SUMMARY OF GOVERNANCE ACTIONS/REPORTS

AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY
228TH ACS NATIONAL MEETING
PHILADELPHIA, PA
AUGUST 22-26, 2004

ACTIONS OF THE COUNCIL

Election Results


Candidates for President-Elect and Board of Directors

- The Council was informed of the candidates for the fall 2004 ACS national election as follows:

  **President-Elect 2005**
  E. Ann Nalley, Cameron University, Lawton, Oklahoma
  F. Sherwood Rowland, University of California, Irvine, California
  Isiah M. Warner, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

  **Director-at-Large, 2005-2007**
The Council discussed a recent decision by the Committee on Nominations to reduce the allowable length for candidate statements (President-Elect and Board of Directors) from 1000 words to 750. A resolution was defeated at Council that would have allowed candidate statements to be 1000 words or more.

Proposal for an Ethics Committee

The Committee on Committees presented to Council a proposal for establishing an Ethics Committee as an Other Committee of the 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 adjudicatory 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 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. The Council voted to refer the recommendation back to the Committee on Committees for further study.

Registration Report, 2005 Advance Registration Fee, and Future Locations of National Meetings

As of August 24, 2004, the ACS fall national meeting had attracted 13,805 registrants as follows: Regular attendees 7,741; Students 2,919; Guests 482; Exhibit only 734; and Exhibitors 1,929. The 2005 advance registration fee was announced as $295. The Council approved 2014 meeting sites as follows: Washington, D.C. (March 16-20) and San Francisco (August 24-28). The Committee on Meetings and Expositions will be requesting that the Board of Directors agree to switch the New York 2010 meeting with the Boston 2012 site due to projected construction on the New York Convention Center.
Membership Statistics

- The Council was informed that as of June 30, 2004, total ACS membership stood at 154,945. Compared to last year, this represents less than a 1% decrease in the overall membership number. The good news is that the very impressive 50% increase in the recent graduates joining the Society experienced at year-end last year is continuing. At the end of June, more than 6,800 new members had been added to the membership rolls, which aligns well with the number at the same time last year.

Approval of Petitions

- The Council voted to accept three amendments to the ACS Constitution and/or Bylaws (Petitions): Petition for Electronic Balloting, Petition to Change Division Annual Report Deadline, and Petition for Membership Requirements for Teachers. The Petition for Electronic Balloting proposed changes to the Society’s Constitution and Bylaws allowing for the option of electronic balloting. The first Society implementation will be internet-based, similar to those currently used by several divisions, sister societies, and other organizations, such as public corporations polling their shareholders prior to annual meetings. The Petition to Change Division Annual Report Deadlines makes the annual report deadline consistent with that of Local Sections. This allows the Council Committee on Divisional Activities more time to evaluate Division Annual Reports for making selections for the ChemLuminary Awards program. The Petition for Membership Requirements for Teachers allows experienced qualified chemistry teachers, who may not otherwise fully meet the requirements, to become members based on their status and experience. The petition also allows a pre-college chemistry or allied science teacher to become an associate member.

Special Discussion Item

- A special discussion item was put on the Council agenda for this meeting. ACS President Charles Casey and Board Chair James Burke lead the Council in a discussion on the multidisciplinarity/dispersion of chemistry as a discipline and its impact on ACS members and the profession. Questions were raised about the way the federal government identifies jobs held by chemists as one of many indicators of how multidisciplinarity has come to affect the status of chemists. The Board of Directors and the ACS President have 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 discussion at Council revealed an interest in this topic, particularly as it applies to the future of the discipline.

Local Section Actions
On the recommendation of the Local Section Activities Committee, the Council approved a name change for the Peoria Local Section to the Illinois Heartland Local Section. The Council also approved the inclusion of four additional counties to the Wichita Falls – Duncan Local Section.

Approval of the ACS Professional Employment Guidelines

On the recommendation of the Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs, the Council voted to approve the seventh edition of the ACS Professional Employment Guidelines. These guidelines offer a variety of recommended practices in employment for professional scientists and their employers in today’s workplace.

ACTIONS OF THE BOARD

ACS Award Activity

The Board of Directors voted to recommend a nominee for both the 2005 Perkin Medal and the Othmer Gold Medal. The Perkin Medal, the highest award of the Society of Chemical Industry, is awarded for outstanding contributions to the applied chemistry industry. The Othmer Gold Medal recognizes a chemical scientist of multiple talents and achievements and is awarded by the Chemical Heritage Foundation. The Board also approved financial support for the James Bryant Conant Award in High School Chemistry Teaching for 2006. The Board agreed that the award addresses for the Award for Volunteer Service to the Society will be presented at annual ChemLuminary Award Ceremonies.

The Board’s Committees and Task Forces

The Board received a report from its Audit Committee and voted to approve the committee charter and a subsequent board amendment referencing the charter. The Audit Committee assists the Board with fulfilling its responsibility for oversight of the quality and integrity of the accounting, auditing, internal control and financial reporting practices of the Society.

The Board received a progress report from its task force on strategic alliances, which is drafting a framework “stage gates” of sequential decisions to guide the Society as it pursues new endeavors. The Board also was updated on its continued discussions with the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

Earlier this year a task force on ACS development activities began studying opportunities for an expanded development program at the Society. At this meeting, the Board voted to centralize and expand the Society’s development activities, effective January 1, 2005.
The Society’s Finances

- The Board received a report from the Committee on Budget and Finance and was advised that the Society is projected to end 2004 with a net contribution from operations of $1,531,000, which is $60,000 favorable to the approved budget.

- The Board of Directors received and discussed three program funding requests for 2005: ChemCensus 2005; a Leadership Development Project and the PROGRESS Project. On the recommendation of the Society’s Budget and Finance Committee, the Board voted the following actions: to include funding for ChemCensus 2005 in the ’05 proposed budget at a cost of $229,000; to fund the PROGRESS Project in the proposed 2005 budget at a cost of $160,000, $94,000 in 2006, and $98,000 in 2007; and to defer consideration of the Leadership Development Project for further clarification of the project’s focus and metrics and to resubmit a modified proposal at the earliest opportunity.

The Society’s Staff

- The Board received a report from the Executive Director on the overall activities of the Society and detailed reports on the activities of the Governing Boards for Publishing and Green Chemistry, the Membership Division, Human Resources and the Society’s General Counsel. The Board continued its review of executive compensation through a report presented by Aon Consulting – a nationally recognized human resources consulting firm.

Special Presentations

- The Board received two special presentations. The first presentation detailed the American Chemistry Council’s (ACC) Long Range Research Initiative and was presented by Dr. Nance Dicciani, President and CEO of Honeywell Specialty Materials, and Chair of ACC’s Board Research Committee. The second special presentation took place at the Chemical Heritage Foundation, where the Board received a tour of the Foundation followed by an overview of its history and current activities as presented by its president, Dr. Arnold Thackray.