

ACS Council Report

Spring 2000

REPORT FROM COUNCIL

The Council of the American Chemical Society met on March 29, 2000 during the Spring National Meeting of the Society held in San Francisco, California. The session was relatively short (about three and a half hours) and non-contentious. This report provides some of the *highlights* of the Council activities.

Elections and Nominations for ACS President-Elect, the Committee on Nominations and Elections, and the ACS Board of Directors

Four nominees, Glenn A. Crosby, Eli M. Pearce, John I. Brauman, and Michael P. Doyle,

of which two would be elected by Council to run for President-Elect of the Society, presented their campaign statements. The two elected were Glenn A. Crosby and Eli M. Pearce. The election will take place in the Fall..

Four nominees were presented as candidates for the Committee on Nominations and Elections in order to immediately fill two vacancies. The candidates were Tomlinson Forte, Valerie Kuch, Lewis Allen, and Peter A. Christie. The two elected were Valerie Kuch and Peter Christie.

Elections will be held later this year for six positions on the ACS Board. The candidates vying to represent Region I are Anne T. O'Brien and Michael E. Strem (Dr. Strem is the incumbent). The candidates for Region V are Theodore L. Brown and E. Ann Nalley (Dr. Nalley is the incumbent). And the four candidates vying for two positions as directors-at-large on the Board are Joan E. Shields, Hank Whalen, Nina M. Roscher, and James P. Shoffner (Shields and Whalen are the incumbents).

Reports from the ACS President and President-Elect

ACS President, Daryle H. Busch, gave a brief update on his most recent activities. On September 30, 1999 he participated in a reception on Capital Hill for the ACS Public Service Awardee, Dr. Neal Lane, the Science Adviser to President Clinton. In October he gave the dedicatory address at the celebration for the expansion of the chemistry building at Wooster College in Ohio (Wooster rates as the second highest U.S. college from which chemistry graduates go on to the Ph. D. level!). And Dr. Busch has attended many other meetings on behalf of the Society, including the Division Officers Training Conference held in Clearwater Beach, FL in January. It should be noted that Dr. Busch is very interested in the future of scientific publishing and has attended several meetings on this topic.

ACS President-Elect, Attila E. Pavlath, gave a brief presentation on his goals for the Society. He is very interested in a "bottoms-up" approach to planning and has requested that Divisions, Local Sections, Councilors - indeed, any interested ACS member - contact him with regards to their ideas for the future of ACS and the development of the related Strategic Plan. He specifically wants ACS Divisions and Local Sections to work more closely together as he regards those two units as key to the success of his approach to planning, and has contacted both the Committee on Divisional Activities and the Committee on Local Section Activities to help him in accomplishing this goal.

ACS Board Extends the ACS Scholars Program

Hank Whalen, Chair of the ACS Board of Directors, reported that the Board has voted to extend the ACS Scholars Program to the year 2005. They will use the \$2.1 million remaining from the original \$5 million allotted for the program and have added \$1.5 million to the pool. In addition, they have removed the \$2,500 cap on the amount given to each scholar and empowered the Selection Committee to determine the award amount based upon each individual applicant.

CAS and ACS Publications Continue to Meet Budgeted Revenue Growth

John Crum, ACS Executive Director, reported that CAS electronic revenues are now 80% of CAS' total revenues, that CAS has experienced revenue growth for seven consecutive years. In addition, the Publications Division exceeded its 1999 budget for revenue and net contribution. All of the ACS journals are now available in electronic form and *all* citations in the ACS journals are now being linked to the CAS databases. Construction is underway for a new Data Center in Columbus with the objective of significantly improving the efficiency and effectiveness of information delivery. In November 1999 the ACS entered into an agreement with the Japan Science and Technology Organization (JST) to have the Japanese language scientific databases moved to the CAS computer system in Columbus and loaded on the STN platform. Dr. Crum also reported that ACS sold its 50% ownership of the *Journal of Pharmaceutical Science* back to the founding Society - the American Pharmaceutical Association. Also, a new journal - *Nano Letters* - was approved for publication beginning in 2001. This paid circulation journal is targeted at scientists in the fields of physical chemistry, materials science, pharmaceutical chemistry, and biotechnology. And finally, it was noted that ACS meetings are getting increased media coverage. The information presented at the 1999 Fall National meeting in New Orleans reached a potential audience of 100 million people!

ACS Dues Will Not Increase in 2001

The Committee on Budget and Finance reported that the ACS will *not* increase membership dues in 2001 due to the continued financial prosperity of the Society. Indeed, the total Society operations were expected to end 1999 with a net contribution of \$5.1 million, primarily due to the revenues provided by CAS and the Publications Division.

