

Northeast Wisconsin Local Section of the American Chemical Society

Councilor Report from 238th Fall National Meeting – Washington, DC

The meeting was held in Washington DC from 14th August – 20th August, with the technical program starting on 15th August.

As the local section councilor for the Northeast Wisconsin Section, I am providing a report of my activities.

ACS Council Meeting (Wednesday 19th August): The meeting was called to order at 8.00am by ACS President Thomas Lane. The minutes of the 237th ACS Council meeting from Salt Lake City were unanimously approved. There were several items of action for the Council's attention.

Elections to Committees (term limits reached – for 2010-2012 three year terms). Council was presented with biographies of all nominees in the agenda.

- (i) Five members to the *Committee on Committees* (ConC): G. Bryan Balazs, Dawn A. Brooks, Les W. McQuire, Ingrid Montes, Frankie K. Wood-Black.
- (ii) Four members to the *Council Policy Committee* (CPC): M. Elizabeth Derrick, Thomas R. Gilbert, Willem R. Leenstra, Carolyn Ribes.
- (iii) Five members to the *Committee on Nominations and Elections* (N&E): Dwight W. Chasar, Milagros Delgado, Kevin J. Edgar, Sharon P. Shoemaker, Ellen. B. Stechel.

The Council heard reports of elected officers, elected committees of the Council, followed by Society Committees, Council Standing Committees and Other Committees. As is policy, items for Council consideration were presented with the reports. There were several items for consideration.

- (a) For Council Action: The Council unanimously passed a recommendation for continuation on selected committees.
- (b) For Urgent Action: Council was presented with an item of Urgent Action on the Petition on Candidate Selection by Member Petition. As an urgent action item, it required a 75% vote to warrant further discussion. The discussion was limited as to whether the item was urgent. Essentially the proposed constitutional change deals with how candidates for elected office are selected (vetted by N&E, petition). Council was informed that a vote to pass or fail the item only affected discussion of the item and it would appear on the 239th ACS National Meeting Council Agenda. After the question was called, the Council voted 50:50 (motion failed)
- (c) For Council Action: Council was presented with an item to alter the by-laws for the procedure on the Petition of Election Timelines and Procedures. It was determined during discussion that two separate issues of timelines and procedures were included in the

wording and Council voted 74:26 to pass the motion to request that N&E separate the timeline and procedures issues and have them reappear for the 239th ACS National Meeting Council agenda. This item would shorten the timeline for nominees for be engaged in campaigning before an election and alter the manner in which petition candidates can be admitted to ballots. N&E then presented several informational questions to assist them in the process of separating the issues.

- (d) For Council Action: Council was presented with a motion from the Committee on Divisional Activities to dissolve the Division of Chemical Technicians. By a vote of 95:5, the motion passed.
- (e) For Council Action: Council was presented with revisions charter bylaws for Divisions in Probationary Status, International Chemical Societies Chapters and New Local Sections by the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws. By a unanimous vote, each was passed.

Other Items: At this ACS Meeting, 160 talks will be available electronically starting on 4th September to those who registered for the conference (video and audio).

The meeting was adjourned at 12.15pm.

Membership Affairs Committee (MAC). I attended the Open Meeting of MAC in the JW Marriott Hotel on Monday 17th August. There were probably around 15 members of the committee present including ACS Staff Liaison. We heard reports from the MAC Subcommittees following an introduction and welcome by Mr. D. Richard Cobb, Chair.

- **Benefits and Services Subcommittee**: Provides services from outside vendors such as car rental, hotel discounts, Fedex discounts etc. Chair reported that income from these services is not as strong as in the past reflecting a lower level of membership participation. The committee always welcomes new suggestions for possible member benefits.
- **Membership and Recruitment Subcommittee**: One of the issues faced by the change in student membership is how to recognize international members with degrees from “less recognized” institutions; is it possible to ask former graduate students for their opinions? The committee would like to be able to offer gift membership from someone or to someone (e.g. graduation present).
- **Categories and Dues Subcommittee**: A taskforce with the Society on Chemical Education (SOCED) is exploring ways to ensure the message of member benefits reaches high school chemistry teachers. Only around 5% of chemistry high school teachers are members of the ACS.

