

COUNCILOR REPORT

ACS NATIONAL MEETING

Chicago, IL, 23-28 March 2007

President Catherine T. Hunt called the Council Meeting to order at 8:00 am on Wednesday, 28 March 2007.

Resolutions

Resolutions honoring Past Presidents Robert Parry and Fred Basolo and three deceased Councilors were read. A moment of silence was observed.

Minutes

Council VOTED to approve the minutes of the September 2006 San Francisco meeting.

Interim Action

Council VOTED to approve the election by the Council Policy Committee (CPC) of Dr. Janan M. Hayes as Vice-Chair of CPC for 2007.

Nominations and Elections

The four nominees for 2008 President-Elect, William A. Nugent, Thomas H. Lane, Pat N. Confalone, and Howard M. Peters were presented to Council and each was given five minutes for a statement. Council then VOTED to choose Thomas H. Lane and Howard M. Peters as candidates for the position.

The results of the balloting to choose candidates for District Director in Districts II and IV were announced. In District II, the candidates are: Joseph R. Peterson and Diane Grob Schmidt; in District IV, they are: Eric C. Bigham and Gregory H. Robinson.

The candidates for Director-at-Large for the 2008-2010 term are: Janan M. Hayes, Helen A. Lawlor, Kent J. Voorhees, and Frankie K. Wood-Black.

The ballot counts for previous elections were reported. In the 4 November 2006 election for 2007 President-Elect, the results were:

Bruce E. Bursten	9,455
Bassam Z. Shakhashiri	7,181
James A. Walsh	4,745
Yorke E. Rhodes	2,918

Since no candidate received a majority of the votes cast, it was necessary to have a run-off election of the top two candidates on 16 December, 2006. The results were:

Bruce E. Bursten	13,871
Bassam Z. Shakhashiri	12,179

In the 4 November 2006 election for Directors-at-Large, Dennis Chamot and Valerie J. Kuck won three-year terms and Miranda L. Wu was chosen for the 2007-08 partial term. In the 4 November 2006 races for District Directors, Ann T. O'Brien was chosen by District I and Judith L. Benham for District V.

Board of Directors and CPC

The Board and CPC acted on the recommendations in the Report of the ACS Governance Review Task Force as follows:

They concur with the recommendation that a face-to-face meeting should be convened to examine the charges of ACS committees in order to eliminate undesirable duplication of efforts and, where committees' interests converge, to propose means to link their efforts for more productive outcomes. The attendees at this meeting will include relevant stakeholders. The Governance Review Task Force and the Committee on Committees (CONC) expect to play leading roles in this meeting. CONC will then follow up on the recommendations generated at this meeting.

They concur that:

1. Members should be encouraged to run for Council. Efforts should be undertaken to encourage Councilor elections with more than one candidate. Uncontested races should be avoided if at all possible.
2. The President, or the Chair of CONC, should ask new Councilors to stand and be acknowledged at spring Council meetings.
3. Local Sections and Divisions should monitor the participation of their Councilors and, if they are not active, should consider voting to replace them.

They concur on the dispositions (**IN BOLD**) of the following talking points:

1. Reduce the number of Councilors through attrition, term limits, and restructuring, and develop a new formula to determine the number of Councilors. **Data suggest that no action is required.**
2. 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. **Eliminate the sentence "Reduce the number of committees and size of some committees." Combine the rest with Talking Point 4 to form the basis of the recommended meeting.**

3. Appoint more non-Councilors to committees to encourage broader participation and obtain new viewpoints. **Already being addressed by Committee on Committees.**
4. Critically review and revitalize the Committee on Chemical Abstracts Service and the Committee on Publications to increase committee member involvement and communication with the membership at large. **Combine with Talking Point 2.**
5. Establish term limits for ACS Councilors (as there are for all other ACS elected and appointed positions). **Data suggest that no action is required.**

Committee on Committees

The Council VOTED to continue the Committee on Science, the Women Chemists Committee, and the Younger Chemists Committee.

Action Items: Petitions to amend the Bylaws

1. **Petition on Election Procedures 2006.** The revised version presented for Council action seeks to increase the number of signatures required to qualify a petition candidate for President-Elect and for Director-at-Large, seeks to provide timing flexibility when run-off elections are required, and seeks to allow electronic voting in District and National elections. The Council VOTED to divide the petition into two parts, the first dealing with the provision for electronic voting, and the second dealing with petition signatures and the timing of run-off elections. Council then VOTED to approve the first part and then VOTED to recommit the second part for the purpose of making the signature count for petition candidates less draconian.
2. **Petition on Rules for Nominating Members of N&E for National Offices.** The revised version presented for Council action seeks to establish a one-year waiting period subsequent to service on the Committee on Nominations and Elections before an individual can be nominated for District Director, President-Elect, or Director-at-Large. At issue is a perception of impropriety and the matter was debated passionately and at great length. The Council VOTED (by hand count) that there be a recorded vote on the main motion. Then the Council VOTED (paper ballot) on the Petition, 151 in favor, 254 opposed, with 15 abstentions. The petition was defeated.
3. **Petition on Multi-Year Dues.** The revised version presented for Council action seeks to establish the option of multiple dues billing at the discretion of the individual member. Council VOTED to amend the petition to read that it would become effective not later than 2010. Then Council VOTED to approve the Petition.

Committee on Budget and Finance

The Society ended 2006 with a net contribution from Operations of \$12.2 million, or \$7.8 million favorable to the Approved Budget. Positive components of the Operations were information services, investments, and net dues revenue. Negative components included Membership, External Affairs, Web Presence, Education and Governance. Including the activities of the Member Insurance Program lowers the net contribution by approximately \$790,000. While the Loss from Operations was \$8.1 million for the three-year period 2001-2003, the Contribution from Operations was \$28.9 million for the three-year period 2004-2006. The Society ended the year in compliance with all the Board-established financial guidelines.

The Council VOTED to accept the recommendation of Budget and Finance that the 2008 member dues rate be set at the fully escalated rate of \$136.

Committee on Local Section Activities

Council VOTED to approve the formation of a new Local Section, the Snake River Local Section. The territory includes twelve counties in Idaho, previously unassigned.

Committee on Meetings and Expositions

Total attendance at this meeting was 14,520 as of Tuesday evening. There were 4717 abstracts. In the Exposition, there were 268 Exhibitors with 424 booths.

The 2017 National Meetings have been scheduled as follows: Spring, San Francisco, 2-6 April; Fall, St. Louis, 10-14 September.

Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs

The Chemistry Jobs Career Fair featured 72 employers, advertising 683 positions for 1439 candidates.

The Council VOTED to approve the new version of the "Chemical Professional's Code of Conduct".

Respectfully submitted,

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