



American Chemical Society 249th ACS National Meeting
Denver, Colorado; March 22-26, 2015

Councilor Talking Points and Summary of Governance Issues and Actions

The following summary is provided to help Councilors report to their Local Section and Division on key actions of the [ACS Council Meeting](#) and Board of Directors Meetings at the 2015 spring national meeting in Denver, Colorado.

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, 2016: G. Bryan Balazs, Allison A. Campbell, David J. Lohse, and Christopher J. Welch. By electronic ballot, the Council selected **G. Bryan Balazs** and **Allison A. Campbell** as **candidates for 2016 President-Elect**.
- 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 I and District V on the Board of Directors for the term 2016-2018.
- The Committee on Nominations and Elections announced the selection of the following **candidates for Directors-at-Large** for 2016-2018 terms: **Willem R. Leenstra, Ingrid Montes, Mary Jo Ondrechen, and Thomas W. Smith.**

2016 Member Dues

- The Council voted to set the member dues for 2016 at the fully escalated rate of \$162. This rate is established pursuant to an inflation-adjustment formula in the ACS Constitution and Bylaws.

National Meeting Long-Range Financial Plan

- Following a discussion on the revenue supporting National Meetings, the ACS Council respectfully requested that the Board of Directors delay the implementation of the technical meeting additional fee to the meeting registration fee, until the Board presents an analysis (preferably at the Boston national meeting) of the projected break even fee, including and excluding the net revenue from the National Meeting Exposition.

New International Chemical Sciences Chapters

- 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 India International Chemical Sciences Chapter and the Taiwan International Chemical Sciences Chapter.

Reports of Elected Committees (Highlights)

- **Council Policy (CPC)** As required by the Society's Bylaws, CPC has set the divisors which will be used to determine how many Councilors each Local Section and Division is entitled for 2016-2019. Official notification will be sent to Local Sections and Divisions within two weeks of the

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Council meeting. CPC's Long Range Planning Subcommittee is forming a task force to consider whether changes are in order for the calculations and policies, and to implement any recommendations in time for the 2020 election cycle.

- **Nominations and Elections (N&E)** The committee introduced the candidates for Directors-at-Large, 2016-2018: Willem R. Leenstra (Green Mountain Section), Ingrid Montes (Puerto Rico Section), Mary Jo Ondrechen (Northeastern Section), and Thomas W. Smith (Rochester Section).

Reports of Society Committees and Committee on Science (Highlights)

- **Budget and Finance (B&F)** In 2014, ACS generated a Net from Operations of \$17.9 million, which was \$4.2 million favorable to budget. Total revenues were \$499.0 million, \$0.7 million or 0.1 percent higher than budget. Expenses ended the year at \$481.1 million, \$3.5 million favorable to the budget. Despite favorable operating results, the Society's financial position weakened in 2014, with Unrestricted Net Assets declining \$62.3 million, to \$144.7 million at year-end. This decline was the result of a significant accounting charge related to the Society's two closed postretirement benefit plans.
- **Education (SOCED)** SOCED reported that more than 1,900 individuals have joined the [American Association of Chemistry Teachers \(AACT\)](#) which launched last year, 88 percent of whom are K-12 teachers of chemistry. The Dow Chemical Company was announced as the Sole Founding Partner of AACT with a gift of \$1 million.
- **Science (ComSci)** ComSci has collaborated with several ACS committees to develop five public policy statements which were approved by the Board in December 2014. More recently ComSci led the development of a new draft ACS policy statement on hydraulic fracturing, which will be considered by the Board. Current collaborations include revising ACS policy statements on energy, climate change and forensic science.

Reports of Standing Committees (Highlights)

- **Committee on Meetings and Expositions (M&E)** M&E recommends that the Early Member Registration Fee for 2016 national meetings be \$415, per the National Meeting Long-Range Financial Plan.
As part of the continuing ACS sustainability effort and to encourage the use of the ACS mobile app and online program, M&E has decided to discontinue free distribution of the hard copy program book starting in 2016. Those who pre-register for the meeting may purchase a copy of the program book for \$10 (pick up on site), and copies will be available at the meeting for \$20. The PDF version of the national meeting program will be more prominently displayed on the ACS website for those who would like to print portions for themselves.
M&E reported on the attendance as of Tuesday evening, March 24 of **13,940**
- **Committee on Divisional Activities (DAC)** DAC voted to fund ten Innovative Project Grants (IPG) totaling \$54,000. The committee will consider another set of IPG proposals during the Boston National Meeting in August, 2015; the deadline for that round of submissions in July 1, 2015. National meeting attendees were recently surveyed for their views on the Society's policy

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governing the use of devices to capture and/or disseminate content delivered at our meetings. While expressing support for the policy, the respondents also expressed interest in amending the current policy to permit presenters – at their discretion – to authorize audience members to capture and disseminate content.

