

Official reports from the December ACS Board, and Budget and Finance, meeting

The major actions taken by the ACS Board of Directors at its December 13-15 meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii were reported in the January 25, 2016 issue of C&EN (page 36).

Society Committee Report

Budget & Finance

The Society Committee on Budget and Finance (B&F) met on Saturday, December 5, 2015, to review the Society's probable financial results for 2015 and to consider the 2016 Proposed Operating and Capital Budgets.

The Society is projected to end 2015 with a net contribution from operations of \$16.8 million, or \$3.4 million favorable to the 2015 Approved Budget. After including the Member Insurance Program, the Society's projected net contribution for 2015 is \$13.9 million or \$1.4 million favorable to the Approved Budget.

The committee voted to recommend to the ACS Board of Directors that it approve the 2016 Proposed Operating Budget with a projected net contribution from operations of \$13,358,000. The committee also voted to recommend to the ACS Board that it approve the 2016 Proposed Capital Budget of \$40,280,000.

Kristin Omberg, Chair

Board Committee Reports

Grants & Awards

The American Chemical Society Board of Directors Standing Committee on Grants and Awards (committee) met on December 13, 2015, and voted to ratify the interim action taken on October 22, 2015 to approve the recommendations for awarding grants to the proposals from the fall 2015 ACS PRF Advisory Board meeting, and the interim action taken on October 12, 2015 to approve the recommendation of Dr. Ann E. Weber as the Society's nominee for the 2016 Perkin Medal.

The Chair of the Fellows Oversight Committee, reviewed the ACS Fellows Program Annual Report based on the Society Program Portfolio Management objective and metrics. Two metrics were met: Volunteers involved with the selection process for ACS Fellows rated the overall process 4.6 on a 5-point scale (metric was at least 4.0 on a 5-point scale). Seventy-two percent of ACS Fellows received coverage in at least one external media/information outlet (metric was no less than two-thirds). One metric was not met — Volunteers involved with the nomination processes for ACS Fellows rated the overall process 3.8 on a 5-point scale (metric was at least 4.0 on a 5-point scale). The metric was measured through an online evaluation of ACS Fellow nominators for the 2015 Program cycle. The evaluation was sent to 145 nominators; 43% completed the evaluation (n=62). The Oversight Committee has been instituting a number of efforts to increase nominator satisfaction with the nomination process. The Oversight Committee is also working on individualized feedback to the primary nominators of unsuccessful nominations.

The committee voted to approve the changes to the ACS Fellows professional and volunteer service criteria language.

The Chair of the Awards Review Subcommittee, reported that the group has completed their review of six at-risk awards. One award was removed from the "At-Risk" list of National Awards because it is now considered "thriving and healthy." Four awards will be reviewed again in 2016.

The committee voted to develop new eligibility language for the Frederic Stanley Kipping Award in Silicon Chemistry to address the concerns of potential overlap with inorganic and organic awards.

Due to the lack of a sponsor, the committee voted to have ACS financially support the Irving Langmuir Award in Chemical Physics for the 2016 presentation unless a cosponsor is found to help support this award.

The committee voted to approve the request to invite the sponsors of twelve ACS National Awards to renew their sponsor agreements.

G&A was briefed on the Prized Science Video Series. The ACS Office of Public Affairs (OPA) conducted an open survey in October 2015 with the American Association of Chemistry Teachers (AACT). Many respondents were unfamiliar with Prized Science. After a review of Prized Science Video Series, respondents indicated they would use videos in the classroom. Prized Science will continue with the Priestley Medalist and three to five other ACS National Award winners. OPA will work with AACT to develop simple lesson plans for each video and will increase promotion of the video series.

Staff reported that \$18.62M in ACS Petroleum Research Fund (ACS PRF) grants was awarded in 2015. As of October 31, 2015, the value of the ACS PRF endowment was \$506,872,795.

The committee voted to approve the PRF Advisory Board recommendation to create a task force of PRFAB members, to explore methods to encourage more proposals from faculty in non-Ph.D. degree-granting departments. G&A also voted to approve the PRF Advisory Board vote to allow Field Work expenses as part of the “student support” budget in ACS PRF proposals, and voted to approve the PRFAB vote to ban a Principal Investigator from further submissions to PRF for a period of 10 years, because the PI submitted a proposal with “cut-and-paste” plagiarism, without attribution, of papers in the scientific literature.

