

August 24, 2015

Report on: ACS Fall 2015 NATIONAL MEETING – Boston, MA

Four of ACS Pittsburgh Section Councilors were in attendance at Boston.

The meeting attracted approximately 13,888 attendees and an exposition of 475 booths.

The Candidates for President- Elect, 2016 are:

G. Bryan Balazs and Allison A. Campbell

The Candidates for Directors-at-Large for a 2016-2018 term: Lee H. Latimer, William R. Leenstra, Ingrid Montes, Mary jo Ondrechen, and Thomas W. Smith. The election of two Directors-at-Large from among those candidates will be conducted in the fall. Ballots will be distributed to the Council on October 2.

The Council elected Christopher J. Bannochie, Michelle V. Buchanan. Alan B. Cooper, Donna G. Friedman, and Carolyn Ribes for a 2016-2018 term and Jeffry Duffy-Matzner for a two year term, 2016-2017, on the Committee on Committees.

The Council elected Frank D Blum, Mary K. Carroll, Lisa Houston, and Lee H. Latimer for a 2016-2018 term on the committee on the Council Policy Committee.

The Council elected Mary K. (Moore) Engelman, Roland F. Hirsch, C. Marvin Lang, Les W. McQuire, and Donivan R. Porterfield for a 2016-2018 term on the Committee on Nominations and Elections.

The Committee on Meetings & Expositions reported that the total meeting registration was 13, 888. Of these, 8,129 were regular registrations, 1278 were exhibitors, 3,462 were students, 593 were exposition only, and 426 guests. The exposition had 475 booths with 325 companies. The meeting had over 9,271 papers presented.

The Council voted to approve the Petition on Preferential Voting, contingent upon confirmation by the ACS Board of Directors.

The Council voted to approve the Petition on Member Expulsion, contingent upon confirmation by the ACS Board of Directors.

The Council voted to approve the establishment of the Australia, Brazil, Nigeria, Peru, and United Arab Emirates Chemical Sciences Chapters, subject to confirmation by the Board of Directors.

The Council passed several resolutions, including one acknowledging President Diane Grob Schmidt's service as presiding officer of the Council and expressing gratitude for her 48 years of service to the Society.

The Committee on Meetings and Expositions has decided to discontinue free distribution of the hard copy program book starting in 2016. Those who pre-register for the meeting may purchase a copy of the program book for \$10 (pick up on site), and copies will be available at the meeting for \$20. The PDF version of the national meeting program will be more prominently displayed on the ACS website for those who would like to print portions for themselves.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Budget and Finance, the Board of Directors voted to approve an advance member registration fee of \$415 for national meetings held in 2016; to authorize a new program funding request for the ACS Festival Series program; and to reauthorize funding for the ACS Science Coaches program.

The Budget and Finance Committee reviewed the Society's 2015 probable year-end financial projection which expects a Net Contribution from Operations of \$15.5 million, or \$2.1 million higher than the Approved Budget. Total revenues are projected at \$512.1 million, which at \$481,000 favorable is essentially on Budget. Total expenses are projected at \$496.9 million, which is \$1.6 million or 0.3% favorable to the Approved Budget. This variance is the result of lower-than-budgeted expenses across almost all major expense categories.

SOCED voted to make the pilot program of ACS International Student Chapters a permanent feature of the student chapters program. ACS has chartered 15 International Student Chapters since the pilot launched last year.

The Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs reported that ACS ChemCensus data showed that Domestic Unemployment among ACS member chemists edged slightly upwards in the last year from 2.9% to 3.1%. Still, current unemployment rate is lower than it was from 2009 to 2013. The ChemCensus also showed a modest salary increase year-over-year. For the first year since 2004, the percentage of ACS members working in manufacturing increased. These trends are mirrored by a slight decline in the percentage of members in academia. Other workforce categories remained relatively flat.

The Committee on Local Section Activities will award 20 Innovative Project Grants for a total of \$39,886. This brings the total for 2015 to 34 IPG awards totaling over \$75,000. Since the inception of the program, a total of 166 local Sections have received at least one award.

The Committee on Divisional Activities (DAC) voted to fund fourteen Innovative Project Grants totaling \$77,050.

The Committee on International Activities reviewed and approved new chapter applications initiated by members in Brazil, Nigeria, Peru and United Arab Emirates.

The Committee on Membership Affairs (MAC) reported that as of July 31, the ACS membership was 156,561; 2055 fewer than on the same date in 2014. The number of new members who have joined this year is 14,457; 147 fewer than this time last year. The Society's overall retention rate is 84%. The number of international members has increased to 25,989; 1014 higher than in July, 2014. The international retention rate is 85%.

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee certified 14 bylaws in 2015, and has reviewed bylaws for 9 local sections and 2 Divisions since the spring meeting in Denver.

The Committee Chemical on Safety reported that it had been requested by the Chemical Safety Board (CSB) to assist in developing guidance with methods to recognize, assess, and control hazards in research laboratories. The CCS released its final report, "Identifying and Evaluating Hazards in Research Laboratories," in 2015. Councilors and their institutions who are engaged in research were urged to consider using this guide to help keep their laboratories safer. This report is available at www.acs.org/safety.

The Committee on International Activities approved the ACS Global Innovation initiatives (Gii) Singapore White Paper and chose South America and Mexico for the 2017 joint ACS-Pittcon program to foster exchange and research collaboration in Analytical Chemistry.

Project SEED announced another successful SEED program with participation of 411 high school students. These students are currently placed in over 100 laboratories across the nation, under the supervision of over 400 volunteer scientists and coordinators in 39 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The committee awarded 32 first year non-renewable College Scholarships to SEED alumni in 17 states and Puerto Rico.

The Chemical Technician Affairs Committee is now accepting nominations for the 2016 National Chemical Technician Award. This annual award is presented in recognition of outstanding technical and communication skills, reliability, leadership, teamwork, publications, and presentations. For more information about this award, please visit the committee website at acs.org/cta.

Pittsburgh Section
Councilors

Respectfully submitted,
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