

## **COUNCILOR REPORT**

### **ACS NATIONAL MEETING**

**Atlanta, GA, 26-30 Mar 2006**

**DIVISIONAL ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE (DAC).** The timeline and assignments for the review of the 2005 Annual Reports of the Divisions were presented. The review process and ways to simplify the Annual Report Documents were discussed.

Don Clarke and I are co-chairs of the Constitution and Bylaws Subcommittee. The other two members of our committee were absent so the meeting was small and efficient. There were three items on our agenda. The first was a review of a request from The Rubber Division for approval of their affiliation with The Indian Rubber Institute. We began with the question of why the Rubber Division would want to do this. From the submitted supporting documentation the answer was not then, and is not now, obvious. We moved on to the document, "Procedures for Approval of Affiliation of ACS Divisions with Other Technical Organizations", adopted by DAC 20 Aug 2000. In part, the Procedures call for:

"A draft Memorandum of Understanding or similar document of affiliation signed by the Division and the other technical organization(s) that includes financial arrangements for the affiliation, texts of any contracts and any other documents needed to protect ACS from liability, including how to distribute any assets at the termination of the agreement."

This memorandum was missing and the subcommittee recommended that DAC ask for the documentation and defer approval of the affiliation until DAC was satisfied.

The second item was a late request from the Division of Polymer Chemistry (POLY) to change their name to The Polymer Division. Since POLY is incorporated, the name change will probably require a revision of the incorporation document. Before the request can be approved, it must circulate to all of the other divisions for comment. Anticipating possible objections from the Division of Polymeric Materials: Science and Engineering (PMSE), we discussed whether the objections of one division should be allowed to dictate to DAC that it deny the request. The subcommittee recommended that POLY and PMSE explore whether the time was at hand to merge the two divisions. Otherwise, the subcommittee saw no reason to deny the request.

Finally, the subcommittee was asked to examine the Society Constitution and Bylaws to see if there were any impediments to the initiative by DAC for Thematic Programming at National Meetings. The subcommittee found none and recommended that DAC continue on course.

In its Executive Session on Sunday afternoon, DAC heard a progress report on the ACS Governance Review Task Force by Nancy Jackson of the ACS Board of Directors. The goal for the process is that it be deliberative, inclusive, and not rushed (18-24 month timeline). At this point they are providing information to prompt discussion and feedback. The Task Force developed a framework that emphasizes rethinking the "function" of a set of five key elements of the Society's governance. They are: membership, geographical organization, disciplinary organization, governance structure, and governance operations. Subgroups were commissioned in each of the five areas to develop suggestions. The Task Force refined these suggestions and presented them to the Board of Directors and the Council Policy Committee (CPC). Neither the Board nor CPC has yet taken any action on these suggestions but is using them as the starting point for a broader discussion. Following are some of the suggestions for discussion:

#### Membership

Include Student Affiliates as members (continuing their reduced dues category and current benefits) and eliminate the Associate Member category.

- Make all applicants with a science degree or work experience eligible for full membership.
  - Applicants without a science degree or work experience in chemistry should be accepted into the ACS as Society Affiliates.
- The Student Member category dues discount should apply to postdoctoral fellows as well as graduate and undergraduate students.
- The Society should support and supply value to international members, but not replace the value of the home national society membership.

#### Geographical Organization

- Explore alternative ways of bringing a geographical view to governance and services.
- Extend “regional concept” to the international level.
- Provide additional staff support to local section and regional volunteers.

#### Disciplinary Organization

- The Technical Division structure, or something similar, should remain.
- Secretariats should be dissolved.
- Centralize National Meeting program coordination and planning.
- Establish a process for creating and dissolving focused interest groups.
- Additional staff support should be provided to technical division volunteers.

