

## Official Reports from the 2016 June Board of Directors Meeting

### Grants and Awards

The American Chemical Society (ACS) Board of Directors (Board) Standing Committee on Grants and Awards (Committee) met on June 3, 2016.

The committee voted to recommend to the ACS Board of Directors that the following awards be financially supported by the ACS for the 2018 presentation unless a sponsor is found to support the award: the ACS Award in Colloid Chemistry, the ACS Award in Polymer Chemistry, the ACS Award in Organometallic Chemistry, the ACS Award in the Chemistry of Materials, the Earle B. Barnes Award for Leadership in Chemical Research Management, the Peter Debye Award in Physical Chemistry, and the Irving Langmuir Award in Chemical Physics.

Staff reported that five sponsor renewal agreements have been received:

- Division of Chemical Education, to support the George C. Pimentel Award in Chemical Education (co-sponsored with Cengage Learning)
- Division of Fluorine Chemistry, to support the ACS Award for Creative Work in Fluorine Chemistry
- Division of Physical Chemistry, to support the ACS Award in Theoretical Chemistry
- Givaudan, to support the Ernest Guenther Award in the Chemistry of Natural Products
- MilliporeSigma, to support the ACS Award for Creative Work in Synthetic Organic Chemistry

Acting under delegated authority, the Committee on Grants & Awards voted to accept the recommendations of the Petroleum Research Fund Advisory Board (from its May 2016 meeting) for funding grants totaling \$11,320,000.

Staff from the ACS Petroleum Research Fund (PRF) reported that at its May 2016 meeting, the PRF Advisory Board discussed the topic of foreign eligibility. Currently, academic researchers from 25 non-US countries are eligible to submit research proposals to ACS PRF. The discussion centered on adding new countries, or removing countries from eligibility for ACS PRF research grant funding. Acting under delegated authority, the Committee on Grants & Awards voted to support the PRF Advisory Board Motion to “Grandfather” the current list of eligible foreign countries, and PRF staff will develop criteria for inclusion of new countries, and removal of previously-eligible countries, as needed. The list of eligible countries will be reviewed every 5 years.

Acting under delegated authority, the Committee on Grants & Awards approved the request by the Committee on Corporation Associates to revise the nature, eligibility and purpose of the ACS Award for Team Innovation, with revisions.

Acting under delegated authority, the Committee on Grants & Awards approved the request by the Division of Chemical Education to revise the eligibility of the James Bryant Conant Award in High School Chemistry Teaching.

**George Bodner, Chair**

## Professional and Member Relations

The committee was briefed on the recent developments from the Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Board (D&I). They include a plan to provide diversity training to D&I members and any interested ACS Board members on September 17, when D&I will meet in Washington, D.C. In addition, D&I plans to host a diversity summit during the 2017 ACS National Meeting in San Francisco. Finally, D&I will develop a best practices document for use by ACS Local Sections and Divisions to assist them with broadening participation among underrepresented groups.

Recent updates from the Leadership Advisory Board (LAB) were shared. In response to P&MR's request to have LAB investigate the feasibility of expanding global access to ACS Leadership Development System courses, LAB noted that the expansion has complex issues that need expert analysis, and additional funding would probably be necessary to conduct it. In response to a request from the Committee on Minority Affairs and the D&I Advisory Board to leverage ACS Leadership Development courses to foster diversity LAB invited the two groups to submit a formal proposal to help LAB better evaluate the request. Finally, in order to better evaluate course requests and prioritize new course development, LAB is developing standard procedures consistent with those of the Career and Professional Advancement policies.

The committee discussed a draft bilateral agreement, already approved by the French Chemical Society, which would establish a USA-France chemistry lectureship. The committee voted to recommend Board approval of the bilateral agreement between ACS and the French Chemical Society establishing the "USA-France Chemistry Lectureship."

The committee was advised that under delegated authority, the Secretary's Office had approved a nominal cosponsorship request of the 2016 Sustainable Industrial Processing Summit & Exhibition that will be held November 6-10, 2016 in Hainan Island, China.

The committee was updated on the recent activities of the Collaborative for Re-Imagining a Diverse ACS Membership. The goal of the group is to increase the diversity of ACS membership so that it better reflects the diversity of the United States. Key action items include refining metrics we will use to measure progress, developing strategies for possible joint memberships, building a more meaningful value proposition for the underrepresented groups, and more effectively engaging ACS Scholars.

Staff briefed the committee on the ACS Presentations on Demand Shorts (ACS POD Shorts) initiative. The program generated an acceptable level of participation on the part of the four participating divisions in San Diego, with plans for greater engagement in Philadelphia. Staff is using the same ACS POD Shorts technology to develop short promotional videos to assist divisions with their recruitment and retention efforts. Four divisions worked with staff to produce these videos during the San Diego National Meeting, and all were pleased. Another 11 have signed up to produce similar videos during the Philadelphia National Meeting.

The committee received a technology briefing from staff on a number of matters. An "Enterprise Grant Management System" project is underway. Plans call for a demo to be shared with oversight committees during the Philadelphia National Meeting, with an anticipated launch in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of this year. Staff is also working to develop and deploy an "Enterprise Event Registration System." The goal is to use one system to handle registration for all Society Programs and events, both virtual and in-person. The original company chosen to develop this system has proven to be incapable of handling the full project; the RFP process will be re-opened to identify a new partner. With respect to the Meetings Mobile App, staff will be testing a new networking feature during the Philadelphia National Meeting.

The Chair of the Task Force on Web-Based Resources for Volunteers shared some initial task force recommendations. They include featuring volunteer information and tools more prominently on acs.org to better engage members interested in volunteer opportunities but unfamiliar with options ACS provides. In addition, better navigation has been identified as an opportunity for improvement that will provide potential volunteers with escalating levels of content to guide visitors to their particular area of interest.

