

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR SESSION**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
San Diego, California  
March 25, 2012

The Board of Directors of the American Chemical Society met in San Diego, California, on March 25, 2012, beginning at 12:00 p.m. William F. Carroll, Jr., Chair, presided. Other Directors present for all or part of the meeting were: George M. Bodner, Dennis Chamot, Bonnie A. Charpentier, Pat N. Confalone, Peter K. Dorhout, Nancy B. Jackson, Madeleine Jacobs, Neil D. Jespersen, Larry K. Krannich, Valerie J. Kuck, Barbara A. Sawrey, Kathleen M. Schulz, Bassam Z. Shakhashiri, Kent J. Voorhees, and Marinda Li Wu. Present by invitation for all or part of the meeting were: Rudy M. Baum, Brian A. Bernstein, Brian D. Crawford, Denise L. Creech, Yvonne D. Curry, Larry R. Faulkner, Paul L. Houston, Martha K. Lester, Flint H. Lewis, Mary Kirchhoff, Robert J. Massie, Scott J. Oliphant, Robert H. Rich, Glenn S. Ruskin, Ronald E. Siatkowski, David T. Smorodin, John R. Sullivan, Frank E. Walworth, and Marleen G. Weidner. More than two hundred observers were present at various times during the meeting.

Report from Executive Session

William F. Carroll, Jr., Chair, opened the meeting with a summary of the key Board actions and discussion points from its executive session, March 23-24. He reported that the Board agreed to:

- a screened list of nominees for the 2013 Priestley Medal, Charles Lathrop Parsons Award, and the Award for Volunteer Service to the ACS; and will now vote on and announce the winners of these three awards after its June meeting;
- approve a Society nominee for the National Medal of Science;
- approve several actions relative to executive compensation for the Society's executive staff;
- receive a report from the Executive Director/CEO and several of her direct reports on the activities of CAS (Chemical Abstracts Service), the ACS Publications Division, and the Society's General Counsel (including an update on the Leadscope litigation);
- receive a briefing on current virtual and hybrid meeting strategies using the Virtual Career Fair and Virtual Exposition;
- receive a report from the CPT-SOCED Task Force on the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute report *Scientific Foundations for Future Physicians* – wherein the CPT-SOCED task force is considering the implications of chemistry-related recommendations contained in the report;
- receive a report from the President-Elect on plans and priorities during her presidential year; and a discussion on presidential succession budgets – particularly in light of increasing international and domestic travel demands;
- approve the 2015 Pacifichem budget and authorize reimbursement of any net revenues exceeding the budget, on a pro rata basis, to the participating ACS Divisions for expenditures in support of the Pacifichem program and activities;
- changes to Board Regulations regarding the composition of the Planning Committee and the appointment of canvassing and award committees;
- a proposal to administer and present the AkzoNobel North American Science Award as recommended by the Committee on Grants and Awards;
- approve proclamations recognizing the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the South African Chemical Institute and the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Chinese Chemical Society; and
- receive briefings from several international guests representing the following scientific societies: the Canadian Society for Chemistry, the German Chemical Society, the Hungarian Chemical Society, the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, the Mexican Chemical Society and the Royal Society of Chemistry.

## INFORMATION ITEMS

### Reports of Officers

**President Bassam Z. Shkhashiri** re-stated the theme for his presidential year of “Advancing Chemistry – Communicating Chemistry” and described the four initiatives related to that theme. Dr. Shkhashiri then reviewed the ACS mission and vision, and stated that the ACS faces grand challenges to help sustain earth and its people in the face of population growth, finite resources, malnutrition, spreading disease, deadly violence, war, climate change, and denial of basic human rights – especially the right to benefit from scientific and technological progress. He reminded the Board and attendees that science and society have what is essentially a social contract that enables great intellectual achievements but comes with mutual expectations of benefiting the human condition and protecting our planet. President Shkhashiri concluded his report with a briefing on two of the four initiatives: the Presidential Commission on Graduate Education and Research in the Chemical Sciences; and the Presidential Climate Science Working Group.

**President-Elect Marinda Li Wu** announced her plans to focus on jobs and global outreach during her presidential year through the appointment of a presidential task force titled: “Vision 2015: Helping ACS Members Thrive in the Global Chemistry Enterprise.” Dr. Wu reported attending the annual ACS Leadership Institute earlier this year and her challenge to its approximately 350 attendees that they consider recruiting champions to start or reinvigorate job clubs in their local sections. In the area of global outreach, Dr. Wu stated that she plans to travel abroad and strengthen alliances and cultivate relationships around the world. Dr. Wu said that she plans to seek input on ways to expand global outreach through international exchange and strategic collaborations that will benefit ACS members and the global chemistry enterprise.

**Immediate Past President Nancy B. Jackson** reported on her Presidential Sustainable Manufacturing Roundtable, which is a small group of chemists interested in identifying research needs and opportunities to support the development of sustainable manufacturing technologies in the future for the chemical and allied sciences. She said that the Sustainable Manufacturing Roundtable will be reporting on its activities to Corporation Associates at the San Diego meeting and, that while the Roundtable is just getting started, she hoped that this group can learn from the successes of the ACS Green Chemistry Institute Pharmaceutical Roundtable. Dr. Jackson also stated that a group from ACS, including the Sustainable Manufacturing Roundtable and others, met with an equivalent group from the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) to discuss ways in which the two societies could contribute to making effective decisions for energy research and technology development investments. She added that with an increasing need for development of sustainable energy options, combined with increasing pressure on the federal budget, there is a need to make smart and effective decisions on which investments to make for energy research and development.

### OPEN FORUM

Dr. Carroll announced that the Board of Directors had put on its agenda an open forum entitled, “The Future of Graduate Education and Research in the Chemical Sciences.” He said that this topic is from one of President Shkhashiri’s initiatives and is of interest and concern to the Board and the Society. For that reason, the Board wanted to take this opportunity to address the issue in an open forum with members. Dr. Carroll then called on Dr. Shkhashiri, who, after noting ACS’s role as a platform for thoughtful consideration, introduced Larry R. Faulkner (chair) and Paul L. Houston (executive director) of the ACS Presidential Commission on Graduate Education and Research in the Chemical Sciences.

Dr. Faulker reported that the charge of the commission is to address two main questions: “What are the purposes of graduate education in the chemical sciences?” and “What steps should be taken to ensure that they address important societal issues as well as the needs and aspirations of graduate students?” Dr. Houston reviewed the major tasks of the charge: consider fundamental, comprehensive, and systematic changes suitable for graduate education in the chemical sciences and suggest actionable approaches for enhancing the quality of graduate research and education at all institutions.

Dr. Carroll then invited meeting attendees to ask questions, share their concerns, and provide input on this timely topic, as appropriate. Attendees highlighted a number concerns and suggestions, including lobbying Congress for a stronger graduate education component in the GI bill; the role that a master’s degree plays in graduate education vs. the Ph.D.; attrition rates in graduate education due to gender bias; the importance of entrepreneurial education as part of the graduate student’s portfolio; the relevancy of innovation and virtual education; structure and lecture styles of the professoriate; the importance of preparing for careers in academe and industry as part of the curriculum; transitioning workshops prior to graduation, and more.

Dr. Carroll thanked participants for their many comments and the success of another standing-room-only forum.

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

Flint H. Lewis  
Secretary