#### Governance Structure

- Reduce the number of Councilors through attrition, term limits, and restructuring, and develop a new formula to determine the number of Councilors.
- Have one meeting of the Council and some committees per year, rather than two. Use modern technology, e.g., teleconference, and regional meetings to continue the necessary and valuable interactions.
- Identify ways to separate governance activities from the technical programs of National Meetings.
- Have “At Large” Council seats for members elected to CPC, Committee on Nominations & Elections, and Committee on Committees.
- Enhance the role of Alternate Councilors to enhance leadership development potential.
- Reduce the number of committees and size of some committees. Clarify committee roles to eliminate redundancy, maximize the policy role, and improve the effectiveness of committee oversight for programs. Explore different models for committee structure.
- Appoint more non-Councilors to committees to encourage broader participation and obtain new viewpoints.

#### Governance Operations

- Enhance the communication to, and understanding of, members about the net contributing operations of the ACS and their relation to fulfilling the ACS mission.
- Critically review and revitalize the Committee on Chemical Abstract Service and the Committee on Publications to increase committee member involvement and communication with the membership at large.
- Use business resources as venture capital for chemistry-related projects.
- Revise the process for becoming a petition candidate, including required signatures, codifying the academic/industrial rotation, and applying it to petition candidates, and making the Council part of the petition candidate selection process.
- Establish term limits for ACS Councilors (as there are for all other ACS elected and appointed positions).

Continuing in its Executive Session, DAC received the subcommittee reports. The Meetings Subcommittee announced that, for the fall meeting in San Francisco, the subject of the thematic programming is “Collaboration in Chemistry: Recovery From, and Prevention of, Natural Disasters”. The themes for Chicago (spring 2007) are: Chemistry for a Sustainable Energy Future, Chemistry for a Sustainable Future Water Supply, and Chemistry for a Sustainable Future Food Supply. At present, there are five suggested themes for Boston (fall 2007): Biotech, Pharma, Chemical Imaging, Chemistry on the Desktop, and Chemical Entrepreneurship/Venture Chemistry. They hope to narrow the five to three.

**THE DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL RELATIONS (PROF).** The mechanism for the Henry Hill Award will be modified. Previously the Henry Hill Award Committee both nominated the candidates and chose the award winner. Henceforth, the Division will send out a call for nominations and the Committee will act as the jury.

The 2005 Henry Hill Award was presented to Dr. Seymour H. Patinkin at a reception on Tuesday, 28 Mar 2006.

**THE COUNCIL.** The minutes of the 31 August 2005 meeting were approved by voice vote. Similarly, an interim action of CPC, the election of Dr. Peter J. Stang as Vice-Chair of CPC, was approved.

### **Election Results**

The four nominees for 2007 President-Elect, as determined by N&E, were introduced: Bruce E. Bursten, Richard Eisenberg, Bassam Z. Shakhashiri, and Matthew V. Tirrell. Each addressed the Council for three minutes. By written ballot, Council chose Bursten and Shakhashiri as candidates in the Fall National Election. They will be joined by any petition candidates who qualify by the 15 July deadline. At present, two petition candidates are gathering signatures. They are James A. Walsh of the Tampa Bay Local Section and Yorke E. Rhodes of the New York Local Section.

The Committee on Nominations and Elections 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 2007-2009. Nominees for District I included: D. Richard Cobb, Thomas R. Gilbert, Peter C. Jurs, and Anne T. O'Brien. Nominees for District V included John E. Adams, Judith L. Benham, Richard S. Givens, and Josef Michl. By mail ballot, the Council selected Gilbert and O'Brien as District I candidates; and as District V candidates, Adams and Benham. Ballots will be mailed on or before 10 October to all members in District I and District V for election of a Director for each District.

The Committee on Nominations and Elections announced the selection of the following candidates for Directors-at-Large for a 2007-2009 term: William H. (Jack) Breazeale, Jr., Dennis Chamot, Peter K. Dorhout, Paul R. Jones, Valerie J. Kuck, and Dorothy J. Phillips. It is known that there is at least one potential petition candidate, Marinda L. Wu of the California Local Section, gathering signatures. The election of three Directors-at-Large will be conducted in the fall. Two candidates will fill the 2007-2009 term, and one will fill a two-year vacancy for 2007-2008 created by the resignation of Director-at-Large James D. Burke (effective 31 December 2006). Ballots will be mailed to the Council on or before 10 October.