The Committee voted to recommit the proposal to restrict ND and UR proposals to researchers in US academic institutions, but to allow foreign-based co-PIs as subcontractors, with no more than 50% of the total grant amount to the foreign-based co-PI. The committee will provide the ACS PRF Advisory Board with additional information regarding this action.

G&A, upon the recommendation of the Committee on Corporation Associates, voted to change the eligibility statement for the ACS Award for Team Innovation to eliminate the team size limitation to allow for more nominations of industry discovery teams.

Upon the recommendation of the Joint Board-Council Committee on Science, G&A voted to recommend to the ACS Board of Directors that Dr. Karl Barry Sharpless be the ACS nominee for the National Medal of Science.

Finally, upon the recommendation of the Joint Board-Council Committee on Science, G&A voted to recommend to the ACS Board of Directors that Dr. Robert S. Langer be the ACS nominee for the 2016 GRAND PRIX of Fondation de la Maison de la Chimie Prize.

Valerie J. Kuck, Chair

Professional & Member Relations

The Committee on Professional and Member Relations (P&MR) voted to approve an interim action taken in September authorizing nominal co-sponsorship of the *CO2 Summit II: Technologies and Opportunities* Conference scheduled for April 10-14, 2016, in Santa Ana Pueblo, NM.

The chair reported on the outcomes of the ACS Leadership Advisory Board (LAB) Strategic Planning Retreat held October 3-4. During the retreat, LAB developed a draft for its vision, mission, and goals. LAB also reviewed a number of its key 2015 activities which included delivering 47 Leadership Development courses drawing 839 enrollees, as well as facilitating 11 Strategic Planning Retreats on behalf of committees, sections, and divisions. The next LAB meeting will occur in Dallas in conjunction with the ACS Leadership Institute, which will be held January 22-24, 2016.

P&MR was briefed on the Medicinal Chemistry Symposium held [September 25-30](#) in Brisbane, Sydney, and Melbourne. The event, collaboration between the Royal Australian Chemical Institute (RACI) and the proposed ACS International Chapter in Australia, drew over 300 people, and was successful enough to prompt RACI to consider repeating the joint symposium on an annual basis.

P&MR voted to express support for the following requests made by the Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Board through its Chair, Teri Quinn Gray:

- Adopt an ACS strategic imperative for increasing the diversity of ACS membership and their involvement in the Society
- Create a time-limited “Collaborative for Re-imagining a Diverse ACS Membership”
- Establish the charter of the “Collaborative” – to recommend a range of experiments to specifically recruit and retain ACS members from diverse groups
- Present those recommendations to MAC by the San Diego Meeting, March 2016
- Call for implementation (plan, milestones, success measures, resources) of recommendations to start by Fall 2016

The Chair of the Task Force on Web Based Resources for Volunteers, shared some preliminary recommendations from the group. They include featuring volunteer information and tools prominently on [acs.org](#) to engage newbies, as well exploring the development of convenient, easy-to-follow navigation pathways toward descriptions of volunteer opportunities. Next steps for the task force include reviewing the content for the pages as well as reviewing draft concept pages and pathways, and initiating target audience user testing.

Staff updated the committee regarding the Presentations on Demand (POD) Shorts initiative in San Diego. In order to increase the quality of each posted POD Short, staff will collaborate with four divisions

(Organic, Medicinal, Polymer and Polymeric Materials and Scientific Engineering) that will decide which of their oral presenters will be asked to provide a POD Short in San Diego. Staff believes the divisions will also now have a greater incentive to promote the videos, resulting in a greater audience for the videos.

The Chair of the International Activities Committee (IAC), reported on the ACS International Activities Building Opportunity Out of Science and Technology (BOOST) program. It was noted, among other things, that ACS members and staff traveled to five cities in Thailand to provide educational modules to over 400 early career scientists and engineers on topics such as “Communicating Science to the Public”, “Publishing Research”, “Grant Writing” and “Career Pathways”. ACS International Activities is working with the U.S. State Department for the expansion of the program to South America, with workshops and a Trainer Leadership Institute in Panama, Peru and Colombia in 2016.

