

April 12, 2013

Report on: ACS Spring 2013 NATIONAL MEETING – New Orleans, LA

Four of ACS Pittsburgh Section Councilors were in attendance at New Orleans, LA.

The meeting attracted approximately 15,500 attendees and an exposition of 415 booths.

The Council selected G. Bryan Balazs and Charles E. Kolb, Jr. as candidates for 2014 President-Elect.

By ballot, the Councilors from District II selected George M. Bodner and Alan A. Hazari as District II candidates. Ballots will be mailed on or before October 10th to all ACS members in District II.

The Committee on Nominations and Elections announced the selection of the following candidates for Directors-at-Large for a 2014-2016 term: Susan B. Butts, Thom H. Dunning, Jr., 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 mailed to the Council on or before October 10.

Two vacancies on the Committee on Committees were filled by Christopher J. Bannochie (three year) and Jason Richie (one year).

As part of a regular performance review, the Council voted unanimously to continue the Committees on Chemical Abstracts Service, Environmental Improvement, and Younger Chemists. Continuation of these three committees requires Board concurrence.

The Committee on Meetings & Expositions reported that the total meeting registration was 15,596. Of these, 8,084 were regular registrations, 956 were exhibitors, 5,790 were students, 389 were exposition only, and 347 guests. The exposition had 415 booths with 274 companies. The meeting had 11,232 papers presented.

Despite the sluggish economy, ACS generated favorable operating results in 2012. Total revenue was \$490.7 million, which was \$6.1 million or 1.3% greater than the approved budget, and 3.9% higher than 2011. The Net from Operations was \$20.2 million, or \$4.3 million favorable to budget. This was largely attributable to better-than expected performance by ACS Publications and CAS, and represents the Society's 9th consecutive year of positive operating results. While operating performance was favorable, Unrestricted New Assets declined \$1.4 million to \$100.6 million. Finally, ACS ended the year in compliance with four of the five Board-established financial guidelines.

The Council voted to set the member dues for 2014 at the fully escalated rate of \$154. This rate is established pursuant to an inflation-adjustment formula in the ACS Constitution and Bylaws.

After discussion, a vote to approve the Petition to Amend National Election Procedures failed (85% against, 15% in favor). The petition sought to shorten the campaign period for candidates for President-Elect and to charge the Committee on Nominations and Elections with proposing two candidates for President-Elect. Currently, N&E proposes four nominees from which Council selects two candidates. Under the petition, Council would no longer vote on a list of nominees.

Society membership at the end of 2012 was 163,322 – 893 lower than the total for year-end 2011 despite recruiting 24,943 members. The net loss occurred primarily in the Regular full member category. There was continued growth in both the Student Member undergraduate and international categories, which helped mitigate the overall decline in membership.

The Council voted to approve the Academic Professional Guidelines as submitted by the Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs. These guidelines apply to those members of the academic community whose job function impacts directly or indirectly on scientists practicing the profession of chemistry.

The Council voted to approve a new formula for the distribution of allocations to individual Local Sections beginning in 2014. The new allocation will be divided as follows: base allotment (49%); per member allotment (43%), and LSAC program funds (8%).

The Council voted to approve changes to the Charter Bylaws for New International Chemical Sciences Chapters. These changes will guide the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws in reviewing bylaw changes before proposed changes are approved by the membership of the new chapter.

The Council voted, in concurrence with the Board of Directors, to approve the petition to charter the Romanian International Chemical Sciences Chapter, consisting of the Territory of Romania.

A special discussion item was put on the Council agenda for this meeting. ACS President Marinda Li Wu presented and moderated a discussion on “What else should ACS do to help members to thrive in the global chemistry enterprise?” ACS has established a strategic goal to “Empower an inclusive community of members with networks, opportunities, resources, and skills to thrive in the global community.” In support of this goal, President Wu commissioned a task force entitled, “Vision 2025: Helping ACS Members Thrive in the Global Chemistry Enterprise,” to identify globalization opportunities and engage members in advocacy for improving the business and job climate. Following the presentation, 29 Councilors engaged in a robust discussion on what the Society currently offers or could offer to help members thrive in the global chemistry community.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Professional & Members Relations, the Board voted to approve an alliance with the Latin American Federation of Chemical Associations (FLAQ) and to renew an alliance with the Chinese Chemical Society.

Respectfully submitted,
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Pittsburgh Section Councilors