

COUNCILOR REPORT

237th ACS NATIONAL MEETING

SALT LAKE CITY, UT, 22-26, MARCH 2009

Portions of this report are taken directly from “COUNCILOR TALKING POINTS, SUMMARY OF GOVERNANCE ACTIONS/REPORTS” received from Flint H. Lewis, Secretary of the Society. These sections will be in quotations marks, followed by (FHL)

Divisional Activities Committee- The Committee (DAC) met on the mornings of Saturday and Sunday, 21 and 22 of March. Kevin Edgar was Chair. Among the items on the Agenda were:

1. Presentation on electronic dissemination of national meeting content. This involves a pilot program is already underway. It is intensely controversial and you are certain to hear more about it in C&EN and future Councilor Reports.
2. The Subcommittee on Constitution and Bylaws covered the following issues:
 - a. Received from the Council Committee on Constitution and Bylaws (C&B) and reviewed the proposed template for Charter Bylaws for Probationary Divisions. The subcommittee made a number of recommendations for revised language to make the document more clear and precise. Subject to these changes, the Subcommittee recommended to DAC that it approve this template. The motion passed without dissent.
 - b. The Subcommittee discussed the implications of the Electronic Dissemination Task Force recommendations. It recommended no action pending the results of the experiment in progress.
 - c. One valid petition to amend the ACS Constitution and/or Bylaws was up FOR CONSIDERATION. The petition is misleadingly entitled: “Petition on Election Timelines”. It bundles together one well-intentioned outcome, shortening the timeline for the election process, with one malicious one, a further attempt to eliminate the possibility of qualifying candidates directly by petition. The Subcommittee concluded that this petition will have no direct impact on the Divisions. It recommended that DAC neither support nor oppose the petition at this time.
 - d. The Subcommittee began work on a proposal for a Bylaw amendment to provide guidelines for the dissolution of a Division. The approach is to mimic the guidelines for the formation of a new division. On Sunday, during the open meeting of the full committee, Joe Cato observed that the Bylaws are silent on Guidelines for the merger of divisions. We shall add this to our agenda.
3. Report from the Annual Report/Divisional Status Subcommittee:
 - a. 2008 Annual Reports will go out to reviewers on 17 April. They will be due back on 1 June.
 - b. The probationary Division of Catalysis Science and Technology has been successfully launched.
 - c. The Division of Chemical Technicians requested that the Division be dissolved. The Subcommittee agreed and DAC approved.
 - d. Received a report on Division of Cellulose and Renewable Materials.
 - e. Considered the status of Secretariats. There is only one active. Adopted a hands-off policy for the moment.
4. Divisional Enhancement Subcommittee:
 - a. Regional Meetings and allocation distribution formula – joint with Meetings

Subcommittee and Regional Meetings Subcommittee of M&E:

Defining a fair, measurable, practical metric that serves as an incentive for Divisions to participate more fully in regional meetings.

- b. Review ChemLuminary Self-Nominations and selected recipients for 2009 awards for activities in 2008.
 - c. Review Innovative Project Grant proposals.
5. Meetings Subcommittee
- a. See 4a above.
 - b. Path forward on electronic dissemination of national meeting content
 - c. Update on new Allocation Formula
 - d. Transfer of Thematic Programming to Multidisciplinary Program Planning Group (MPPG).

Town Hall Meeting- Sunday, 4:45 pm. The four nominees for 2010 President-Elect:

Berkeley (Buzz) W. Cue, Jr.

Nancy B. Jackson

Cheryl A. Martin

Dorothy J. Phillips

were scheduled to appear, make brief statements and answer questions. Nominee Cue was reported ill and unable to attend. I was otherwise engaged and missed it.

District IV Councilors Caucus- Sunday, 6:00 pm. The proposed dues hike of \$5.00 was regarded as inevitable. Great dissatisfaction was expressed with the proposed By-law amendment up for consideration.

“ACTIONS OF THE COUNCIL

1. Election Results

- The Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E) presented to the Council” the four nominees “for President-Elect, 2010”. All four appeared and addressed Council. “By electronic ballot, the Council selected Nancy B. Jackson and Cheryl A. Martin as candidates”. “These two candidates, along with any candidates selected via petitions, will stand for election in the Fall National Election”. (FHL)
- N&E “announced the results of the election to select candidates from the list of nominees to represent District I and District V on the Board of Directors for the term 2010-2012. Nominees for District I included: D. Richard Cobb, Neil D. Jespersen, Wayne E. Jones, and James L. Kallmerten. Nominees for District V included Thomas J. Barton, Judith L. Benham, Peter K. Dorhout, and John H. Moore. By mail ballot, the Councilors from these districts selected D. Richard Cobb and Neil D. Jespersen as District I candidates; and as District V candidates, Judith L. Benham and Peter K. Dorhout. Ballots will be mailed on or before October 10 to all members in District I and District V for election of a Director from each District.” (FHL)

2. “Candidates for Director-at-Large”

- N&E “announced the selection of the following candidates for Directors-at-Large for a 2010-2012 term: Dennis Chamot, H.N.Cheng, Ray A. Dickie, and Valerie J.