P&MR voted on two motions brought to the committee by IAC:

- Voted to recommend ACS Board approval of new strategic alliances with the Mexican Chemical Society (SQM) and the Brazil Chemical Society (SBQ) 2016-2018
- Voted to recommend to the ACS Board approval of the renewal of the ACS / South African Chemical Institute (SACI) Alliance 2016 - 2020

The Chair of the ACS Green Chemistry Institute (ACS GCI), provided a comprehensive review of 2015 ACS GCI activities. Among other things, he cited increasing numbers of ACS members at the Institute’s annual June conference, along with steadily increasing subscribers to *The Nexus*, the Institute’s newsletter, and increased traffic on ACS GCI web pages. The chair then concluded with a quick review of the ACS GCI Roundtables.

Barbara A. Sawrey, Chair

Public Affairs & Public Relations

The Board Standing Committee on Public Affairs and Public Relations (PA&PR) met on December 12, 2015. The Chair provided updates on the following items.

- **2015 Nobel Prize in Chemistry Media Coverage** – Through interviews with ACS President Diane Grob Schmidt and an ACS news release, 100 news stories mentioning the Society were generated with a potential audience of 3.7 billion.
- **Woodson High School Laboratory Accident** – The Chair reviewed ACS handling of media inquiries regarding the October 30th accident and efforts to publicize the ACS lab safety guidance and warning concerning the Rainbow demonstration. ACS staff also produced and posted a video demonstrating a safer alternative to the Rainbow demonstration and arranged for a local TV station to film the safer alternative.
- **National Chemistry Week** – ACS successfully secured a letter from President Obama and a U.S. Senate resolution honoring National Chemistry Week. Both documents highlight the value and importance that chemistry plays in our daily lives.
- **Math & Science Partnership Infographic** – OPA staff produced an infographic for its advocacy efforts promoting a strengthened Math & Science Partnership program in the Every Student Succeeds Act. The Chair encouraged the use of infographics in future advocacy efforts.
- **Public Perception of Chemistry** – OPA staff provided a requested update on costs associated with the conduct of a US public opinion survey to gauge attitudes toward chemistry that would be similar to one recently conducted by the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC). The Chair requested that OPA develop a public opinion survey framework for the Committee to discuss at its March 2016, including potential collaborators that might be interested in sharing the cost of a survey.

ACS Public Policy Statements

The committee discussed and voted to:

- Approve three-year extensions for two existing ACS policy statements – Inherently Safer Technology and Laboratory Waste.
- Approve five replacements for existing statements for a period of three years – Energy, Endocrine Disruption, Innovation, Healthcare, and Hydraulic Fracturing.

The committee also discussed two potential additions to future ACS policy statements - attributing ACS statements to originating ACS governance committees and including citations in ACS statements where appropriate. After discussion, the sense of the committee was that attributing policy statements to originating governance committees is not advisable but that including citations does make sense in limited cases when and where appropriate.

ACS Public Policy Fellowship Program

The committee received a presentation about the ACS Public Policy Fellowship that covered its 40-year history, the structure of the program, the short and long-term value to the chemistry enterprise and how ACS continues to engage with Fellows once they complete their fellowships, including recruiting them to become active in ACS governance. The committee expressed support for the continued success of the program.

2015 Legislative Wrap-up and 2016 Outlook

The committee received a presentation that reported on progress made in advancing the ACS public policy priorities on Capitol Hill in 2015 and the outlook for 2016. Despite continued political battles that often choked out meaningful dialogue on important legislation, ACS (governance, staff and members) managed to advance several ACS top priorities in the Every Student Succeeds Act; the Federal Access to Science and Technology Research Act; the Frank Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act; and the Research and Development Tax credit. In addition, OPA was able to help create the Congressional Chemistry Caucus as well as securing a Senate resolution and a letter from President Obama honoring National Chemistry Week.

National Historic Chemical Landmark Nominations

The committee discussed and voted to approve two National Historic Chemical Landmark nominations received from the PA&PR subcommittee on National Historic Chemical Landmarks:

- Nomination to recognize Willard Libby and Radiocarbon Dating at the University of Chicago. The nomination is supported by the ACS Chicago local section.
- Nomination to recognize the First Coupling of Gas Chromatography with Mass Spectrometry at Dow Chemical. The nomination is supported by the ACS Midland local section.

John Adams, Chair