

Northeast Wisconsin Local Section of the American Chemical Society

Councilor Report from 245th Spring ACS National Meeting and Expo

The meeting was held in New Orleans from 6th April – 11th April, with the technical program starting on 7th April.

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

ACS Council Meeting (Wednesday 10th April): The meeting was called to order at 8.00am by ACS President Marinda Wu. The minutes of the 244th ACS Council meeting from Philadelphia were unanimously approved. There were several items of action for the Council's attention. (see Appendix for details)

Committee on Community Affairs (CCA) joint meeting with LSAC. I attended the Open Meeting and Reception of CCA/LSAC on Tuesday 9th April. There were about 70 people present including members of both committees and ACS Staff liaisons. This committee has representation with and on several other ACS committees. I presented an oral report from the work of Alliances and Partnerships Subcommittee, specifically regarding a proposal and request for funding regarding a national "webinar" and local section activity evening from the Younger Chemists Committee.

Local Section Activities Committee (LSAC) I spent the weekend (Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th) at the Local Section Activities Committee's meeting (I am a full member of the committee). On Saturday, we had a full agenda to discuss on changes to FORMS, local section speakers, awards, discussion of the petition changes proposed for action by ACS Council. Mitchell Bruce now serves as the Chair of LSAC. As a full committee, we spent about 90 minutes working through a 4 stage exercise to help members understand the types of questions to ask when assessing the local sections that we have been assigned to review. In addition, we discussed how to align strategic goals of the ACS with the types of events that are posted in FORMS by the local sections.

ACTIONS OF THE COUNCIL

Election Results

- The Committee on Nominations and Elections presented to the Council the following nominees for selection as candidates for President-Elect, 2014: G. Bryan Balazs, Charles E. Kolb, Jr., Carolyn Ribes, and Diane Grob Schmidt. By electronic ballot, the Council selected G. Bryan Balazs and Charles E. Kolb, Jr. as candidates for 2014 President-Elect. These two candidates, along with any candidates selected via petitions, will stand for election in the Fall National Election.
- The Committee on Nominations and Elections announced the results of the election to select *candidates* from the list of *nominees* to serve as Directors from District II and District IV on the Board of Directors for the term 2014-2016. Nominees for District II included George M. Bodner, Jed F. Fisher, Alan A. Hazari, and Robert A. Pribush. Nominees for District IV included John P. Fackler, Jr., Rigoberto Hernandez, Larry K. Krannich, and John A. Whittle. By mail ballot, the Councilors from these districts selected George M. Bodner and Alan A. Hazari as District II candidates; and Rigoberto Hernandez and Larry K. Krannich as District IV candidates. Ballots will be mailed on or before October 10 to all ACS members in District II and District IV for election of a Director from each District.

Candidates for Directors-at-Large

- The Committee on Nominations and Elections announced the selection of the following candidates for Directors-at-Large for a 2014-2016 term: Susan B. Butts, Thom H. Dunning, Jr., Dorothy J. Phillips, and Kathleen M. Schulz. The election of two Directors-at-Large from among those candidates and any selected via petition will be conducted in the fall. Ballots will be mailed to the Council on or before October 10.

Committee Election

- Two vacancies on the Committee on Committees were created by the election of Ingrid Montes to the ACS Board of Directors and the appointment of H.N. Cheng as chair of the Committee on International Activities. Prior to the New Orleans meeting, the Committee on Nominations and Elections presented to the Council the following slate of candidates for membership on the Committee on Committees beginning 2013: Christopher J. Bannochie, Arindam Bose, David Lohse and Jason Ritchie. Christopher J. Bannochie and Jason Ritchie were selected to fill three-year and one-year terms, respectively.

Committee Review

- As part of a regular performance review, the Council VOTED unanimously to continue the Committees on Chemical Abstracts Service, Environmental Improvement, and Younger Chemists. Continuation of these three committees requires Board concurrence.

Re-alignment of Electoral Districts

- At the 2012 fall meeting, Councilors called for a broader and long-lasting solution to requirements that Board electoral districts have parity in member populations. At this meeting, the Committee on Nominations and Elections reported on their discussions of a revised redistricting proposal which brings all six election districts within 400-1,000 members of the mid-point of the permissible range. This proposed action is designed to eliminate the need for frequent small changes for some time to come. The proposal will be up for vote at the fall Council meeting in Indianapolis.

