

COUNCILOR REPORT

238th ACS NATIONAL MEETING

WASHINGTON, D.C., 14-21 AUGUST 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 met on the mornings of Saturday and Sunday, 15 and 16 of August. Kevin Edgar was Chair. Among the items on the Agenda were:

1. One valid petition to amend the ACS Constitution was up FOR URGENT ACTION. It will be discussed in detail in the account of the Council Meeting. The impact on Divisions was regarded to be insignificant. DAC chose to take no formal position on this petition.
2. One valid petition to amend the ACS Bylaws was up FOR ACTION. It will be discussed in detail in the account of the Council Meeting. There was no obvious impact on Divisions. DAC chose to take no formal position on this petition.
3. One valid petition to amend the ACS Bylaws was up FOR CONSIDERATION. This petition, if approved, would dissolve the Admissions Committee and delegate their work to the Committee on Membership Affairs. There was no obvious impact on Divisions. DAC chose to take no formal position on this petition.
4. DAC is contemplating drafting a Bylaw amendment outlining the procedures to be followed for the dissolution or merger of divisions. At present, the Bylaws are silent on this issue except for providing rules for the disposal of assets should dissolution or merger occur. For an active division, the dissolution process would start with a petition from the members to the Executive Committee. This committee would then poll the membership. With a positive response, the matter would then come to DAC. If DAC endorses the petition, it would go to Council for action. This step is necessary to parallel the steps provided in the Bylaws for establishing a division. There would be an additional and final step. If Council approves the dissolution, another division with the same purposes could not be started for a period of four years. For a moribund division, DAC can initiate the dissolution process. For this purpose, DAC should be tracking membership, programming, financial health, and the annual reports of the division in question.
5. On the matter of Electronic Dissemination of National Meeting Content, the idea seems to be catching on. Participation in the first stage of the pilot plan in Las Vegas was sparse. In the second stage, here in Washington, participation had increased significantly. The issue of “prior publication” remains a thorny one and no generally acceptable answer has yet been found. It remains an experiment in progress.

6. On a related matter, it was reported that certain subcommittees of Meetings and Expositions are holding virtual meetings in cyberspace. For additional information, have your avatar call my avatar.

Town Hall Meeting- Sunday, 4:45 pm. The five candidates for 2010-2012 Directors-at- Large:

Dennis Chamot, Associate Executive Director, Division of Engineering and Physical Sciences, National Research Council, Washington, D.C.

H. N. Cheng, Research Chemist, US Department of Agriculture, New Orleans, LA

Ray A. Dickie, Retired, Ford Motor Company, Efland, NC

Valerie J. Kuck, Retired, Lucent Technologies, Montclair, NJ

*Howard M. Peters, Retired, Peters, Verny, LLP, Palo Alto, CA
appeared, made brief statements and answered questions.

District IV Councilors Caucus- Sunday, 6:00 pm. The group had a spirited discussion about the motivations and substance of the two petitions up for Council action. A straw vote on the petition that originated with Nominations and Elections showed it failing 18-2.

Nominations and Elections (N&E)-

Candidates For President-Elect. Just a reminder! Your choice in the fall election will be among

Nancy B. Jackson, International Chemical Threat Reduction Department Manager, Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, NM

Cheryl A. Martin, currently on sabbatical; former Corporate Vice President and General Manager, Rohm and Haas Company, Philadelphia, PA

*Mary Virginia Orna, Professor of Chemistry, College of New Rochelle, New Rochelle, NY

Candidates for Board Directors from Districts I and VI for the term 2010-2012.

District I

D. Richard Cobb, Senior Research Associate, Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester, NY

Neil D. Jespersen, Professor of Chemistry, St. Johns University, Jamaica, NY

District V

Judith L. Benham, Retired, 3M Company, St. Paul, MN

Peter K. Dorhout, Vice Provost, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO

* These are petition candidates.