Staff briefed the committee on the Chemical Sciences and Society Summit (CS3). This is planned as a biennial gathering of researchers from participating countries to explore chemistry research and its potential application to global challenges. Participating countries include China, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the U.S.

The committee was updated on the work of the Study Group on Programming at National Meetings (SGP). The group was established in reaction to an increasing number of exemptions from event programming being sought by divisions. More and more, the divisions are hoping to escape the need to program on Thursday. The group quickly concluded that there are many complex issues associated with any proposed change to the length of the national meeting. Plans for obtaining input from stakeholder groups – particularly past and current program chairs - include phone interviews, town hall meetings, and surveys. Initial plans call for no changes to be implemented at national meetings until 2022, given that substantial research needs to be completed, the need for a very extensive communication plan to many stakeholder groups, as well as the practice of some divisions to plan their programming 36 months in advance of a national meeting.

Barbara A. Sawrey, Chair

## **Public Affairs and Public Relations**

The Board Standing Committee on Public Affairs and Public Relations (PA&PR) met on June 3, 2016. The Chair's report highlighted several items:

- Status of the reauthorization of the Toxic Substances Control Act, which included an update provided by ACS staff
- ACS support for the World Conference of Science Journalists meeting – October 26-30, 2017
- Review of Capitol Hill advocacy activities – Congressional Visits Day - April 12 & 13; ACS Legislative Summit – April 19 & 20; and DOE Lab Day – April 19
- Kick-off of the Congressional Chemistry Caucus – April 27
- ACS involvement with the Alan Alda Flame Challenge Award Ceremony (June 5) and the World Science Festival (June 1-5), both taking place in New York City
- ACS support for the visit to the U.S. of a delegation of Cuban chemists– June 28 & 29

**ACS Science & Human Rights Portfolio** - The Chair reported on the transfer of the ACS Science & Human Rights portfolio to the Committee from the Board Standing Committee on Professional & Member Relations as a result of the Board's governance agility review.

The Board's human rights liaison reviewed the steps used to evaluate human rights cases to determine if ACS involvement is appropriate, outlined current cases in which ACS is involved and monitoring, identified organizations with which ACS works cooperatively in the human rights science arena, and concluded with a review of outreach she has conducted in webinars, national meeting symposia, and C&EN Comments.

**Public Perception of Chemistry** - Staff recapped the committee assignment from the March 2016 meeting, which was largely a decision not to pursue a large-scale survey of ACS members and the public regarding their perception of chemistry, but to focus instead on helping create awareness and use of the many Society tools and resources designed to help them engage productively with the public and media. Staff outlined both near-term and longer-term methods to engage with members, including use of the ACS Insight Lab (2016) and the ACS membership survey (2017).

Staff continued with a presentation on three communication panels they are helping organize and participate in at the August 2016 national meeting in Philadelphia and concluded with a review of an ACS funding grant submission to The Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation. This invited submission is focused on several high-level concepts targeting enhanced public appreciation for chemistry and chemists' ability to communicate with the public. The Foundation will be considering the ACS submission at its July 2016 meeting.

**National Historic Chemical Landmark Nomination** - The Chair advised the committee that the PA&PR Subcommittee on National Historic Chemical Landmarks (NHCL) has approved and forwarded a nomination submitted by the ACS North Jersey Section recognizing Merck's discovery and development of the drug Mectizan to treat river blindness. The Chair called on ACS staff to provide the overview of the nomination for the committee. ACS staff, prior to discussing the nomination, called attention to the new NHCL subcommittee chair and members as well as the three upcoming NHCL designations scheduled for 2016. ACS staff then presented the Mectizan nomination, and the committee voted unanimously to approve it as a NHCL.

**Green/Sustainable Chemistry Case Study** - The Chair introduced a new approach (essentially a case study) to the committee's consideration of policy statement topics that expands the discussion to a more holistic examination of how the ACS Office of Public Affairs interacts with other Society units to achieve objectives within those policy statements.

ACS staff used the advancement of green and sustainable chemistry as the basis for the case study and reviewed OPA's work with ACS staff units, ACS members, and several peer organizations. Staff structured the case study by examining message development based on committee-approved policy statements; tailoring that messaging to address several distinct audiences; translating the messaging into legislative advocacy; working with the U.S. Government Accountability Office and the National Science Foundation; engaging in outreach to the chemistry community and media; and empowering ACS members to become involved in the promotion of green and sustainable chemistry to a variety of audiences.

Committee members commended the cross-functional approach taken and expressed support for this approach being the norm rather than the exception at ACS. Staff committed to using this approach more frequently and to involving the committee during the policy statement prioritization process in identifying opportunities for cross-Society collaboration.

**Public Policy Statements** - The Chair outlined for the committee the policy statement tasks that must be addressed at its December 2016 meeting. ACS staff discussed ongoing efforts initiated by the Chair to engage and encourage relevant ACS policy committees in providing input for the development of the biennial ACS Public Policy Priorities (PPP) statement. The Chair indicated that the committee would examine input received and have its own discussion on the PPP at its August 2016 meeting. The committee was then updated on the nine statements expiring at the end of 2016 and on the next steps to renew or sunset them.

**New Business** - The issue of whether ACS ought to move more towards characterizing its scope of interest as "molecular science" rather than "chemistry" was raised, recognizing that such a shift would influence the contents of public relations pieces produced by OPA. Because such a shift would have a much broader impact on ACS operations the topic was referred to the full Board for future consideration.

John E. Adams, Chair