

MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY
DENVER, CO
August 28, 2011

The Board of Directors of the American Chemical Society met in Denver, Colorado, on August 28, 2011, beginning at 12:00 p.m. Bonnie A. Charpentier, Chair, presided. Other Directors present for all or part of the meeting were: George M. Bodner, William F. Carroll, Jr., Dennis Chamot, Pat N. Confalone, Peter K. Dorhout, Nancy B. Jackson, Madeleine Jacobs, Neil D. Jespersen, Larry K. Krannich, Valerie J. Kuck, Kathleen M. Schulz, Bassam Z. Shakhashiri, Kent J. Voorhees, and Marinda Li Wu. Present by invitation for all or part of the meeting were: Lisa M. Balbes, Rudy M. Baum, Brian A. Bernstein, William H. Breazeale, Brian D. Crawford, Denise L. Creech, Yvonne D. Curry, David Harwell, Mary Kirchhoff, Martha K. Lester, Flint H. Lewis, Robert J. Massie, Les W. McQuire, Scott J. Oliphant, Carolyn Ribes, Robert H. Rich, Sophie L. Rovner, Glenn S. Ruskin, Ronald E. Siatkowski, David T. Smorodin, John R. Sullivan, Frank E. Walworth and Marleen G. Weidner. More than one hundred and fifty observers were present at various times during the meeting.

Report from Executive Session

Bonnie A. Charpentier, Chair, opened the meeting with a summary of the key Board actions and discussion points from its executive session, August 26-27. She reported that the Board agreed to:

- approve guidelines for weighing selection and engagement in human rights cases wherever they occur;
- approve nominations for the AAAS Scientific Freedom & Responsibility Award and the NSF Waterman Award;
- receive briefings from its Planning Committee and Committee on Executive Compensation;
- adjust its agenda for the 2012 June meeting that overlaps with the Middle Atlantic Regional Meeting (MARM) to allow for attendance and participation at key MARM sessions and events;
- approve an advance registration fee of \$360 for national meetings held in 2012;
- reauthorize funding for inclusion in the 2012 proposed budget of the following programs: *ACS Fellows*; *ACS Leadership*; *ACS Scholars*; and *ACS Global Research Experiences, Exchanges, and Training (GREET)*;
- include a new program funding request - *The ACS Entrepreneurship Initiative* - in the 2012 proposed budget and the 2013 forecast budget;
- adopt the non-councilor reimbursement policy as presented by the Council Policy Committee to the Committee on Budget and Finance (at the rate of 50% of the councilor travel reimbursement) effective 2012;
- approve several recommendations from its Financial Planning Conference held June 1-3, 2011;
- receive a report from the Executive Director/CEO on challenges facing ACS 2011-2015; and briefings from her direct reports on the activities of the Publications Division, Chemical Abstracts Service, and the Society's General Counsel (including an update on the Leadscope litigation);

- approve the reappointment of two journal editors, the appointment of a new editor, and an appointment to the ACS Governing Board for Publishing;
- accept an invitation from the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBCChE) to meet with representatives of the ACS Board of Directors in 2012;
- receive a briefing from the President-Elect on his activities and priorities during his presidential year;
- receive a briefing from international dignitaries representing the Canadian Society for Chemistry, the German Chemical Society, IUPAC, and the Royal Society of Chemistry on their activities and plans to sustain the momentum started during the International Year of Chemistry;
- approve a resolution in memory of former Board member C. Gordon McCarty,
- and approve a nomination for the 2012 Othmer Gold Medal.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Reports of Officers

President Nancy B. Jackson reported that she testified to the Subcommittee on Education and Research of the House Science, Technology, and Space Committee on the NSF Merit Review Process. Dr. Jackson said that she was asked how the job of merit review can be more efficient and helpful, and she responded by using the example of the ACS Petroleum Research Fund's empowerment of program managers. Dr. Jackson also reported on her planned interactions with the Sustainability Manufacturing Initiative that will highlight the sustainable manufacturing agenda related to innovation and economic policy, and will bring together industrial, government, academic, and scientific organizations to enable sustainable manufacturing in the chemical and allied products industries.

President-Elect Bassam Z. Shakhshiri stated that he is proud to be a 50 year member of the Society and that the theme for his presidential initiatives is "Advancing Chemistry – Communicating Chemistry." Dr. Shakhshiri reminded the Board and audience of the Society's mission and vision and then briefly highlighted his four initiatives for 2012: 1) ACS and the Sesquicentennial of the Morrill Land Grant Act; 2) a blue ribbon panel to examine the purposes of graduate education; 3) helping the public understand the *science* of climate change; and 4) an ACS high school teacher fellowship program.

OPEN FORUM

Dr. Charpentier announced that the Board of Directors had put on its agenda an open forum entitled, "What the ACS is doing, or can do, to assist members who are facing employment challenges in uncertain economic times?" She said that the Board has been concerned for some time about the rising unemployment rate of chemists and the uncertainty of our economy and its potential impact on future hiring; and for this reason, the Board wanted to take this opportunity to address the issue in an open forum with members. Dr. Charpentier then called on David Harwell, ACS Assistant Director, Career Management and Development, for a presentation to provide background information prior to the discussion.

Dr. Harwell reported the unemployment rate for chemists in 2009 (3.9%) was the highest since ACS started collecting employment data in 1971. The unemployment rate improved slightly in 2010 to 3.8%. He added that the recession hit new chemistry graduates the hardest with an unemployment rate at 11.4%. Dr. Harwell then described several career resources grouped as traditional resources available to members. They include career counseling, workshops, job search guides and videos, jobs database, career fairs, newsletters and blogs and the ACS webinars. He also noted professional development opportunities such as leadership courses, ACS short courses, webcast courses, online business courses, career pathways workshops, information on preparing for life after graduate school and the academic employment initiative. Dr. Harwell concluded his presentation by sharing information on President Jackson's new initiative "Paying it Forward" - designed to promote members helping members, plans for the upcoming ACS Entrepreneurial Initiative, and advocacy efforts for chemists before policy makers.

Dr. Lisa Balbes, Chair, Committee on Economic & Professional Affairs called attention to a flyer distributed to all open session attendees that described the state of employment in the chemical enterprise. She said that the problem is serious and she invited members to join the Society in addressing this very important issue.

Dr. Charpentier then invited meeting attendees to ask questions, share their concerns, and/or provide input on employment in the chemical enterprise and other topics as appropriate. Attendees highlighted a number of concerns and suggestions, including health care for entrepreneurial chemists; the posting of jobs by local sections; the loss of jobs among science teachers; the need for a boiler-plate standard when searching for jobs; questions about the numbers for underemployment, the opportunity for ACS to do more by collaborating with other organizations; the unemployment rates for minority chemists; and the necessity of publicizing local section success stories that show how members have assisted other members.

Dr. Charpentier thanked participants for a successful forum and noted its standing room only attendance. She said that the Board will likely use this format again for future open sessions on timely topics.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Flint H. Lewis
Secretary