MAC plans to shorten its meetings at the ACS National meeting to a single day (proposed as 8am-4.30pm) on the Saturday of the conference to increase efficiency.

A new committee, the Admissions Committee, is expected to be set up by June 2010 at the earliest to work with MAC on the admissions of members.

Local Section Activities Committee. I attended the Open meeting on LSAC in the Willard Intercontinental Hotel on Tuesday 18th August. There were about 70 people present, including members and ACS Staff liaisons. A welcome and overview was provided by the outgoing chair, Dr. Wayne E. Jones, Jr. followed by reports of the subcommittees.

- Grants and Awards Subcommittee: The chair indicated that the recent push for local section involvement in writing grants proposals especially with PROJECT SEED was encouraging, although 49 local sections have never submitted a proposal.
- Alliances and Partnerships: Local sections can apply for small grants (\$250 – deadline is 09/15) to help the section’s undergraduates transition into membership of the ACS. The money can be used to assist the section in developing an evening or event that includes undergraduates to show what is involved in membership.

Dr. Jones explained that there have been substantial changes to the local section speakers program. It is now possible to book single event speakers in addition to the tour speakers. At present most of the “top” rated tour speakers (top 10-20%) have been included in a new on-line directory. Again, there is no honorarium for the speakers but travel costs are met by the local section. It is therefore advisable to plan with other sections to share costs where possible.

It was also pointed out that the improved and valuable ACS Leadership Development Course will again be offered in Forth Worth to Chair Elects and each section is strongly encouraged to send a person. Details to follow, but it is usually the third weekend in January.

Candidates for Directors-at-Large 2010-2012. The Committee on Nominations and Elections organized a Town Hall style meeting to give the candidates (5) who are seeking positions as Directors-at-Large to present a short biographical outline and major issues facing the ACS. As has been the recent style in these meetings, written questions to the panel were then submitted from the audience and asked in turn to the panelists. The candidates are:

- Dr. Dennis Chamot
- Dr. H.N. Cheng
- Dr. Ray A. Dickie
- Ms. Valerie J. Kuck
- Dr. Howard M. Peters

There will be a Fall election for these positions, in addition to selecting a District V director. (see http://portal.acs.org/portal/acs/corg/content?nfpb=true&pageLabel=PP_ARTICLEMAIN&node_id=663&content_id=WPCP_012064&use_sec=true&sec_url_var=region1&uuid=6238c707-c55b-4442-a9b6-ad3981995b82)

District V Caucus (Sunday 16th August). The meeting began at 6.00pm. Immediately following the Town Hall Meeting, I went to the District V Caucus. About 35 people were in attendance, mostly local section councilors and some divisional members. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Marvin Lang (Central Wisconsin). An agenda was distributed beforehand. The minutes of the District V Caucus from the 237th ACS National Meeting were unanimously approved.

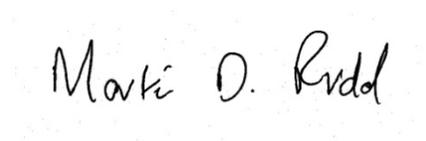
Dr. Judy Benham, outgoing District V Director, presented a detailed report of the Board of Directors meeting held over the previous two days, including a slight improvement in the ACS finances (primarily helped by careful fiscal pruning earlier this year and a rebound in the capital markets). She also updated councilors on the new grants and awards that were approved.

Dr. Frank Blum, (Chair N&E) provided an FAQ sheet about the action items for Council consideration and clarified items pertaining to the petition process. As agreed at the meeting, there would be no block caucus vote, but each councilor could decide how to vote. A brief discussion about the dissolution of the Division of Chemical Technicians was held. A flyer announcing the SWRM Regional Meeting in El Paso in November was given to councilors.

The meeting was adjourned at 7pm.

I would like to thank the Executive Committee of the NEW Local Section for giving me the opportunity to attend the ACS National Meeting as your elected representative. If you have any questions about the report, or wish to talk to me about any of the items, please let me know (martin.rudd@uwc.edu)

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark D. Rudd". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and 'R'.

University of Wisconsin – Fox Valley