

COUNCILOR REPORT

ACS NATIONAL MEETING

San Francisco, CA, 10-14 Sep 2006

DIVISIONAL ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE (DAC). The Committee met on Saturday morning, 9 Sep, and on Sunday afternoon, 10 Sep. Dwight Chasar's term as Chair will end in December. The new Chair is to be Kevin Edgar. The movement to thematic programming at national meetings continues and is gaining traction. Thematic programming was an experiment in San Francisco. The theme was "Chemistry and Disaster Recovery". Themes for the Chicago meeting (spring 2007) are "Chemistry and Sustainability for Food, Water, and Energy". The theme plans for the Boston Meeting (fall, 2007) include "Biopharmaceuticals", "Material Innovations: from Nanotech to Biotech and Beyond", and "Chemistry of Systems Biology".

DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL RELATIONS (PROF). The Division is in immediate and serious need of a Program Chair, or co-chairs. The position is vacant. The Division is also looking for someone to take over the responsibility of Newsletter Editor. Dennis Chamot, the present editor, feels that it is time for him to move on to other things. Under the leadership of Chris Bannochie and Barbara Moriarty, the strategic planning initiative is trying to organize a joint program committee to include representatives from CEPA, the Women Chemist's Committee, the Younger Chemists' Committee, the Committee on Minority Affairs, and PROF. This could be a promising first step in coordination and cooperation.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. The material in this section is taken, with minor editing, from a summary provided by Flint Lewis, Secretary and General Counsel of the Society, and his staff.

The Board's Committees and Task Forces

The Perkin Medal, the highest award of the Society of Chemical Industry, is awarded for outstanding contributions to American industrial chemistry. The Othmer Gold Medal recognizes a chemical scientist of multiple talents and achievements and is awarded by the Chemical Heritage Foundation. The Board of Directors voted to recommend a nominee for both the 2007 Perkin Medal and the 2007 Othmer Gold Medal. The Board also received a report from the ACS Petroleum Research Fund Steering Committee. The Steering Committee has been charged with developing a set of focusing proposals that will be important to the future success of the Fund.

On the recommendation of the Board Committee on Professional and Member Relations, the Board voted the following:

1. To approve revisions to the Guidelines for Society Cosponsorships with other organizations;

2. To proceed with “phase one” plans to arrange the 2008 ACS/AIChE joint meeting in New Orleans, which involves working within the framework of the cosponsorship guidelines, engaging the support of the relevant technical divisions, and developing a suitable budget;
3. To approve the request for cooperative cosponsorship of Pacifichem 2010, to be held December 14-19, 2010, in Honolulu, Hawaii, contingent upon approval of an acceptable budget for the conference.

The Board received and expressed support for a report by its Contingency Planning Working Group. This Group was charged with developing a set of actions that could be undertaken if risks became reality for the Society. The Board’s Task Force on the Timing of Committee Appointments also presented a report. This Task Force was asked to review the timing of committee appointments and seek opportunities to engage the Board Chair and President earlier in the appointment process. The Board also discussed plans for a third conference in Malta entitled, *Frontiers of Chemistry III: Research and Education in the Middle East* and agreed to recommend inclusion of \$50,000 for this meeting in the 2007 budget. The conference will take place in December 2007.

The Society’s Mission

On the recommendation of the Committee on Planning, the Board voted to adopt a revised ACS mission statement: *“To advance the broader chemistry enterprise and its practitioners for the benefit of Earth and its people.”*

The Society’s Publications

The Board voted to approve the reappointment of several of its journal editors.

The Society’s Staff

The Board received a report from the Executive Director/CEO and several of her senior staff members on the activities of the Publications Division, Chemical Abstracts Service, Human Resources, the Web Presence Project, and the Society’s General Counsel. On recommendation of the Committee on Executive Compensation, the Board agreed to a proposed list of 2007 organizational objectives. The Board also received a status report from its consultants, who are helping to review the Society’s executive compensation system. The compensation of the Society’s executive staff receives regular review by the Board.

The Society’s Finances

The Board, through the Committee on Budget and Finance, voted to approve funding requests for the Society’s Green Chemistry Institute (\$436,000 in 2007 Proposed Budget and \$369,000 and for workshops with Hispanic and Native American-serving institutions (\$98,000 in 2007 Proposed Budget).

The Board also received a report from the Program Review Advisory Group (PRAG). PRAG is charged with reviewing programs of the Society (with some exceptions) on a periodic and regular basis.

THE COUNCIL. The material in this section is a blend of the summary (with minor editing) provided by Flint Lewis and his staff, and the notes taken by this Councilor during the Council Meeting.

Actions of the Council

Election Results

The Committee on Nominations and Elections presented to the Council the following slate of nominees for membership on the Committee on Committees for the 2007-2009 term: Theodore M. Brown, H.N.Cheng, Milagros Delgado, Alan M. Ehrlich, Roland F. Hirsh, Neil D. Jespersen, Melanie J. Lesko, Vincent M. Mautino, Les W. McQuire, and Charles F. Rowell. By written ballot the Council elected H.N.Cheng, Milagros Delgado, Neil Jespersen, Les McQuire, and Charles F. Rowell.

The Committee on Nominations and Elections presented to Council the following slate of nominees for membership on the Council Policy Committee for the 2007-2009 term: Martha L. Casey, Dwight W. Chasar, M. Elizabeth Derrick, Thomas R. Gilbert, Joe W. Hightower, Barbara J. Peterson, Robert A. Pribush, and H. David Wohlers. By written ballot the Council elected Martha L. Casey, M. Elizabeth Derrick, Thomas R. Gilbert, and Joe W. Hightower.