### **Report of the Chair of the Board of Directors**

In December 2002, the Board of Directors approved a special temporary assessment to cover the costs of increased funding for divisions and local sections. This funding increase resulted from the Petition for Division and Local Section Funding, which was subsequently approved by the ACS Council, Board, and membership in 2003. The Board enacted the temporary assessment with the understanding that it would be reviewed each year to determine whether it could be reduced. In light of the Society's strong financial performance, the Board voted that, rather than enacting the assessment of \$8 scheduled for 2007, the assessment be reduced to \$4. The assessment expires at the end of 2007.

### **Committee on Committees (CONC)**

CONC, as part of a regular review, recommended that the Committee on Admissions and the Committee on Professional Training be continued. Council approved by separate voice votes.

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

The Society ended 2005 with a net contribution from operations of \$11.6 million, which was \$9.1 million favorable to the approved budget. The favorable variance was primarily attributable to higher-than-budgeted print and electronic information services revenue and investment income, as well as expense savings from staff vacancies and reductions in information technology spending. The Society also realized \$21.0 million in investment gains. In total, unrestricted net assets increased just over \$26 million in 2005 to \$211 million, and the Society ended 2005 in full compliance with the Board-established financial guidelines.

B&F recommended that the escalator for the calculation of 2007 dues be \$5, the maximum allowed. Council approved by a voice vote. The fully escalated dues for 2007 will be \$132.

A Program Review Advisory Group (PRAG) has been established to assist B&F in reviewing all programs of the Society (with some exemptions) on a periodic and regular basis. The PRAG consists of councilors, members of the Board of Directors, members of B&F, and representatives from the committees with oversight over the programs under review in a given year.

#### **Special Discussion**

A special discussion item was on the agenda for this meeting. The discussion focused on membership – specifically, the requirements for ACS membership, and whether they should be made more or less restrictive, or kept the same. ACS President E. Ann Nalley invited the co-chairs of the Board-Council Policy Committee Governance Review Task Force, James D. Burke and William F. Carroll, to help frame the discussion by presenting the results of a councilor survey on ACS membership requirements. There appears to be a concerted push from the Governance Review Task Force, the 2005 Board-Presidential Task Force on Multidisciplinarity, the 2005 Financial Planning Conference, the Committee on Membership Affairs, and the 2004 Technical Division Summit to relax the ACS membership admission standards. What remains in doubt is the extent to which the ACS membership criteria will be broadened.

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

On the employment clearing house at this meeting there were 1,247 candidates participating in 1,180 interviews and 72 employers advertising 197 positions.

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

As of 28 March 2006, the ACS spring national meeting had attracted 12,546 registrants as follows: 6,323 Regular Attendees, 4,158 Students, 1,288 Exhibitors, 413 Exhibition Visitors Only, and 364 Guests.

Upon recommendation of M&E, Council voted to recommend to the Board of Directors that the spring meeting for 2015 be held in Denver, Colorado, 22-26 March; and that the fall meeting be held in Boston, Massachusetts, 16-20 August. The Council similarly voted to recommend locations and dates for the 2016 meetings as follows: the spring meeting on 13-17 March in San Diego, California and the fall meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on 21-25 August.

The spring national meeting in April 2008 will be in New Orleans, Louisiana, coinciding with a meeting of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers in that same city.

#### **Committee on Membership Affairs (MAC)**

ACS closed 2005 with 158,422 members, reversing a 4-year downward trend in Society membership. Of the 15,532 applications processed in 2005, nearly 900 came from the Member-Get-A-Member campaign, in which many councilors participated. The membership retention rate remained stable at 92.4%.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dr. James A. Walsh, Councilor  
Tampa Bay ACS Local Section  
5 April 2006