

MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY
WASHINGTON, DC
August 20, 2017

The Board of Directors of the American Chemical Society met in Washington, District of Columbia, on August 20, 2017, beginning at 12:00 p.m. Pat N. Confalone, Chair, presided. Other Directors present for all or part of the meeting were: John E. Adams, Christina Bodurow, Allison A. Campbell, William F. Carroll, Jr., Thomas M. Connelly, Jr., Peter K. Dorhout, Rigoberto Hernandez, Paul W. Jagodzinski, Lee H. Latimer, Ingrid Montes, Donna J. Nelson, Laura E. Pence, Dorothy J. Phillips, Barbara A. Sawrey, and Kathleen M. Schulz. Present by invitation for all or parts of the meeting were: Brian A. Bernstein, Brian D. Crawford, Kate Fryer, Manuel Guzman, Mary Kirchoff, Martha K. Lester, Flint H. Lewis, Scott Oliphant, Glenn S. Ruskin, David T. Smorodin, John R. Sullivan, Frank E. Walworth, and Marleen G. Weidner. More than three hundred observers were present at various times during the meeting.

Call to Order and Chair's Report from Executive Session

Pat N. Confalone, Chair, opened the meeting by welcoming the attendees and introducing his Board colleagues. Next, he summarized the key actions and discussion points from the Board's executive session held August 18 - 19:

The Board's Committees

The Board of Directors received and discussed reports from its committees on the Petroleum Research Fund, Strategic Planning, Corporation Associates, Executive Compensation, Professional and Member Relations, the Society Committee on Budget and Finance, the ACS Governing Board for Publishing, and the Joint Board-Council Task Force on Governance Design.

- On the recommendation of the Committee on Professional and Member Relations, the Board voted to approve the Society's nominees for the 2018 Perkin Medal, and the 2018 National Science Board Public Service Award.
- On the recommendation of the Joint Board-Council Committee on Publications and an Editor Selection Committee, the Board voted to approve the appointments and reappointments of several editors-in-chief for ACS journals.
- On the recommendation of the Society Committee on Budget and Finance, the Board voted to approve the advance member registration fee for national meetings held in 2018; and to authorize two new program funding requests.

The Executive Director/CEO Report

The Executive Director/CEO and his direct reports provided updates to the Board on the activities of Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) and the ACS Publications Division. He offered current and proposed strategies to increase membership in the Society; reported on safety initiatives, resources and security; and provided an update on the Atlantic Basin Conference on Chemistry (ABCCChem) scheduled for January 2018. As part of his report, he invited the Treasurer to brief the Board on the Enterprise Financial Systems Program (EFSP), which is unifying several financial operations for Society staff; the Financial Planning Conference in early November; and ACS Development Activities.

Other Society Business

- The Board heard reports from members of the Presidential Succession on their current activities and those planned for 2018.
- The Board also held a discussion with officers and members of the board of directors of the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBCChE) on what governance participation might look like at the organizations' annual meetings, possible meetings between ACS and NOBCChE at the ACS Leadership Institute, dual membership between both organizations, strategic alliance of student chapters at the local section and regional levels, and ACS Board participation at NOBCChE Annual Conferences.

Reports of Officers

President

ACS President Allison A. Campbell thanked the attendees, volunteers and ACS staff for their participation in “The ACS Chemistry on the Hill Advocacy Workshop” that occurred earlier in the day and which provided younger chemists and other invitees with practical approaches and advice on engaging with members of Congress. She encouraged the audience to attend other Presidential programming for this national meeting: “Science Communications: The Art of Developing a Clear Message,” in conjunction with the Royal Society of Chemistry (August 20), “Building a Safety Culture Across the Chemistry” (August 21), “Understanding the Chemistry of our Planet” (August 22), and the LGBTQ+ Reception (August 22).

Lastly, Dr. Campbell encouraged members to share their ideas and suggestions with her at a.campbell@acs.org.

President-Elect

ACS President-Elect Peter K. Dorhout stated that the “Objects of the American Chemical Society,” crafted by the first assembly of chemists in 1876, will serve to guide his perspectives on where we should lead our society, in particular “the advancement of chemistry and all its branches,” and “the promotion of research in chemical sciences and aiding the development of our country’s industries.” He reminded the audience of his main areas of focus: RAMPing up the culture of safety (Recognize hazards, Assess and Minimize risks, and Prepare for emergencies), improving the employment outlook for chemical professionals, and building an endowment for ACS Scholars. He announced that by the end of 2018, the ACS Scholars program will realize its 300th Ph.D. alumna or alumnus and asked members to join him as a benefactor.

Dr. Dorhout concluded by stating that he has enjoyed the first year of his presidential succession engaging so many of our members as well as Boy Scouts at the National Jamboree this past summer, and looks forward to an exciting 2018. He encouraged members to share their ideas and suggestions with him at p.dorhout@acs.org.

Immediate Past President

ACS Immediate Past President Donna J. Nelson reported that two volumes in the ACS book series are planned. The first, *Diversity in the Chemistry Community*, is partially based on three diversity-related symposia held during the spring 2016 national meeting in San Diego. The second is focused on reporting recommendations from her ACS President’s Task Force on U.S. Employment in the Chemical Sciences, which she then highlighted. She announced that electronic copies of the task force’s final report have been sent to all Councilors, and hardcopies are available upon request.

Dr. Nelson encouraged members to attend her sponsored programming for this national meeting: “Chemists of Courage” (August 22) and NASA’s “Journey to Mars Symposium” (August 22).

Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer

ACS Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer Thomas M. Connelly stated that it is a pleasure to welcome attendees to Washington, the Nation’s capital and home to ACS headquarters. This meeting’s attendance will not equal our all-time record from last April in San Francisco, but it is nonetheless very strong, and the meeting has excellent programming. He announced that the bipartisan Congressional Chemistry Caucus, launched in 2016 in the House of Representatives, is now a bicameral caucus. An event marking the expansion of the Caucus to the Senate was held earlier this year in Washington. The caucus is a partnership between ACS, the American Chemistry Council (ACC) and the National Association of Chemical Distributors (NACD). The Caucus' mission is to educate Members of Congress, their staff and the public on the benefits of chemistry in today's society and its impact on our country.

Guest Presentation

Dr. Confalone then introduced the speakers for the meeting’s presentation and discussion on the role ACS and its members play in advocating for adoption of important public policy priorities to foster scientific advancement and innovation. Mr. Glenn Ruskin, Director, External Affairs & Communications in the Office of the Secretary and General Counsel, and Mr. Anthony Pitagno, Director of Government Affairs and Outreach, External Affairs & Communications, spoke about the critically important role federal investment in basic research plays in driving U.S. innovation, job creation and economic growth. A brief question and answer session followed the presentation, first with the presenters, and then with the Board for general concerns and comments.

Before declaring the meeting adjourned, Dr. Confalone thanked all the participants and his colleagues on the Board for a successful meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Flint H. Lewis
Secretary