

COUNCILOR REPORT

ACS NATIONAL MEETING

San Diego, CA, 11-17 Mar 2005

Despite the excess rain, San Diego has not yet washed into the Pacific. It remains a beautiful city.

With the advent of Ms. Madeleine Jacobs as the Executive Director and CEO, there has followed substantial realignment and some streamlining of the staff structure. It is most obvious to me in the Membership Division. Staff members, who previously were well experienced and capable in a certain job, are now, if they are still there, learning to do a different job. In some cases the learning curve is a long one and, inevitably, while it is being climbed, efficiency suffers and accountability is deferred. One hopes that the final result will prove that this intervening confusion was worth it.

JOINT DIVISIONAL ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE/ LOCAL SECTION ACTIVITIES SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERACTIONS. This committee convenes on Friday evening for dinner, followed by a business meeting. One purpose of this group is to ensure that the two committees remain in touch and explore possible methods of cooperation. More immediately, it is trying to encourage cooperation between Divisions and Local Section, particularly in the area of programming. To this end, the Subcommittee reviews self-nominations for Joint Division/Local Section ChemLuminary awards. As was the case last year, there was no match between a Division and a Local Section self-nominating for the same event. Moreover, the Local Sections do not seem to understand what a Division is; the Divisions do not seem to understand what a Local Section is; and each would be hard-put to come up with a serviceable definition of "Collaboration". These may speak to the magnitude of the problem that we are going to be facing in trying to encourage cooperation.

DIVISIONAL ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE. This committee meets in two one-half day sessions, on Saturday morning and on Sunday afternoon. Multidisciplinarity is the current fashionable buzzword. As I understand it, it is the balkanization of what used to be the field of Chemistry. We now have Nanotechnologists, Molecular Biologists, Materials Scientists, Forensic Scientists, and Macromolecular Scientists, who are still doing what I regard as Chemistry. However, they do not recognize what they are doing as Chemistry, and neither do their employers or the federal Government. These workers do not see the relevancy of the ACS to them and so they do not join, which may be the crux of the matter. The Board of Directors and the ACS President established a Joint Board-Council Task Force to assess the challenges and opportunities that multidisciplinarity presents to the ACS and chemical scientists in general. The task force has submitted a report, with recommendations for action. However, the full text of this report has not yet been released to Councilors because, we are told, there is still ongoing tweaking of the language.

From what I have been told, the following outline seems to contain the essentials of the report as far as Divisions are concerned:

"Effects of Multidisciplinarity-

1. Creates a demand for the development and refinement of technical division programs, products, and services in four key areas;
 - Technical Information
 - Meetings
 - Professional Development services, and
 - Networking opportunities.
2. Demands the development of technical meeting *programming that is more reflective and responsive* to the rapidly changing and fast-paced nature of scientific information.
3. Requires *technical division partnerships* with other organizations to leverage effectively the ACS brand in markets that are outside the traditional boundaries of chemistry and its subdisciplines.
4. Creates *new "homes" or foci* for chemical professionals in unconventional areas of academe, industry, and government.

Challenges For Division Leaders-

1. A commonly held perception that technical divisions are *complex structures*,

2. A *lack of time and training* for technical division leadership to strategically develop goals and objectives leads to unclear direction,
3. The historic *lack of financial and human resources* in support of routine, required, or expected technical divisional activities leads to little or *no strategic innovations*,
4. Information exchange among the technical divisions is far too *limited and incomplete* to allow for the adequate and detailed *communication* and subsequent adoption of “best practices,”
5. Like chapters of an introductory chemistry text, the technical divisions are *organized around classical pedagogy* that is not representative of the current chemical enterprise, and
6. Financial incentives offered by the Society encourage *competition rather than cooperation* among the technical divisions.