The Council Policy Committee presented to the Council the following slate of nominees for membership on the Committee on Nominations and Elections: V. Dean Adams, G. Bryan Balazs, Merle I. Eiss, Marie G. Hankins, Charles P. Rader, Barbara A. Sawrey, Sharon P. Shoemaker, Herbert B. Silber, Ellen B. Stechel, and Don B. Weser. By written ballot the Council elected Merle I. Eiss, Barbara A. Sawrey, Sharon P. Shoemaker, Herbert B. Silber, and Ellen B. Stechel.

Candidates for President-Elect and Board of Directors

The candidates for the fall 2007 ACS national election were announced as follows:

President-Elect 2007

Bruce E. Bursten, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Yorke E. Rhodes, Retired-New York University, New York; now living in New Jersey

Bassam Z. Shakhashiri, University of Wisconsin, Madison

James A. Walsh, Retired-John Carroll University, Cleveland; now living in Florida

Directors-at-Large – 2007-2009

William H. (Jack) Breazeale, Jr., College of Charleston, South Carolina

Dennis Chamot, National Research Council, Washington, D.C.

Peter K. Dorhout, Colorado State University, Ft. Collins
Paul R. Jones, University of North Texas, Denton
Valerie J. Kuck, Retired-Bell Labs, New Jersey
Dorothy J. Phillips, Waters Corporation, Massachusetts
Marinda L. Wu, Science is Fun! Company, California

Director, District I – 2007-2009

Thomas R. Gilbert, Northeastern University, Boston
Anne T. O'Brien, Consultant (Retired – Wyeth-Ayerst Research), Tarrytown

Director, District V – 2007-2009

John E. Adams, University of Missouri, Columbia
Judith L. Benham, Retired – 3M Company, Minnesota

Committee on Budget and Finance

The 2006 Probable Year-end Results are as follows: Net Contribution to Reserves: \$7.9 million; Budget Variance: \$3.5 million favorable, attributable to IT savings, Strong sales of electronic services; Lower healthcare costs; and Higher investment revenue. The Budget is in full compliance with Board Financial Guidelines.

Petitions for Consideration

The Council received three petitions for consideration:

1. Petition on Multi-Year Dues – Seeks to allow prepayment of dues for two or three years at the first year rate.
2. Petition on Rules for Nominating Members of N&E for National Offices – Seeks to prevent N&E from nominating its own members for President-Elect, District Director, and Director-at-Large for a period of at least one year after they leave the committee.
3. Petition on Election Procedures 2006 – The purpose is two-fold. First, it seeks to raise the bar on signatures required for petition candidates for President-Elect and Director-at-Large, and, second, it seeks to bring the voting procedures for Director-at-Large in line with those for President-Elect.

Petitions 2 and 3 provoked some preliminary discussion. Action is expected on these petitions at the 2007 spring national meeting in Chicago.

Committee Review and Committee Change in Status

As part of a regular review, the Council VOTED to continue the Committees on Public Relations and Communication, on Environmental Improvement, and on International Activities subject to concurrence by the Board of Directors. The Council also VOTED to support the request of the Committee on Community Activities that its status be changed from an "other committee" of the Board to a joint Board-Council Committee. The purpose of this committee is to improve the public perception of chemistry by providing programs to connect chemists to their communities.

Governance Review

The Council received a report from the Council Policy Committee (CPC) on activities related to Governance Review. The Board-CPC Governance Review Task Force generated 23 ideas following initial interaction with the Board, Council, Committees and other interested members. A joint meeting of the Board of Directors and CPC was held at this meeting to prioritize the 23 ideas into three categories: to advance the idea as worthy of further consideration by the cognizant committee and/or interested groups; to refine the idea which will then be sent back to the Governance Review Task Force for further consideration; or to place the idea in a “stop” category as an idea that will require no further consideration as part of the governance review. Councilors received a listing of the 23 ideas organized into the three categories as prioritized jointly by the Board and CPC.

A sampling of the ideas in each category follows:

Advance (11 items)

Include Student Affiliates as MEMBERS and eliminate the ASSOCIATE MEMBER category,

Make all applicants with a science degree or work experience eligible for full membership, and

The Society should support and provide value to international members.

Refine (5 items)

Reduce the number of Councilors through attrition, term limits, and restructuring,

Reduce the number of committees and size of some committees, and

Appoint more non-Councilors to committees to encourage broader participation and obtain new viewpoints.

Stop (7 items)

The Student Member category dues discount should apply to postdoctoral fellows as well as to graduate and undergraduate students,

Explore alternative ways of bringing a geographical view to governance and services,

Extend “regional concept” to the international level.

Registration Report and 2007 National Meeting Registration Fee

As of 12 September 2006, the ACS fall national meeting had attracted 15,603 registrants. Totals in select categories are as follows: Regular attendees 9,373; Students 3,350; Guests 510; Exhibit only 504; Exhibitors 1,666. In the Exhibition there were 320 organizations with 500 booths. The Committee on Meetings and Expositions reported that national meeting financial targets continue to be met, and therefore recommended to the Board of Directors that there be no increase in national meeting registration fees for 2007.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. James A. Walsh, Councilor

The Society's Membership

The Committee on Membership Affairs reported that, through August 2006, a record 12,137 new applicants have been added to the Society's membership, and that the Member-Get-A-Member campaign is well on its way to the goal of 1,000 new members in this year.

Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs

At this meeting there were 1202 candidates for jobs. There were 290 positions among 104 employers.

Review of the Chemical Professional's Code of Conduct

The Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs submitted its latest version of the Chemical Professional's Code of Conduct for Council review. This document offers guidance for Society's members in various professional dealings, especially those involving conflicts of interest. No mention was made of the recent apparent conflict of interest in which the Committee on Nominations and Elections nominated, for Director-at-Large, its outgoing chair.