Society Finances

- Despite the sluggish economy, ACS generated favorable operating results in 2012. Total revenue was \$490.7 million, which was \$6.1 million or 1.3% greater than the approved budget, and 3.9% higher than 2011. The Net from Operations was \$20.2 million, or \$4.3 million favorable to budget. This was largely attributable to better-than-expected performance by ACS Publications and CAS, and represents the Society's 9th consecutive year of positive operating results. While operating performance was favorable, Unrestricted Net Assets declined \$1.4 million to \$100.6 million. Finally, ACS ended the year in compliance with four of the five Board-established financial guidelines.

2014 Member Dues

- The Council VOTED to set the member dues for 2014 at the fully escalated rate of \$154. This rate is established pursuant to an inflation-adjustment formula in the ACS Constitution and Bylaws.

Petition to Amend the Constitution and Bylaws

(For Action)

- After discussion, a vote to approve the Petition to Amend National Election Procedures FAILED (85% against, 15% in favor). The petition sought to shorten the campaign period for candidates for President-Elect and to charge the Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E) with proposing two candidates for President-Elect. Currently, N&E proposes four *nominees* from which Council selects two *candidates*. Under the petition, Council would no longer vote on a list of nominees. In collaboration with the Committee on Nominations and Elections, the Council Policy Committee authorized a joint task force on election timelines and procedures. This task force will examine the entire election system.

Member Statistics

- Society membership at the end of 2012 was 163,322 - 893 lower than the total for year-end 2011 despite recruiting 24,943 new members. The net loss occurred primarily in the Regular, full member category. There was continued growth in both the Student Member undergraduate and international categories, which helped mitigate the overall decline in membership. The Membership Affairs Committee approved five pilot market data tests to increase membership.

Attendance Report

- The ACS spring national meeting had attracted 15,596 registrants, including 8,105 regular attendees and 5,793 students. The meeting had 11,232 papers presented.

Academic Professional Guidelines

- The Council VOTED to approve the Academic Professional Guidelines as submitted by the Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs. These guidelines apply to those members of the academic community whose job function impacts directly or indirectly on scientists practicing the profession of chemistry.

Local Section Allotment Formula

- The Council VOTED to approve a new formula for the distribution of allocations to individual Local Sections beginning in 2014. The new allocation will be divided as follows: base allotment (49%); per member allotment (43%), and LSAC program funds (8%).

Divisional Activities Name Change Request

- The Divisional Activities Committee (DAC) received a request from the Division of Colloid and Surface Chemistry to change its name to the Division of Colloids, Surfaces and Nanomaterials. Six divisions have registered opposition to the proposed name, largely due to the use of the term 'nanomaterials'. DAC will ask Council to vote on the new name in Indianapolis, with a recommendation to approve.

Revision to Charter Bylaws for the International Chemical Sciences Chapters

- The Council VOTED to approve changes to the Charter Bylaws for New International Chemical Sciences Chapters. These changes will guide the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws in reviewing bylaw changes before proposed changes are approved by the membership of the new chapter.

New International Chemical Sciences Chapter

- The Council VOTED, in concurrence with the Board of Directors, to approve the petition to charter the Romanian International Chemical Sciences Chapter, consisting of the Territory of Romania.

Special Discussion Item

- A special discussion item was put on the Council agenda for this meeting. ACS President Marinda Li Wu presented and moderated a discussion on "What else should ACS do to help members to thrive in the global chemistry enterprise?" ACS has established a strategic goal to "Empower an inclusive community of members with networks, opportunities, resources, and skills to thrive in the global economy." In support of this goal, President Wu commissioned a task force entitled, "Vision 2025: Helping ACS Members Thrive in the Global Chemistry Enterprise," to identify globalization opportunities and engage members in advocacy for improving the business and job climate. Following the presentation, 29 Councilors engaged in a robust discussion on what the Society currently offers or could offer to help members thrive in the global chemistry community.