Recommendations For Divisions-

1. Develop a process by which ACS and technical division governance and staff can *recognize and embrace market trends*,
2. Reconsider the “*life cycle*” of a technical division,
3. Create *financial incentives* that foster innovation and enhance the communication and adoption of best practices among the technical divisions,
4. Enhance the *marketing of technical division programs, products, and services* and coordinate the overall marketing strategy of the Society,
5. Launch combined *marketing strategies that focus* on specific technical sectors that encompass the programs, products, and services that the technical divisions offer,
6. Encourage *collaboration among the technical divisions* through incentives to develop programming foci or themes at Society and division-sponsored meetings and conferences,
7. Develop strategies for *mapping career trends* with technical division programming efforts,
8. Model current *technical division structure* to more accurately reflect the multidisciplinary of chemistry,
9. Adopt *alternative programming paradigms* that support the multidisciplinary nature of chemistry,
10. Develop *financial incentives that support cooperation* among technical divisions.”

I discussed these Effects, Challenges, and Recommendations with a number of my fellow Councilors and I listened to the discussions in various meetings and caucus groups. From my observations, most of the reactions fell into one of three main categories: The True Believers, The Skeptics, and The Cynics.

The True Believers know that the sky is indeed falling and that, unless draconian measures are taken immediately by DAC in the programming arena, then by 2015, the Society, if it still exists at all, will be only a hollow shell of its present self.

The Skeptics do not believe that the sky is falling just yet. They view the present call for urgent action as an attempt to stampede the membership before there is full disclosure and discussion. They point out that, over the years, the Society has been flexible enough to accommodate Physical Chemistry, Inorganic Chemistry, Biochemistry, Polymer Chemistry, and Organometallics in the mix of subject areas. Given time, the same thing can happen again without resorting to draconian measures.

The Cynics do not believe that the crisis is real. They see it as artificial, motivated by a small decline in the number of full-time dues paying members, a situation that must be reversed no matter the cost. They see the problem as one that can be treated by a sophisticated and aggressive advertising, marketing, and publication relations campaign.

At present, it is hard to tell where the truth is. The ongoing discussions are constructive and helpful. Once the report of the Task Force has gone into general circulation, these discussions will be better informed and more productive.

SUMMARY OF GOVERNANCE ACTIONS/REPORTS

Some of the Councilor Talking Points that follow were provided by Mr. Flint H. Lewis, Secretary of the Society.

ACTIONS OF THE COUNCIL

Election Results

- For President-Elect 2006, the nominees were:
Pat N. Confalone
Catherine T. Hunt
John W. Kozarich
Cynthia A. Maryanoff

The candidates for the fall election are:
Catherine T. Hunt
John W. Kozarich
George E. Heinze (by petition)

- For Director, District III, 2006-2008, the nominees were:
Catherine C. Fenselau
Edward J. Grabowski
Madeleine M. Joullie
Willie E. May

The councilors in District III chose as nominees:
Catherine C. Fenselau
Madeleine M. Joullie

- For Director, District VI, 2006-2008, the nominees were:
Bonnie A. Charpentier
Janan M. Hayes
Clayton H. Heathcock
Stanley H. Pine

The Councilors in District VI chose as nominees:
Bonnie A. Charpentier
Stanley H. Pine

- For Director-at-Large, 2006-2008, the candidates are:
James D. Burke
Edwin A. Chandross
C. Gordon McCarty
Frankie Wood-Black
Two will be elected by Councilors in a mail ballot in October.

Committee Review

The Council VOTED to continue the Committee on Project SEED.

Proposal for a Committee on Ethics

The Committee on Committees presented to Council a proposal for establishing a Committee on Ethics as an Other Committee of Council. The charge of this committee would be as follows: To coordinate the ethics related activities of the Society, serve as an educational resource and clearinghouse, but not as an adjudication body, for ACS members seeking guidance on ethics issues; raise awareness of ethics issues through meeting programming and columns/editorials; review recognition opportunities for acknowledging ethical behavior; and to develop and oversee such other ethics-related activities as will serve ACS members and promote the Society's standards of ethical conduct within the profession of chemistry and its related

disciplines. After defeating a motion to assign the proposed duties of the committee to the Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs, the Council VOTED to establish a Committee on Ethics as an Other Committee of the Council.

Registration Report

As of 15 March 2005, the ACS spring national meeting had attracted 15,385 registrants as follows: Regular attendees 8,372; Students 4,160; Exhibitors 1,624; Exposition only 628; and Guests 601. In the Exposition there were 508 booths, representing 328 companies. There were 14 workshops.

