

Report on the Council Agenda for August 22, 2012

The Council of the American Chemical Society will meet in Philadelphia, PA on Wednesday, August 22, 2012 from 8:00am until approximately 12:00pm in the Grand Ballroom A - F of the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown Hotel. All ACS members are welcome to attend, although only Councilors are permitted to vote. A continental breakfast is usually available at 7:00am for all attendees.

There are a number of items for Council Action, but the majority are routine and not major. The action items are summarized below.

Nominations and Elections

Council Policy Committee: Council will vote to fill four slots on the Council Policy Committee. There are eight nominees as follows: Frank D. Blum, Mary K. Carroll, Joseph A. Heppert, Martha G. Hollomon, Lee H. Latimer, Willem R. Leenstra, Carolyn Ribes, and Ellen B. Stechel.

Committee on Committees: Council will vote to fill seven slots on the Committee on Committees. There are fourteen nominees as follows: Spiro D. Alexandratos, G. Bryan Balazs, Christopher J. Bannochie, Arindam Bose, Dawn A. Brooks, Michelle V. Buchanan, Alan B. Cooper, Judith Currano, Warren D. Hull, Jr. David J. Lohse, Christopher J. Masi, Ingrid Montes, Jason R. Ritchie, and Ralph A. Wheeler.

Committee on Nominations and Elections: Council will vote to fill five slots on the Committee on Nominations and Elections. There are ten nominees as follows: Cherlynvaughn Bradley, Dwight W. Chasar, Catherine E. Costello, Milagros Delgado, Kevin J. Edgar, Carol B. Libby, Les W. McQuire, Donovan R. Porterfield, Robert A. Pribush, and Steven W. Yates.

Committees

The Committee on Committees (ConC) will put forth a recommendation for the continuation of the committees that have been reviewed as required by the Committee Sunset Laws. The committees under consideration are the Committee on Chemists with Disabilities and the Committee on Professional Training. ConC will also recommend for Council approval the creation of a Senior Chemists Committee as a Joint Board-Council Committee. ConC will also honor all committee chairs and members who have reached their statutory limit of service and will recognize Councilors who have reached significant anniversaries of years of Council service.

Proposal to Transfer Two Local Sections

The Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E) is responsible for annually reviewing the distribution of member population within the six electoral districts to assure that the districts have equitable representation. According to Bylaw V, Section 4a, the member populations of each district must be within ten percent of the result of dividing by six the number of members whose addresses lie within these districts. During its meeting in March 2012, N&E learned from year-end 2011 membership figures that the total membership in one electoral district was below the permissible minimum (the permissible range is 21,038 – 25,714). The District III population was 140 members below the permissible minimum and N&E must recommend to Council a redefinition of District boundaries to bring District III member population back into compliance with the Bylaw provision regarding population. The recommendation is that the Hampton Roads and Western Maryland local sections be shifted from District II to District III.

Petitions for Vote

Petition on Candidate Comment in C&EN

The wording to BYLAW V, Section 13 is recommended to have the following added:

“Other than official position statements provided for in election procedures, the official organ of the SOCIETY shall not publish without charge any written material under the name of a candidate for any position on the Board of Directors, including President-Elect, at any time after May 1 in the year of the election.”

This is to avoid an unfair campaign advantage to incumbents who may choose to make official statements on their task force or committee activities prior to elections.

The Committee on Budget and Finance has reviewed the petition and concluded that it will have no impact on the finances of the Society.

Petition on International Chemical Sciences Chapters Funds

The proposed revised wording of BYLAW IX, Section 4, is as follows:

“An International Chemical Sciences Chapter shall receive no allotment of funds from the SOCIETY and shall not be entitled to elected representation on the Council. However, the Board of Directors may grant funds to a Chapter for a specific SOCIETY activity in which participation of the Chapter is deemed necessary for carrying out that SOCIETY activity effectively.”

The recent approval to authorize funds for travel of non-Councilors committee members to attend their committees in support of the activities of their committees has prompted petitioners to renew seeking support for the International Science Chapters. This petition makes the language general by authorizing the Board at its discretion to support a Chapter for a specific activity only.

The Committee on Budget and Finance has examined the petition and concluded that its implementation will have a minor negative impact on the finances of the Society, given the five chapters currently active; However, it cannot foresee future impact if the number of chapters increases.

Distribution Formula for Local Section Allotments

The ACS Bylaws gives the Committee on Local Section Activities (LSAC) responsibility of distributing annual allotments to ACS local sections provided that they meet all of the reporting requirements. LSAC is also responsible for developing and reviewing the calculation that is used to distribute the allotments every three years or sooner, if deemed necessary. LSAC believes that there is a deficiency in the current formula and if not corrected, the total allotment for distribution will be greater than the funds available to distribute. LSAC is recommending a formula to correct this deficiency for the 2013 allotments. A long-term solution will be recommended in 2013.

Bylaw Changes for Consideration Only

Petition to Amend National Election Procedures

The increasing demands of recent campaigns for electing the President-Elect of the Society have made it ever more difficult to recruit leaders in the chemical community to accept nomination. The problems are increased substantially by the process used to choose candidates from among nominees, as otherwise potentially excellent candidates are often voted off the ballot because they are not well known to Councilors. Serving many years in ACS governance is not, and should not be, a pre-requisite for serving as President-Elect.

The proposed change will charge N&E to find two candidates for President-Elect. Others, as now, may be nominated by members by petition, and procedures for preferential balloting remain unchanged. All candidates could then be invited to a public forum, such as a Town Hall meeting, at the fall national meeting, and would appear on the ballot. This process would shorten the campaign period, allow all candidates to be seen by Council and other members, and ease the burden on N&E.

The financial impact is still being assessed.

Town Hall Meeting

A Town Hall meeting organized by the Committee on Nominations and Elections is scheduled for Sunday, August 19, 2012 in the Grand Ballroom Salon E of the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown Hotel, from 4:45pm - 5:45pm. It will highlight a Q&A session with the candidates for Directors-at-Large. All ACS members are encouraged to attend. It is a great way to gather first-hand information and decide for whom you might want to vote in the fall election.

Respectfully submitted August 14, 2012

CINF Councilors

Bonnie Lawlor
Andrea Twiss-Brooks