Kuck. 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.” (FHL)

3. “Committee Elections”

- N&E “presented Roger F. Bartholomew and Roland F. Hirsch to Council as candidates for election to the Committee on Committees (ConC) to fill a vacancy created by a committee member’s resignation. By written ballot, the Council elected Roland F. Hirsch.” (FHL)
- “Candidates Carol B. Libby and Robert A. Pribush were presented to Council for election to N&E to fill a vacancy created by a committee member’s resignation. By written ballot, the Council elected Robert A. Pribush.” (FHL)

4. “Change in Committee Charge

- The Council voted to permit the Committee on Chemistry and Public Affairs to amend a portion of its charge from: ”a. Identify and analyze legislative, regulatory, research and other science policy issues that impact upon the chemical sciences and technologies” to “a. Identify and analyze legislative; regulatory; research; Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education funding; and other science policy issues that impact upon the chemical sciences and technologies.” (FHL)

5. “The Society’s Finances

- The Council and Board of Directors received extensive briefings on the Society’s finances, which showed that, in spite of the economic challenges faced in 2008, the Society’s operating performance held up well. Total revenue was approximately \$450 million, up just over 3 % from 2007. The Society’s Net from Operations was \$9.7 million, and \$560,000 favorable to budget. This is the fifth consecutive year of positive operating results.” (FHL)
- During the recent Division Officers Caucus in Salt Lake City, a request was made for the link to the web page of the Committee on Budget and Finance. Please visit <http://portal.acs.org/portal/Navigate?nodeid=1523>. From that page you can find the presentation given to the division officers by John Adams by clicking on the link to ACS Financial Information that appears on the right side of the page in the box titled Committee Resources.
- “However, in 2008 ACS was adversely impacted by the historic collapse in the capital markets, which resulted in a sharp decline in the Society’s unrestricted net assets from \$212 million at December 31, 2007, to \$60 million at December 31, 2008. There were two factors driving this decrease, both related to the poor performance in the capital markets. These are substantial investment losses and a sizable increase in pension liability from the Society’s Defined Benefit Pension Plan. For this and other reasons, action was taken in 2007 to close the Defined Benefit Pension Plan, and, in 2008, to freeze benefit accruals for all Defined Benefit Pension Plan participants in 2009.” (FHL)
- “It is in this context that the Board received a detailed briefing from management at this meeting on the framework of the 2009 Contingency Plan. In 2006, the

Society had the foresight to develop a robust Contingency Plan that contemplated potential threats from many different sources, their probability of occurrence, likely duration and financial impact. The updated 2009 Plan covers all operating and administrative units as well as member programs, and identifies new and emerging threats. ACS management has also updated the mitigation strategies to respond to the threats and ensure the Society's long-term financial sustainability." (FHL)

No additional details were forthcoming. In the words of one cynical Councilor, this sounded like corporate-speak for "Trust us. We have everything under control."

- "Society management and the Board of Directors are closely monitoring financial performance versus the budget. In addition, significant reductions in discretionary spending have already been implemented and additional cost control measures are under consideration. However, despite the adverse impact of the economic downturn, the Society remains highly liquid with more than \$275 million in cash and investments, and limited debt of \$30 million." (FHL)

6. 2010 Member Dues

Based on the traditional formula, the full escalator in the dues is \$5. From the Council floor came a motion to amend this figure to \$4. There was a second. From the floor came a motion to amend this motion to make the \$4 optional. There was a second. After much discussion, the question was moved and approved by a voice vote. Then, both amendments failed by voice vote. Finally, electronic voting on the original motion determined that it passed 348-70. Thus, the member dues for 2010 will be at the fully escalated value of \$145.

7. "Member Statistics

At the close of 2008, Society membership totaled 154,024, compared to 160,052 for year-end 2007. In 2008, ACS completed the transition of its 15 year-old membership fulfillment system to a new, more robust system. The year-end 2008 membership numbers reflect a drop in membership of approximately 2% due to the economy and a correction to the counts of 2,589 Emeritus members whom ACS has not been able to reach for many years. Compared to its sister societies, ACS experienced a smaller loss of members in 2008." (FHL)

8. "Attendance Report

As of March 25, 2009, the ACS spring national meeting had attracted 10,668 registrants as follows: Regular attendees 5,781; Students 3,439; Exhibitors 780; Exposition only 411; and Guests 257." (FHL)

There were 4020 papers presented in 237 sessions. In the Exposition, there were 356 booths representing 228 companies. There were 14 workshops.

The spring 2019 national meeting is scheduled for Orlando; for fall 2019, San Diego.

9. Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs

In the Employment Clearing House, there were 611 members interviewing with 32 prospective employers for 176 positions.

"The Council VOTED to approve the Professional Employment Guidelines, as

submitted by the Committee. These guidelines offer a broad spectrum of recommended practices in employment for professional scientists and their employers.” (FHL)

“ACTIONS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. “Committee Actions

- The Board received reports from its Executive Committee, Committees on Grants and Awards (G&A), Committee on Planning, and the Committee on Professional and Member Relations (P&MR).
- On the recommendation of G&A, the Board VOTED to delegate oversight authority for the new ACS Fellows Program to G&A. G&A also presented the Board with a screened list of nominees for the 2010 Priestley Medal and the Volunteer Service Award. The Board VOTED to accept the committee’s lists and agreed to announce the winners after its June meeting.
- On the recommendation of P&MR, the Board VOTED to amend its regulations to reflect P&MR’s responsibility to review and approve requests for international alliances under delegated authority from the Board. The Board also VOTED to eliminate the requirement that an individual have a Pubs/CAS subscription authentication in order to be eligible for participation in the Network as an ACS global partner.” (FHL)

2. Report of the Executive Director

The Executive Director updated the Board on the activities of Chemical Abstracts Service, the Publications Division, and the Society’s General Counsel. The Board VOTED to approve a co-editor appointment and two reappointments of journal editors.

3. “Compensation of Society Staff

On the recommendation of the Committee on Executive Compensation, the Board 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.” (FHL)

No further details were made available.

The Council adjourned at 12:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. James A. Walsh, Councilor
Tampa Bay ACS Local Section
9 April 2009