- **Committee on Local Section Activities (LSAC)** LSAC awarded 15 Innovative Project Grants for a total of \$38,389, and is continuing to offer a mini-grant to Local Sections that attended the 2015 Leadership Institute to partner with neighboring sections to host an activity that would bring value to all members in a specific region. The committee is also planning to fund 16 grants totaling \$4000 for the Bridging the Gap: Teachers of Chemistry K-12 Nano-Grants. More information about all LSAC grants, and those of other committees, is available at www.acs.org/getinvolved.
- **Committee on Membership Affairs (MAC)** MAC approved a recommendation from staff to ask individuals who have been receiving the 50 percent Graduate Student Discount for four years or more if they are still graduate students so they can receive the correct dues renewal. The current process does not provide an opportunity for graduate students to change their status after graduation except by contacting ACS Member Services. MAC has endorsed President Diane Schmidt's campaign to invite faculty from PhD granting U.S. institutions to give ACS membership as an award to outstanding students in chemistry. Schmidt will match each gift by paying a student's membership from her Presidential funds.
- **Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs (CEPA)** CEPA reported the 2014 New Graduate Survey Results which show the unemployment rate for new graduate chemists has dropped from 14.9 percent in the 2013 survey to 12.4 percent as of 2014. The drop is principally due to more new bachelor's degree chemists finding employment. ACS members experienced three successive years of lowered unemployment, which could hint at a positive outlook for chemists in coming years. While unemployment is down, salaries have been overall stagnant. The ACS Career Fair had 715 seekers, 27 employers, 85 positions, and 10 booths. The Virtual Career Fair had 918 seekers, 6 employers, and 38 positions.
- **Committee on Constitution and Bylaws (C&B)** C&B certified 23 bylaws in 2014, the second largest number certified in any year. Additionally, the committee has reviewed bylaws for 10 Local Sections and 5 Divisions since fall 2014. Certified bylaws and a status report are posted on www.acs.org/bulletin5

Reports of Other Committees (Highlights)

- **Women Chemists (WCC)** WCC celebrated ten early-to-mid-career women chemists as recipients of the Fourth Annual WCC Rising Star Awards, and eight WCC/Eli Lilly Travel Grant awardees. WCC is also collaborating with Merck to develop a new Research Award that will fund eight women graduate students to present their research at the fall national meeting in Boston. Members of WCC have been involved as contributing authors and editors for the second more diverse and inclusive edition of "Mom, the Chemistry Professor" being published by Springer.

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- **Professional Training (CPT)** At this meeting, CPT reviewed 39 periodic reports from currently approved programs and held conferences with two departments beginning the process of applying for ACS approval. CPT also reviewed four site visit reports and approved three new programs. There are currently 681 colleges and universities offering ACS-approved bachelor's degree programs in chemistry. The new [2015 ACS Guidelines for Bachelor's Degree Programs](#) were approved at CPT's winter meeting and recently published on the ACS website.
- **International Activities (IAC)** At this meeting, the committee received, reviewed, and approved annual reports from ACS International Chemical Sciences Chapters in Hong Kong, Hungary, Malaysia, Romania, Saudi Arabia, and Shanghai. Additionally, the committee reviewed and approved new chapter applications initiated by members in Brazil, Nigeria, Peru, and the United Arab Emirates.
- **Environmental Improvement (CEI)** At this meeting CEI awarded Local Section Sustainability Grants to three Local Sections: Cornell, Kalamazoo, and Midland. CEI and the Division of Environmental Chemistry have jointly established a project to provide grant support for programming around climate change at regional meetings. CEI continues to review existing ACS policy statements, and at this meeting approved recommendations to the Board to establish new public policy statements on Hydraulic Fracturing and on Water Treatment and Conservation.
- **Chemistry and Public Affairs (CCPA)** The committee highlighted the power of ACS member engagement in government affairs by relating the bipartisan effort, despite partisan roadblocks, to secure a resolution for National Chemistry Week in the United States Senate by Senator Chris Coons, a Democrat from Delaware, and Republican Senator Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania.