Electronic Balloting Test to Continue

The Committee on Nominations and Elections reported that the electronic balloting test currently in progress with the Division of Inorganic Chemistry will continue into its third year. Results to date have shown that use of the Internet for elections did *not* increase overall participation in the process, but it did result in cost savings and a reduction in the time required.

ACS Membership Continues to Grow

The Committee on membership Affairs reported that ACS membership at the end of 1999 had reached 161,001, with a member retention rate of 93.5% - a rate reported to be *higher* than any other scientific society. The membership goal for the year 2000 is to reach 165,000. The Committee has established a task force to evaluate how ACS can meet the needs of its Senior members, and it is developing a tool kit for use by Divisions and Local Sections to assist in member recruitment and retention.

Guidelines for the Creation of Membership Directories in Progress

The Committee on Divisional Activities reported that guidelines for the creation of membership directories have been drafted. It is expected that a final version will be completed and presented to the ACS Board for approval before the Fall national meeting this year. The Committee also expects to have guidelines for the activities of Secretariats within the same time period. It was also reported that the Division of Fertilizer and Soil Chemistry has petitioned for dissolution - the first Division to ever do so. It is expected that the group will become a subdivision within a related Division if an appropriate agreement can be reached.

It was also reported that electronic versions of the Bylaws of ACS Local Sections and Divisions are available upon request from ACS Headquarters.

Chemistry in the 21st Century Celebration a Huge Success

Almost all ACS Divisions and Secretariats participated in the Chemistry in the 21st Century celebration that took place during the ACS meeting in San Francisco, attracting strong media coverage due to the

"futuristic" spin on the technical symposia. In addition, the public events that were held on Saturday, March 25th attracted almost two hundred children along with their teachers and parents and was included in the local TV news coverage that evening. This event was a factor in making the Spring National Meeting the new record for ACS.

San Francisco Meeting Sets New Records for the Society

The Spring national meeting in San Francisco set new records for attendance and for the number of papers presented. As of Tuesday, March 28th, registration had reached 15,454 plus 2,853 exhibitors, giving a total of 18,307. More than 8,200 papers were given during the conference, and 99% of the abstracts were submitted electronically. It was also noted that more than 2,000 undergraduates registered for the meeting! The exhibit was a great success with 289 companies in 488 booths. It was reported that the exhibits section for the meeting this Fall in Washington, DC is already sold out!

For those planning ahead, the 243rd meeting of the Society will be held in San Diego in 2012.

Seven Local Sections Celebrate Major Anniversaries

The Committee on Local Sections Activities (LSAC) reported that seven local sections will celebrate anniversaries this year: 50th Anniversary - Auburn, Central Arkansas, Central North Carolina, Mark Twain, and PennOhio; Seventy-fifth 75th Anniversary - North Jersey; and 100th Anniversary - Kansas City. LSAC will be introducing three new awards for Local Sections: Most Innovative Project, Most Progress in Membership Growth, and Strong Support of the ACS Strategic Plan. The ACS Speaker Service is now in its 65th year, and information on 250 speakers is available on the Web.

Three Petitions Presented to Council for Consideration

The Committee on Constitution and Bylaws placed three petitions for consideration before Council:

1) Petition on Graduated Dues - a new dues structure that would give discounts on membership during the first six years within which a chemist is eligible to join ACS. The goal is to attract young chemists early in their career; 2) Petition to change the name of geographical areas that are used to elect directors from "regions" to "districts" and change the term "Regional Director" to "District Director". The goal is to avoid confusion with the use of the term "region" as used for "Regional Meetings". The geographical areas of those meetings does not coincide with the geographical areas defined for Regional directors; and 3) A Petition on meeting registration fees that will remove the geographical distinction in defining a nonmember and ensure that all ACS members, regardless of their area of residence, pay a lower meeting registration fee than nonmembers. All three petitions will be voted on by Council at the Fall Meeting in Washington, DC.

ACS Journal Wins Award

The Committee on Publications reported that *The Journal of Combinatorial Chemistry* was given honorable mention by the Association of American Publishers in the awards category for the best new journal in science, technology and medicine. The journal was launched by ACS in 1999.

New Guidelines for Undergraduate Chemistry Programs Now Available

The Committee on Professional Training reported that there are now 616 approved undergraduate programs. The most recent guidelines were approved in November 1999 and are now available on the ACS Website: <http://www.acs.org/education/cpt/guidelines.html>. A 15-hour maximum teaching load has been set for all instructors, including lab workers.

Latin American Report Available

The Committee on International Affairs reported that a report on the chemical industry in the five largest Latin American Countries is now available from the Committee.

Patent Reform Legislation Signed

On November 29, 1999 major patent reform legislation was signed, with the final language closely aligned with the ACS position on this issue.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bonnie Lawlor & Gary Wiggins, CINF Councilors

April 24, 2000