

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 1-3 meeting in Washington, DC were reported in C&EN.

Society Committee Report

Budget & Finance

The Society Committee on Budget and Finance met on December 2 and 3, 2016, to review the Society's probable financial results for 2016 and review the 2017 proposed operating and capital budgets. ACS is projected to end 2016 with a net contribution from operations of \$19.4 million, or \$6.0 million favorable to the Approved Budget. With the exception of the Fund Balance Ratio, a measure of reserve adequacy, the Society is projected to end the year in compliance with the Board-established financial guidelines.

The committee received a brief report from the B&F Subcommittee on Program Funding Requests regarding a revised program funding reauthorization request for the *American Association of Chemistry Teachers (AACT)*. The revised request contained a reduction in net expenses of \$570,000 (30%) from the original submission considered in August 2016. After discussion, the committee voted to recommend to the ACS Board of Directors that it reauthorize the *American Association of Chemistry Teachers (AACT)* for 2017 – 2019 at the funding levels proposed, subject to annual reports to B&F on AACT's activities, financials and progress toward metrics established in the reauthorization request.

The committee voted to recommend to the ACS Board of Directors that it approve the 2017 Proposed Operating Budget with a projected net contribution from operations of \$23,234,000. The committee also voted to recommend to the ACS Board that it approve the 2017 Proposed Capital Budget of \$39,077,000.

Kristin Omberg, Chair

Board Committee Reports

Grants & Awards

The American Chemical Society Board of Directors Standing Committee on Grants and Awards met on December 1, 2016.

The Committee on Grants & Awards ratified the interim action taken on November 28, 2016 to approve the recommendation of the team nomination of Dr. Gene Heasley, Southern Nazarene University (retired); Dr. Victoria Heasley and Dr. Dale Shellhammer Point Loma Nazarene University, for the ACS Award for Research at an Undergraduate Institution.

The Committee on Grants & Awards ratified the interim action taken on October 26, 2016 to approve the recommendations for awarding grants to the proposals from the Fall 2016 ACS PRF Advisory Board meeting.

The Committee on Grants & Awards approved the request to invite the sponsors of six ACS National Awards to renew their sponsor agreements.

The committee Chair provided an update on the six at-risk awards. The awards will be reviewed and monitored and if needed, action will be recommended in the future.

The Chair of the Fellows Oversight Committee reported that the ACS Fellows successfully met the 2016 metrics, achieving a 4.4 on a 5-point scale for the overall nomination process. Additionally, the reviewers rated the overall review process 4.3 on a 5-point scale. The Chair also reported that to date, 49 ACS Fellows (86% of the 2016 cohort) have received recognition beyond C&EN.

The committee received an update on the appointment of the new ACS PRF Advisory Board members. Additionally, it was noted that 203 grants, totaling \$20.265M were awarded in 2016. The proposed 2017 distribution is estimated to be \$22.7M.

The committee discussed the eligibility criteria for Young Investigator-type awards. The consensus was to continue these discussions with staff and the sponsors to develop consistent criteria where appropriate.

The committee discussed whether or not a PRF distribution of 5% of the endowment can be sustained. The consensus was that there is a need to continue to monitor the PRF distribution across all grant types.

George Bodner, Chair

Professional & Member Relations

The chair shared some personal comments from the “Red Team Exercise” in which she and other Board members participated on September 17, 2016. The participants felt the chance to view ACS from a competitive perspective provided useful insights into the Society.

The committee was briefed on the recent developments regarding the Leadership Advisory Board (LAB). In response to a request from P&MR, LAB evaluated the possibility of adding foreign language translations to the ACS Leaders Development curriculum. LAB concluded that costs of this effort would outweigh the benefits. It also concluded that the Society’s global strategy should drive any further discussions regarding the need to translate ACS programs, products, and services.

The chair provided an update on the recent activities of the Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Board. Her report centered on the Diversity Workshop held at ACS headquarters in September. Consensus emerged that the workshop was extremely valuable. In addition, there was agreement that the Board needs to come to agreement on where ACS currently resides on the D&I spectrum, before it can decide where it wants to go, and how to take the Society there.

The Chair of the Collaborative for Re-Imagining a Diverse ACS Membership briefed the committee on its progress. The collaborative shared a number of recommendations to help the ACS increase the number of new members and retain current members from diverse groups. They include the following: (1) Expand research into students and professionals at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), as well as Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI), (2) Work with the Membership Affairs Committee (MAC) on a number of efforts targeting underrepresented groups, (3) Engage more closely and regularly with ACS Scholars, (4) Execute on recently-signed MOUs between ACS and the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers, and the ACS and the Chinese-American Chemical Society. Next steps include completing the expanded survey of HBCUs and HSIs by June 2017, as well as a series of engagements with MAC beginning in January, 2017.