“ACTIONS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Committees and Task Force Actions

- The Board of Directors Voted to approve nominees for the 2010 Perkin Medal and the Alan T. Waterman Award. The Perkin Medal, awarded by the American section of the Society of Chemical Industry to a scientist residing in the US, recognizes innovation in applied chemistry resulting in outstanding commercial development.
- The Alan T. Waterman Award, presented by the National Science Foundation, recognizes an outstanding young researcher in any field of science or engineering.
- The Committee on Public Affairs and Public Relations announced the designation of “Dip-and-read Tests for Blood and Urine Glucose” (work of Al and Helen Free) as a National Historic Chemical Landmark. The committee also reported on its approval of a new healthcare policy statement, received from the Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs.
- The Board VOTED to approve an action recommended by the Committee on Professional & Member Relations to accept with minor revisions the key terms contained in a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between ACS and the Royal Society of Chemistry. The MOU: a) offers an opportunity for the ACS and RSC to develop and distribute a “primer”, both in hard-copy and electronic format, to provide the wider population with a basic understanding of the chemistry underlying issues related to sustainability; b) provides a series of joint seminars in the uk, us, and elsewhere with participation by scientists, media, and decision-makers to focus on sustainability; and c) supports collaboration on activities that train scientists to address issues relating to sustainability and other global challenges in non-technical, readily understandable communications.
- On the recommendation of the Committee on Budget and Finance, the Board VOTED to fund a new program (Science Coaches) and to reauthorize an existing program (ACS Green Chemistry Institute^R) in the 2010 budget.
- The Board of Directors received a report from the Board-Presidential Task Force on Education. This task force is charged with 1) reviewing recommendations contained in national STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education reports released during the past five years; 2) identifying specific actions that the Society could undertake in response to these recommendations; and 3) creating a priority list of actionable items where the Society can have a unique impact on STEM education. The new Science Coaches initiative was one of the task force’s recommendations

The Society's Finances

- In view of the ongoing global recession and its impact of the Society's finances, the Board received an update on the Society's current financial position and the projected financial performance for 2009. The Society is projected to end the year with a net contribution from operations of \$11.2 million, or \$528,000 favorable to the 2009 approved budget. The favorable projection is largely the result of Contingency Plan actions and expense management initiatives implemented in early 2009, which are expected to fully offset revenue shortfalls in the approved budget across several categories.

Strategic Issues

- At its retreat held earlier this year, the Board developed a "dashboard", i.e. a list of possible Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) related to ACS strategic progress. At this meeting, a Board task force presented a draft dashboard for review. The Board agreed to continue this discussion at its December meeting.

The Executive Director Report

- The Executive Director, along with several of her direct reports, updated the Board on the activities of the Publications Division, Chemical Abstract Service, and the Society's General Counsel (including the Leadscope litigation). As a part of the Publications report, the Board VOTED to approve the re-appointment of three journal editors.

Compensation of Society Executive Staff

- The Board received a report from its Committee on Executive Compensation and 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.

Other Society Issues

- The Board received a briefing from its Chair on her recent meeting with International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) leaders and plans for the International Year of Chemistry-2011 (IYOC-2011). The Board was also briefed by International leaders from the European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences (EuCheMS), the German Chemical Society, the Korean Chemical Society, the Mexican Chemical Society, the Royal Society of Chemistry, and the Serbian Chemical Society on their strategic directions and on their plans for IYOC-2011.
- With the creation of the ACS Leadership Development System, the Society is now better positioned to create the skilled leadership needed to advance as the world's largest scientific society and to achieve its mission. In recognition of this

achievement, the Board awarded plaques to its Oversight Group on Leadership Development for outstanding work on this major initiative.

- The Board received a briefing on a new program to equip ACS members to be more effective spokespersons for chemistry. It is called the Chemistry Ambassadors program, and information may be found at www.acs.org/chemistryambassadors.”

ACTIONS OF THE COUNCIL

Election Results

- The Committee on Nominations and Elections presented to the Council the following slate of candidates for membership on the Committee on Committees beginning in 2010: G. Bryan Balazs, Dawn A. Brooks, Victoria L. Finkenstadt, Wayne E. Jones, Jr., John M. Long, Les W. Mcquire, Ingrid Montes, Douglas J. Raber, Frankie K. Wood-Black, and Steven W. Yates. By electronic ballot, the Council elected the underlined candidates for the 2010-2012 term.
- The Committee on Nominations and Elections presented to the Council the following slate of candidates for membership on the Council Policy Committee beginning in 2010: R. Gerald Bass, Alan B. Cooper, M. Elizabeth Derrick, Thomas R. Gilbert, Lydia E. M. Hines, Willem R. Leenstra, Sally B. Peters, and Carolyn Ribes. By electronic ballot, the Council elected the underlined candidates for the 2010-2012 term.
- The Council Policy Committee presented to the Council the following slate of candidates for membership on the Committee on Nominations and Elections: Roger F. Bartholomew, Dwight W. Chasar, Milagros Delgado, Kevin J. Edgar, John W. Finley, Martin L. Gorbaty, Sharon P. Shoemaker, Walter O. Siegl, Herbert B. Silber, and Ellen B. Stechel. By electronic ballot, the Council elected the underlined candidates for the 2010-2012 term.

