

MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY
Dallas, Texas
March 16, 2014

The Board of Directors of the American Chemical Society met in Dallas, Texas, on March 16, 2014, beginning at 12:00 p.m. William F. Carroll, Jr., Chair, presided. Other Directors present for all or part of the meeting were: John E. Adams, Tom J. Barton, George M. Bodner, Bonnie A. Charpentier, Pat N. Confalone, Thomas R. Gilbert, Rigoberto Hernandez, Madeleine Jacobs, Valerie J. Kuck, Ingrid Montes, Dorothy J. Phillips, Barbara A. Sawrey, Diane G. Schmidt, Kathleen M. Schulz, and Marinda Li Wu. Present by invitation for all or parts of the meeting were: Brian A. Bernstein, Brian D. Crawford, Denise L. Creech, Manuel Guzman, Mary Kirchhoff, Martha K. Lester, Flint H. Lewis, Robert J. Massie, Robert H. Rich, Glenn S. Ruskin, Ronald E. Siatkowski, 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 Report from Executive Session

William F. Carroll, Jr., Chair, opened the meeting by recalling that the regular session of the 2013 fall national meeting in Indianapolis featured American actor, director, and author Alan Alda, who spoke on “Helping the Public Get Beyond a Blind Date with Science”. At that same meeting, ACS presented Mr. Alda with the ACS Award for Public Service. He is this year’s recipient of the James T. Grady-James H. Stack Award for Interpreting Chemistry for the Public. Dr. Carroll then introduced a videotaped message from Mr. Alda, who expressed his gratitude to the Society for the Grady-Stack award.

Dr. Carroll then summarized the key Board actions and discussion points from its executive session, March 14-15:

- On the recommendation of the Committee on Grants and Awards, the Board approved a Society nomination for the National Medal of Science, which is bestowed by the President of the United States upon individuals in science and engineering who have made important contributions to the advancement of knowledge in the fields of behavioral and social sciences, biology, chemistry, engineering, mathematics and physics.
- The Board received an extensive briefing and approved several recommendations from its Committee on Executive Compensation. The compensation of the Society’s executive staff receives regular review from the Board.
- The working group on Society Program Portfolio Management briefed the Board on its activities. The group is charged with delivering a process for portfolio management of Society programs in the divisions of Membership and Scientific Advancement, Education, and the Office of the Secretary and General Counsel (Office of Public Affairs).
- The Board held a discussion on operational issues relating to virtual versus face-to-face committee meetings, the appropriate detail and format of information presented to the Board and committee members, and the proper length of committee meetings.
- The Executive Director/CEO and her direct reports updated the Board on ACS financial trends and near-term outlook; plans for the launch of the recently approved American Association of Chemistry Teachers; and the activities and plans of CAS (Chemical Abstracts Service) and the ACS Publications Division. As a follow-up to the Publications report, the Board approved three journal editor re-appointments. The Board also approved one appointment to the ACS Green Chemistry Institute® Governing Board and one reappointment to the ACS Governing Board for Publishing.

The Board also:

- Expressed its gratitude and thanks to Madeleine Jacobs, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, who on March 6 announced her plan to retire at the end of the year. The Board then began a discussion of the process and logistics of identifying and hiring her successor.
- Received reports from the Presidential Succession on their current and planned activities for the remainder of 2014 and 2015.
- Approved a resolution congratulating Robert J. Massie on his retirement at the end of this month for more than twenty-one years of successful leadership of the Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS). Dr. Carroll then acknowledged the presence of Mr. Massie at this meeting.

Open Forum

Dr. Carroll opened the forum by summarizing what the Board heard in response to two questions asked at the previous open forum, conducted in April 2013: “What one thing would you like from ACS that you don’t get now?” and “What one thing do you get from another organization that you wish you got from the ACS?” He reviewed highlights of suggestions from that discussion which were taken back for discussion and consideration by governance committees and staff for follow up.

Following the review, Dr. Carroll introduced the discussion question for this meeting by stating that ACS has a robust offering of products and service available in a variety of areas for its members and other practitioners of chemistry. He announced that this forum is designed to hear responses from our members to the question, “What is the one best thing that you like that ACS does, and why?” The floor was then opened for response.

More than 30 attendees offered comments on what they liked, including career activities; professional development; the “Webinar in a Box” program; educational activities, especially those for two-year college students; international activities, especially those modeled on Festival de Química; research papers and poster sessions at meetings; ACS Project SEED; International Chemical Sciences Chapters; reduced dues for undergraduates; standardization in the curriculum and requirements for the ACS chemistry degree; regional meetings, with increasing emphasis on shared activities by and for local sections; career profiles; and community outreach and education. At the conclusion of the discussion, Dr. Carroll thanked participants for the success of another filled-to-capacity forum.

Reports of Officers

President

ACS President Tom Barton urged those present to attend his two major presidential symposia at this meeting. The first, “Engaging Chemistry Departments in the Preparation of Chemistry Teachers”, features pioneers who have partnered chemistry departments and education departments to design and establish university programs for the training of the chemistry teachers of the future. The second, “Benefits of Chemistry in Our Lives”, features former presidents of the ACS who will emphasize the chemist’s constant duty to educate people of the incredible value and importance of chemistry in their lives. Dr. Barton expressed hope that with these talks made available after the meeting, local section members can access them and easily construct “Importance of Chemistry” talks for their use.

President-Elect

ACS President-Elect Diane G. Schmidt focused her remarks on the recently approved American Association of Chemistry Teachers (AACT), created to provide a professional home for K-12 teachers of chemistry. Until now, chemistry has been the only scientific discipline in the U.S. without a national teachers organization, and only 35% of high school chemistry teachers have both a bachelor's degree and certification in chemistry. AACT will serve as a trusted source of curricular and pedagogical resources for K-12 chemistry instruction, provide opportunities for chemistry teachers to network with one another and the broader ACS community, and disseminate effective teaching and learning practices at the K-12 level. Dr. Schmidt encouraged members to reach out to their children's and grandchildren's chemistry teachers, as well as those in their local schools, and encourage them to participate in AACT.

Immediate Past President

ACS Immediate Past President Marinda Li Wu gave an update on activities in support of her presidential theme "Partners for Progress and Prosperity", including her presidential task force "Vision 2025: Helping ACS Members Thrive in the Global Chemistry Enterprise", ACS symposium books, C&EN comments, domestic and international outreach, and advocacy support. She announced a symposium on "Women Leaders of the Global Chemistry Enterprise" for the fall 2014 national meeting and noted that it is in need of financial sponsors. She concluded by describing her new Partners for Progress and Prosperity (P3) Award, which will recognize successful and exemplary partnerships resulting in impactful outcomes between industry, academia, government, small business and other domestic or overseas entities, and outlined the award's purpose and funding, eligible award categories, and selection process.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

Flint H. Lewis, Secretary