPC Long-Range Planning Subcommittee was asked to review the way Local Sections and Divisions are currently represented on Council. The Task Force is examining issues that affect the Divisor formulae set out in the Bylaws; for example, how sacrosanct is the rule that twenty percent of elected Councilors shall be elected by Divisions, and eighty percent shall be elected by Local Sections? What would Council look like if the ratio were changed, for example to 70/30? Should there be more Division representation on Council and what would be the impact? Would this result in more resources for Divisions? Should a cap be placed on the number of Councilors per Local Section and Divisions to ensure more balance? What does representation look like for international members of Local sections and Divisions? Comments on these questions can be submitted to President@acs.org.

Reports of Society Committees and the Committee on Science (Highlights)

Budget and Finance (B&F)

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.

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Education (SOCED)

- SOCED voted to approve revisions to the ACS Guidelines for Chemistry in Two-Year Colleges.
- The committee voted to make the pilot program of ACS International Student Chapters a permanent feature of the student chapters program. ACS has chartered 15 International Student Chapters since the pilot launched last year.

Science (ComSci)

ComSci voted to recommend approval of the draft ACS policy statement on energy, a notably improved statement on this critical economic and environmental issue. At this meeting, the committee sponsored a roundtable discussion with leaders of Divisions, journals, and outside experts on moving advanced materials from discovery to application.

Reports of Standing Committees (Highlights)

Local Section Activities (LSAC)

- 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)

- 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)

The committee 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.

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Reports of Other Committees (Highlights)

Chemical Safety (CCS)

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.

Community Activities (CCA)

CCA reported that one of its most popular programs is the nation-wide Illustrated Poem Contest (IPC). Local Sections submit outstanding entries based on the theme of National Chemistry Week or Chemists Celebrate Earth Day. In the spirit of the IPC, the chair used various styles of verse to report on CCA's public outreach event held at the Boston Museum of Science, and to announce the theme of National Chemistry Week 2016, "Solving Mysteries Through Chemistry".

International Activities (IAC)

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)

- 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 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)

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)

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*

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News, and the ACS Office of Public Affairs; ChemChamps; and Wikipedia Edit-a-thon, co-sponsored with the Division of Chemical Information.

Senior Chemists (SCC)

This meeting marked the third anniversary of the formation of the SCC at the Philadelphia National Meeting. SCC has been able to establish a number of initiatives thru its provision of mini-grants to Local Sections to sponsor senior-related activities, several of which were recognized by the initial ChemLuminary awards at Boston.

Technician Affairs (CTA)

CTA is now accepting nominations for the 2016 National Chemical Technician Award. This annual award is presented in recognition of outstanding technical and communication skills, reliability, leadership, teamwork, publications, and presentations. For more information about the award, please visit the committee website at acs.org/cta.

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.

Actions of the Board of Directors

The Board's Executive Session

The Board's Committees

The Board of Directors received reports from its Executive Committee, the Committee on Grants and Awards (G&A), the Society Committee on Budget and Finance (B&F), and the ACS Governing Board for Publishing.

- The Board **VOTED** to approve a Society nominee for the National Science Board Public Service Award and a Society nominee for the 2016 Alan T. Waterman Award.
- On the recommendation of the Committee on Budget and Finance, the Board **VOTED** to approve an advance member registration fee of \$415 for national meetings held in 2016; to authorize a new program funding request for the ACS Festival Series program; and to reauthorize funding for the ACS Science Coaches program.

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The Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer's Report

The Executive Director/CEO and his direct reports updated the Board on the activities of Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS), the ACS Publications Division, and the Society's Secretary and General Counsel. On the recommendation of the Joint Board-Council Committee on Publications, the Board **VOTED** to reappoint an Editor-in-Chief of an ACS journal.

Other Society Business

The Board also:

- Held a discussion on strategic questions related to the health and strength of Local Sections and Divisions.
- Received reports from the Presidential Succession on their symposia and events in Boston, and planned activities for 2016.
- Approved a resolution to extend sincere congratulations to the Sociedad Química de México on the occasion of the 50th Congreso Mexicano de Química, 7-10 October 2015, in Querétaro, Querétaro México.

The Board's Regular (Open) Session

The Board held an overflow open session on Sunday, August 16, that featured George Whitesides. Professor Whitesides' topic was "Reengineering Chemistry." Following the presentation, members of the presidential succession and the Executive Director and CEO offered brief reports on their activities. (The officers provided more extensive reports on their activities and/or future plans as part of their [reports to the Council](#).)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR COUNCILORS

Diane Grob Schmidt

d.schmidt@acs.org

Donna J. Nelson

president@acs.org

C&B Bylaws / Bulletin V

djnelson@ou.edu

bylaws@acs.org

Career Navigator

www.acs.org/bulletin5

Get Involved Stay Involved (Local Sections)

www.acs.org/careernavigator

www.acs.org/getinvolved

Activities of the Virginia Section Councilors

Kristine Smetana - continues to serve on the Society for the Committee on Education (SOCED). She is on working groups with the WCC focusing on women in non-tenured positions, Working Group on Sustainability with the Green Chemistry and Committee for Environmental Improvement.

Ann Sullivan - was selected to be a member of the Membership Affairs Committee. In Boston, she attended the Membership Affairs committee meeting on Sunday, August 16. She presented a poster for the History Division during Sci Mix on the 100th Anniversary and History of the Virginia Section. She attended the District Caucus, Town Hall meetings, and the Regional Meeting Roundtable to discuss how Regional meeting help our students and members can use the regional meeting to present papers and posters or meet other chemists within our region. She attended the reception and induction of ACS Fellows and the ChemLuminary Awards. Finally, she attended Council on Wednesday morning. The return home was so much fun - 13 hours in the Boston Airport is just how I want to spend my day.

Linette Watkins - Attended the CMA meeting, the CMA luncheon, and the 20th anniversary celebration of the ACS Scholars where she organized the all day symposium honoring outstanding graduates of the program. Attended the town hall meeting and district caucus. Attended the Council Policy Committee meeting, the Division of Professional Relation executive committee meeting, the Henry Hill 100th anniversary reception, and the ChemLuminary awards. Ended the meeting with the council meeting and a whale watching trip.

Janet Asper - got stuck in the Philly airport trying to get to Boston and arrived much later than planned and missed a lot of my committee stuff. Anyway, attended the CCA meetings, still on the Technology and Training subcommittee and went to Council.

Joe Crocket -