Committee on Committees

- As part of the regular performance review by the Committee on Committees, the committee recommended the continuation of five committees. The Council VOTED to continue the Committees on Chemical Safety, Minority Affairs, Chemical Abstracts Service, Technician Affairs, and Analytical Reagents, Continuing the first three of these committees requires Board of Directors concurrence.

Petitions

- For Urgent Action- Petition on Candidate Selection by Member Petition. This petition seeks to guarantee that a successful petition campaign produces a candidate rather than a simple nominee. To be considered for urgent action, the petition requires a three-quarters affirmative vote. After considerable discussion, some out of order (but

not ruled so), and some uninformed, a motion to close debate passed with 94 % (425) of those voting electronically recording YES. Electronic voting on the question of urgency produced only a 49.6 % affirmative vote. Since the Urgent Action failed, this petition will be before Council FOR ACTION at the 2010 spring meeting in San Francisco.

- For Action- Petition on Election Timelines and Procedures 2009. This petition seeks to do several different things: (1) To accelerate and compress the timing of the national election process, (2) To change the petition process so that successful petitions produce nominees rather than candidates, and (3) To include these petition nominees along with the traditional nominees in the Council selection process that will now take place at the fall national meeting. The issues were discussed in great detail. A motion for a recorded vote failed with an affirmative vote of 24.7 %, short of the required 30.0 %. Then the Council VOTED to recommit the petition to the Committee on Nominations and Elections with instructions to separate the two major issues. This motion requires a simple majority but drew 74.2 % of the vote. Thus, it is likely that this petition, however recast, will appear along with the petition that was denied urgent action, both before Council for action in San Francisco. The dance continues.
- For Consideration- Petition on Admissions Committee. This petition seeks: (1) to transfer the responsibilities of the Admissions Committee to the Committee on Membership Affairs, (2) to transfer the appeal of admissions decisions from the Committee on Membership Affairs to the Council Policy Committee, and (3) to remove the Admissions Committee from the Bylaws. Action is expected on this petition at the 2010 spring meeting.

Meetings and Expositions

- “As of August 19, 2009, the ACS fall national meeting had attracted 14,319 registrants. This was the largest Washington meeting in history. Totals in select categories are as follows: Regular attendees 8,575; Students 3,159; Guests 462; Exhibit only 676; and Exhibitors 1,447”. There were 453 Exhibit booths; 307 companies exhibiting; and 6 workshops.
- “In keeping with the objective of the National Meeting Long Range Financial Plan, previously approved by the Board of Directors and Council, the meetings and Expositions Committee recommended to the Board an increase of \$10 for the 2010 national meeting registration fee. The Board will act on this recommendation shortly.”

Dissolution of the Division of Chemical Technicians

- “At the 2009 spring Council meeting, the Divisional Activities Committee (DAC) reported that it had voted to accept a recommendation from the Division of Chemical Technicians (TECH) that the division disband and to recommend this action to the

Council in the fall. On recommendation of DAC, as recommended by TECH, the Council VOTED to disband the Division of Chemical Technicians effective December 31, 2009.” The vote was 95.2% in favor. “DAC agreed that TECH has accomplished its mission of enhancing the status of technicians in the American Chemical Society, and now they are integrated into other technical divisions.”

Career Services

- The career fair attracted 783 job seekers, and 43 employers offering 326 jobs.

Revision of Charter Bylaws for New Local Sections, International Chemical Societies Chapters, and Divisions in Probationary Status

- The Council VOTED to accept changes to charter bylaws for new local sections and international chemical sciences chapters, and for divisions in probationary status. These changes which were developed in cooperation with the Committees on Divisional Activities, Local Section Activities, and International Activities, are a response to changes to the Constitution and Bylaws made as a result of the Petition on Membership Categories and Requirements, which became effective on June 30.

A Personal Note

- This is my last report as your Councilor. I have announced both locally and nationally that I shall not stand for another term as Councilor. It is time for someone younger, with fresh blood, more energy, and new ideas to step forward. I have enjoyed serving as your Councilor for the past six years. You have my sincere thanks for the support you have given me over this time. However, I have no intention of deserting the Local Section. I hope to be around for a while yet as the resident curmudgeon.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. James A. Walsh, Councilor
Tampa Bay Local ACS Section
1 September 2009

