

Summary of action items from the ACS Council Meeting held at the ACS Conference in Denver, CO, March 2015

Actions of the Council

Candidates for Districts II and IV

- The Committee on Nominations and Elections announced the results of the election held prior to the San Diego meeting 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 2017-2019. By internet ballot, the Councilors from these districts selected **George M. Bodner** and **Christina C. Bodurow** as **District II candidates**; and **Rigoberto Hernandez** and **Larry K. Krannich** as **District IV candidates**. Ballots will be distributed on September 29, 2016 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 2017-2019 terms: **Joseph A. Heppert, Kristin M. Omberg, 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 distributed to the Council on September 29, 2016.

Other Council Actions

2017 Member Dues

- The Council voted to set the member dues for 2016 at the fully escalated rate of **\$166**. This rate is established pursuant to an inflation-adjustment formula in the ACS Constitution and Bylaws.

Academic Professional Guidelines

- After approving an amendment (see box below) to the proposed revised *Academic Professional Guidelines* ([Council Agenda](#), pp. 75-89), the Council approved the revised guidelines, subject to approval by the Board of Directors. The guidelines apply to those members of the academic community whose job function impacts directly or indirectly on scientists practicing the profession of chemistry.

The Department

B. Responsibilities to Students

6. *Physical Facilities*. The department should ~~maintain~~ **work with the administration to ensure maintenance of** its building(s) and equipment holdings in the highest quality condition possible. Building use policies and equipment contained therein should be updated regularly.

- [Council Agenda](#), p. 85

Highlights from Committee Reports

Nominations and Elections

The Committee on Nominations and Elections solicits Councilors' input of qualified individuals for President-Elect and/or Directors for future consideration. Suggestions may be sent to nomelect@acs.org. N&E has established the Vote 20/20 Task Force, charged with examining all aspects of nominations and elections for ACS national offices, and designing an enhanced process to be in place by the year 2020. The committee welcomes ideas from all members as to how nominations and elections should be handled. Send comments to vote2020@acs.org

Budget and Finance

In 2015, ACS generated a Net from Operations of \$16.6 million, which was \$3.2 million favorable to budget. Total revenues were \$511.7 million, essentially on budget. Expenses ended the year at \$495.1 million, which was \$3.1 million or 0.6% favorable to budget. This variance was attributable to a continued emphasis on expense management across the Society. The Society's financial position strengthened in 2015, with Unrestricted Net Assets, or reserves, increasing from \$144.7 million at December 31, 2014 to \$163.3 million at year-end 2015.

Additional information can be found at www.acs.org, at bottom, click 'About ACS', then 'ACS Financial Information'. There you will find several years of the Society's audited financial statements and IRS 990 filings.

Membership

As of December 31, the ACS membership was nearly 157,000, which is 0.96% less than on the same date in 2014. The number of new members who joined in 2015 is 25,000. The Society's overall retention rate is 84%. The committee also reported that the number of international members has increased to 26,022. That number is 965 higher than in December of 2014. The international growth rate is 3.85%.

Early Member Registration Fee

In compliance with the National Meeting Long Range Financial Plan and the recommendations of the 2015 Task Force on Implementing National Meeting Financial Targets, the Committee on Meetings and Expositions has recommended that the Early Member Registration Fee for the 2017 national meetings be \$440. The Board will vote on this recommendation later this year.

San Diego Meeting Attendance

As of Tuesday evening, March 15:

Attendees	8398
Students	5979
Exhibitors	1094
Expo only	473
Guest	383
Total	16,327

Actions of the Board of Directors

The Board's Executive Session

The ACS Board of Directors met March 11 - 12, 2016, and considered a number of key strategic issues and responded with several actions.

Board Development

ACS is a large, highly complex, global organization, with two major businesses – Chemical Abstracts Service and ACS Publications – and a significant professional membership organization component. The Board sets aside substantial discussion time at each meeting for the most important strategic issues facing the Society.

Strategic Issues and Retreat

The Board held a conversation focused on strengthening the process utilized for strategic issues discussions, and a discussion on timing and topics of a possible facilitated retreat for all Board members during 2016. Also, the Board is committed to development and discussed ways to

continuously improve its effectiveness in the service of ACS as individual board members, and as a collective body.

The Board's Committees

The Board received input and discussed reports from its Committees on Grants and Awards, Executive Compensation; and the Joint Board-Council Committee on Publications.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Grants and Awards, the Board voted to approve an endowment to support the E. Bright Wilson Award in Spectroscopy.

Also on the recommendation of the Committee on Grants and Awards, the Board voted to approve language to be included in the guiding documents for the National Awards and Fellows Program to allow for the rescission of national awards and the ACS Fellows designations where reasonable grounds exist.

The Board received an extensive briefing and approved several recommendations from its Committee on Executive Compensation. The compensation of the Society's executive staff receives regular review from the Board.

On the recommendation of the Joint Board-Council Committee on Publications, the Board voted to approve the reappointments of Editors-in-Chief for two ACS journals.

The Executive Director/CEO Report

Executive Director and CEO Thomas M. Connelly, Jr. discussed ACS membership programs, reviewed the Information Technology area, and offered personal reflections on his first year as Executive Director and CEO. His direct reports updated the Board on the activities of Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS), the ACS Publications Division, the Office of the Treasurer and CFO, and the Society's Secretary and General Counsel.

Presidential Succession

The members of the Presidential Succession briefed the Board on their current and planned activities for 2016. President Donna Nelson highlighted presidential programming at the San Diego meeting on employment and diversity in the chemical sciences, and on organic chemistry education. Also, a special discussion topic on the U.S. Employment of Chemists will be conducted at the Council meeting.

The Board's Open Session

The Board held a well-attended open session which featured Amy Harmon, a reporter for the New York Times, who covers the social implications of science and technology. Ms. Harmon's topic was "Telling Science Stories: Dispatch from the Conflict Zone."

Prior to the presentation, members of the presidential succession and the Executive Director and CEO offered brief reports on their activities. The officers provided more extensive reports on their activities and/or future plans as part of their written and oral reports to the Council.

Contact the Board

Your Board of Directors is elected by and acts in the best interests of the members of our Society. Please contact them with your comments, concerns, ideas, and suggestions at secretary@acs.org.