Member Statistics

Membership in the ACS was 158,127 as of year-end 2004. Compared to the previous year, this represents less than a 1% decrease. In 2004, more than 13,000 new members were added to the rolls.

Chemjobs Career Center

This successor to the Employment Clearinghouse continues to be a valuable member asset. At this meeting, there were 1334 job candidates, involved in 1440 interviews for 189 positions.

Petition for Consideration

A petition on Election Procedures, originating with the Committee on Nominations and Elections, and up for Consideration at this meeting was withdrawn. The Committee intends to rework the petition and reintroduce it at the fall national meeting.

Special Discussion Item

ACS President William F. Carroll presented an overview of Chemistry Enterprise 2015, posing the question, "Where will our students come from in the next ten years, and where will they go?" The issue was framed as follows: Currently the U.S. has a strong university system and U.S. graduate education is widely recognized as the best in the world, but problems loom on the horizon. In addition, a variety of factors in the nation's academic infrastructure are likely to produce change in the training and careers of new chemists. Members of the Council participated in a lively discussion of the nature of the issue and the possibility for solutions.

2006 Member Dues

The Council VOTED to set the member dues for 2006 at the fully escalated rate of \$127.

ACTIONS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Special Temporary Assessment

In December 2002, the Board of Directors enacted a special temporary assessment to cover the costs of increased funding for divisions and local sections, as stipulated in the Petition for Division and Local Section Funding, which was subsequently approved by the ACS Council, Board, and membership in March 2003. The Board accepted the temporary assessment with the understanding that it would be reviewed each year to determine whether it could be reduced. The Board reviewed the temporary assessment for 2006 and, in the light of the Society's strong financial performance, VOTED to reduce it to \$5, rather than proceeding with the scheduled \$6 assessment.

The Society's Current Finances and Financial Future

The Committee on Budget and Finance reported that the Society ended 2004 with a net contribution from operations of \$5,099,000 on revenues of \$419,200,000 and expenses of \$414,700,000. This was \$3,628,000 favorable to the approved budget. After including the results of the Belmont Conference Center, recorded as a discontinued operation, and the Member Insurance Program, the Society's overall net contribution for 2004 was \$4,465,000, which was \$3,229,000 favorable to the approved budget.

The Board reviewed and VOTED to accept several recommendations from the recent Financial Planning Conference held January 2005. The purpose of this conference was to provide a comprehensive assessment of the Society's current financial guidelines; and to assess the Society's changing risk profile and the potential implications on major ACS funding sources over the next three years.

The Board's Committees and Task Forces

The Board received a screened list of candidates from the Committee on Grants and Awards for the 2006 Priestley Medal and the Volunteer Service Award. The Board will announce the two winners at its June meeting.

The Board, through its Committee on Professional and Member Relations (P&MR), reviewed the approval process for recurring meeting cosponsorship requests and VOTED to streamline and simplify the process. The Board also VOTED to authorize P&MR to approve requests where ACS seeks the cosponsorship of other organizations.

The ACS/AIChE governance-to-governance task force and the ACS/AIChE Joint Membership task force have concluded formal discussions and have agreed on several points. At this meeting, the Board VOTED to discharge both task forces with thanks.

The Society's Staff

The Board received a report from the Executive Director/CEO and several of her direct reports on the status of the Society's website project, special issues associated with Chemical Abstracts Service and the Publications Divisions, the Green Chemistry Institute, and the activities of the General Counsel. The Board also reviewed and approved several recommendations from the Committee on Executive Compensation relative to compensation for the Society's executive staff. The compensation of the Society's executive staff receives regular review from the Board.

The Society's Publications

The Board VOTED to approve the appointment of an editor for a new Society journal, *ACS Chemical Biology*, to debut in 2006.

ACS Governance Review

The Board of Directors VOTED to support the creation of a Joint Board-Council Policy Committee Task Force on Governance Review with the charge to conduct a review of the Society's governance structure and Constitution and Bylaws to ensure that the Society has a governing framework to enable it to best fulfill its mission, meet member needs, and remain a world-class organization.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. James A. Walsh, Councilor