Staff presented an update on plans for advancing the ACS Chemical Safety Initiative through online channels. The basic message shared with the committee is that ACS has a great deal of authoritative content on this subject, but that it needs to be converted from a print format to web format, and that it needs to be made more findable and accessible. Two phases of activity are being planned: (1) Relocating content on acs.org generated by the Committee on Chemical Safety, and (2) Aggregating other chemical safety-related content, and making it more findable and consumable to acs.org visitors.

The Chair of the International Activities Committee (IAC) provided P&MR with a progress report on ACS international activities, with a particular focus on 2017 efforts. Priorities for 2017 include, among

other things, a greater global focus on responsible conduct and lab safety, serving as a bridge between the Board and global stakeholders, adding an international dimension to ACS diversity and inclusion discussions and efforts, and supporting a globalization of ACS initiatives targeting industry, entrepreneurship, and innovation.

The committee received a report from the Chair of the ACS GCI Governing Board. The Chair report touched on: (1) the success of the 2016 GC&E meeting in Portland, (2) plans for the 2017 GC&E Annual Conference in Reston, (3) the continuing expansion of GCI and GC&E web presence, (4) progress on the Green Chemistry Education Roadmap development efforts, and (5) details on the status of the five ACS GCI Industrial Roundtables, which focus on the science of sustainable and green chemistry and its implementation.

The committee discussed the role of Board members participating at regional meetings. Consensus emerged that planning for Board participation at these events was variable, and needed to improve. More specifically, there exists a desire for greater advance communication between Board members and regional meeting organizers; as well agreement on what Board members could do at these meetings to better serve the regional meeting leadership and participants.

Barbara A. Sawrey, Chair

Public Affairs & Public Relations

The Board Standing Committee on Public Affairs and Public Relations (PA&PR) met on December 1, 2016 in Washington, DC. The Chair welcomed committee members, provided an overview of the agenda, support materials in the agenda book and highlighted several matters:

- Favorable outcome of a recent internal audit of ACS advocacy and lobbying activities.
- Appointment of working group to assess ways ACS might provide technical or other assistance to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in the area of chemical weapons eradication.
- ACS joining nearly 30 science organizations on an outreach letter to the Trump transition team offering the assistance of the science community towards development of a productive path forward to ensure that the U.S. innovation infrastructure continues to grow and flourish in the new Administration.
- Special ACS webinar on December 2 - *Looking into the Crystal Ball: Government, Politics & the Chemistry Enterprise* focused on how ACS can effectively engage with a new Congress and new Administration.

The Chair provided an opportunity for the ACS Board of Directors human rights liaison to give an update on the evolving political situation in Turkey and challenges posed to scientists.

ACS Public Policy Statements

The committee discussed and voted to:

- Approve the *2017-2018 ACS biennial Public Policy Priorities* document
- Approve three-year extensions for two existing ACS policy statement - *Science Education Policy* and *Employment Non-Discrimination*
- Retire the existing *Biomonitoring* policy statement
- Approve five replacements for existing statements for a period of three years each - *Climate Change*, *Forensic Science*, *Peer Review*, *Ensuring and Expanding Access to High-Quality Science*, and *Chemical Risk Assessment and Regulatory Decision Making*
- Approve a new statement, *Safety in the Chemistry Enterprise*, as an ACS public policy position of the Society for a period of three years

Appropriate Use of ACS Policy Statements

The Chair led the committee through a discussion based on the question of the proper role of the ACS and other scientific societies in becoming engaged when political inquiries target individuals or corporations for their climate science views.

OPA staff described the decision process used where ACS intervened on behalf of individual scientists -- both climate change supporters and skeptics -- in cases of Congressional inquiries that were overly broad and had the potential to chill scientific inquiry. Staff further described the difference between those individual situations and the controversy over ExxonMobil and calls for it to be investigated for fraud.

The committee discussed the situation and expressed support for the process ACS staff employs, in cooperation with relevant governance committees, to determine the proper role for ACS and to maintain its non-partisan stature and credibility.

ACS Award for Public Service Nomination

The committee reviewed and voted to approve a nomination for the ACS Award for Public Service from the Committee on Chemistry and Public Affairs. CCPA nominated a prominent federal scientist to receive the award in recognition of a distinguished career and service in helping foster U.S. innovation and competitiveness.

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 as noted below.

- Nomination to recognize the Mars Mariner 6 and 7 Infrared Spectrometer. The nomination was made by the ACS California Local Section.
- Nomination to recognize the production of Pu-238 for space exploration. The nomination was made by the Savannah River Local Section and the ACS Division of Nuclear Chemistry and Technology.

2016 Legislative Wrap-up & 2017 Opportunities with a new Congress and Administration

The committee received an update from staff on 2016 ACS legislative accomplishments as well as an overview of and opportunities for working with the new 115th Congress and the incoming Trump Administration. A key focus for ACS will be meeting relevant new members of Congress, as well as creating a new network of federal agency leaders who are appointed to fill key posts at agencies of importance to ACS.

John Adams, Chair