Actions of the Board of Directors

The Board's Executive Session

- **The Board's Committees** The Board of Directors received and discussed the following:
 - On the recommendation of the Committee on Grants and Awards (G&A) and of the Committee on Science, the Board voted to approve a Society nominee for the National Medal of Science.
 - On the recommendation of the Committee on Professional and Member Relations (P&MR), the Board voted to provide nominal sponsorship, without financial commitment, for the ["Frontiers of Science Research and Education in the Middle East: A Bridge to Peace"](#) (Malta VII) to be held in Rabat, Morocco, November, 2015.
 - 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.
 - On the recommendation of the Society Committee on Education (SOCED), the Board voted to approve a procedure for the establishment of the inaugural Governing Board for the [American Association of Chemistry Teachers \(AACT\)](#).

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- On the recommendation of the Joint Board-Council Committee on Publications, the Board voted to approve the reappointment of an Editor-in-Chief for an ACS journal.
- **The Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer's Report** The Executive Director/CEO offered a review of his initial month in the position.
- **Other Society Business** The Board heard reports from the Presidential Succession on their current and planned activities for 2015.

The Board's Open Session

The Board held a well-attended open session which featured Bibiana Campos Seijo, Editor-in-Chief, *C&EN*. Dr. Campos Seijo's topic was "Getting Bang for Your Buck in Science Communications." Prior to the presentation, members of the presidential succession and the new 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.

The following is a list of URLs and email addresses presented in reports or on slides at the Council meeting.

Diane Grob Schmidt, President-Elect	d.schmidt@acs.org
Donna Nelson, President-Elect	djnelson@ou.edu
Budget and Finance	www.acs.org → About ACS → ACS Financial Information
Career Navigator	www.acs.org/careernavigator
Committee Preference Forms	https://www.yellowbook.acs.org
Constitution and Bylaws	bylaws@acs.org / www.acs.org/bulletin5
Local Section Activities	www.acs.org/getinvolved
Nominations and Elections	nomelect@acs.org

Online Information for Councilors

<http://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/about/governance/councilors.html>

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Activities of the Virginia Local 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. She is currently on a task force through SOCED regarding the statement for Hands on laboratories.. She attended the Student Affiliate Awards evening and presented awards. She attended the reception to salute all local section volunteers. She is part of the new mentorship program for councilors and her mentor is Katie Hunt, Past ACS President.

Ann Sullivan –completed service on the Local Sections Activities Committee (LSAC) and its Technology, Tools and Operations Subcommittee. She was nominated and is an associate member for Membership Affairs (MAC).

Linette Watkins – Chaired the ACS Scholars subcommittee meeting where she organized the planning of the 20th anniversary celebration of the ACS Scholars to be held in Boston in 2015. Organized a symposium in San Francisco on Asian women chemists. Attended the Research Corporation and Diversity receptions. Attended the ACS Fellows award presentation, where she was inducted as a member of the 2014 class of ACS Fellows. Attended the Division of Biological Chemistry awards dinner and met with the SERMACS leadership to discuss her nomination for chair-elect of the SERMACS board. Attended the NSF REU leadership group meeting where she helped plan the next NSF REU leadership PI meeting to be held in San Antonio next summer. Attended the Division of Professional Relation executive committee meeting, Henry Hill Awards reception and ChemLuminary awards reception and ceremony. Attended council meeting, was elected to the Council Policy Committee and attended the Advancing the Extraordinary Leader professional development workshop.

Janet Asper, Alternate councilor - was quite busy at the Denver meeting. On Saturday morning she assisted with the Committee on Community Activity Activities' (CCA) outreach event at the Denver Zoo, which did demonstrations and passed out goodie bags to 600 children. Her term on the Chemists Celebrate Earth Day 2015 theme team has concluded, and she has joined the CCED 2016 theme team. Her article "Particles and Climate Change" was published in the CCED 2015 issue of Celebrating Chemistry, and can be found at <http://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/outreach/celebrating-chemistry-editions.html>. As a member of the Technology and Training subcommittee of CCA (TnT), she is helping to update and revamp the materials for new CCED and NCW coordinators. Janet Attended the Councilors Caucus and the Council Meeting. Since Denver, she has judged 4 ChemLuminary categories, and two age groups in the CCED 2015 illustrated poem contest. Unrelated to her committee work, Janet gave an invited talk in the History of Chemistry division "Aiming chemical weapons at student engagement: Chemistry and War as a first year seminar".

Joe Crocket, Alternate councilor - Prior to the Dallas meeting I participated in the online training for new councilors. At the Dallas meeting I attended the new councilor orientation session on Saturday night, the open meeting of the Committee on Ethics on Sunday morning, and the open meeting of the Committee on Chemical Safety on Monday morning.

Will Lewis, Alternate councilor