

MINUTES  
REGULAR SESSION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY  
New Orleans, LA  
March 18, 2018

The Board of Directors of the American Chemical Society met in New Orleans, Louisiana, on March 18, 2018, beginning at 12:00 p.m. John E. Adams, Chair, presided. Other Directors present for all or part of the meeting were: Christina Bodurow, Allison A. Campbell, William F. Carroll, Jr., Thomas M. Connelly, Jr., Peter K. Dorhout, Teri Quinn Gray, Rigoberto Hernandez, Paul W. Jagodzinski, Wayne E. Jones, Jr., Lee H. Latimer, Ingrid Montes, Laura E. Pence, Dorothy J. Phillips, Barbara A. Sawrey, and Kathleen M. Schulz. Present by invitation for all or parts of the meeting were: Brian A. Bernstein, Brian D. Crawford, Kate Fryer, Manuel Guzman, Mary Kirchhoff, Martha K. Lester, Flint H. Lewis, Scott Oliphant, Glenn S. Ruskin, 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 Chair's Report from Executive Session

John E. Adams, Chair, opened the meeting by welcoming the attendees and introducing his Board colleagues. Next, he summarized the key actions and discussion points from the Board's executive session held March 16 -17:

The Board of Directors received and discussed reports from its committees on Executive Compensation, Strategic Planning, Corporation Associates, Pensions and Investments, Professional and Member Relations, the Joint Board-Council Policy Committee Task Force on Governance Design, the Joint Board-Council Committee on Publications, and the Leadership Advisory Board. In particular,

- The Board received an extensive briefing and approved several recommendations from its Committee on Executive Compensation. The compensation of the Society's executive staff continues to receive regular review from the Board.
- On the recommendation of the Joint Board-Council Committee on Publications, the Board voted to approve the reappointments of Editors-in-Chief for several ACS journals. Those appointments will be announced in C&EN once the appointed individuals have been notified and arrangements for their continued service have been made.
- On the recommendation of the Committee on Professional and Member Relations, the Board approved a Society nominee for the 2019 King Faisal International Prize for Science, and screened lists of nominees for the 2019 Priestley Medal, the 2019 Charles Lathrop Parsons Award and the ACS Award for Volunteer Service. The Board will select the recipients of these latter two awards from the screened lists provided.
- The Board liaison to the Leadership Advisory Board gave an update on the history of the Advisory Board and the ACS Leadership Program and offered key observations and strategic questions regarding the direction of the program in light of future Society and member needs.
- The Board liaison to the Committee on Corporation Associates offered an update on the future design state of the committee in the context of the landscape for chemical corporations and professional societies.
- The co-chair of the Task Force on Governance Design offered brief comments on its written interim report and provided a preview of its planned presentation to the Councilor caucuses focusing on streamlining the Society's governing documents.

The Board received an extensive report from the Executive Director and CEO on issues relating to the Safety and Professionalism core values of the Society as well on Membership, ACS financial performance, Operational Excellence, and upcoming events and activities. He also led a discussion on the strategic direction of the Science History Institute (formerly the Chemical Heritage Foundation) and its ramifications for ACS. His direct reports then engaged in discussions with the Board on the activities, opportunities and challenges of the Education Division, Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS), and the ACS Publications Division.

As is customary, the Board heard reports from the Presidential Succession on their current and planned activities for 2018. Several presidential symposia and events incorporating and supporting the meeting's theme of Food, Energy and Water were highlighted in those reports.

Finally, the Board approved a resolution that recognizes and applauds the United Nations for proclaiming 2019 as the International Year of the Periodic Table and pledged that the Society will do its utmost to recognize and participate in events celebrating this important scientific milestone and achievement.

## Reports of Officers

### President

ACS President Peter K. Dorhout highlighted several initiatives and events for his presidential year. He began by describing his continuing campaign to promote the outstanding contributions to the chemical sciences of our nearly 3,000 ACS Scholars alumni and sharing a screenshot of the improved Scholars website, which now highlights two alumni each week. He also indicated that he is promoting them through social media and featuring them in a virtual yearbook of Project SEED and Scholars alumni.

He then shared the four goals coming from a Safety Summit held in February, at which stakeholders inside and outside ACS discussed ways in which members can advance this core value of safety, particularly within our colleges and universities. Over the remaining months of this year, he will be sharing the outcomes of this Summit with committees, divisions, and other stakeholder groups and encouraging them to act to promote safety.

Finally, Dr. Dorhout reviewed a sampling of presidential programs taking place at this national meeting, ranging from Science Cafés and discussions on water and the environment to the start of a critical dialog, led by the Women Chemists Committee, around sexual harassment in our learning and professional settings.

### President-Elect

Bonnie A. Charpentier, ACS President-Elect, provided a brief summary of the areas on which she plans to focus in 2019. She indicated that the first area is Advocacy and stated that the times demand it. More specifically, she would like to see ACS become more effective in advocacy at the state level. The second area, one also related to advocacy, is providing information and identifying best practices for those members who would like to run for office, be it school board, local, state or national office.

Another area of focus is Safety and the Environment. Dr. Charpentier said she has been speaking with divisions and committees about potential programming in this broad area and plans to build off the efforts of her immediate predecessors in the Presidential Succession.

Her overarching theme is Collaborations. Potential specific areas of collaboration include industry and academic partnerships; international partnerships, such as collaborations between student international chapters and student chapters in the U.S.; and partnerships across ACS entities, as well as between ACS and other societies having shared goals.

Lastly, Dr. Charpentier invited the audience to send ideas and suggestions to her at [b.charpentier@acs.org](mailto:b.charpentier@acs.org).

### Immediate Past President

ACS Immediate Past President Allison A. Campbell announced that, in conjunction with the ACS Office of External Affairs & Communications, she hosted a second invitation-only “Speaking with Congress Advocacy Workshop”, at which over 30 ACS members were trained on how to engage with their members of Congress effectively. She stated that ACS will be rolling out this program at the Northwest Regional Meeting this year, and it is her hope that we can then transform this activity into a “Program in a Box” for our local sections.

Also at this meeting, she co-hosted a second workshop “Science Communications: How Chemistry can Earn Public Trust” with Sir John Holman, President of the Royal Society of Chemistry, and Dr Thisbe Lindhorst, Immediate Past President of the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (German Chemical Society). The workshop demonstrated the importance of communications and establishing trust in the best interests of chemistry, enabling chemists around the world with tools to engage within their communities.

Finally, Dr. Campbell announced she is working to establish within ACS the means by which ACS local sections and members affected by disasters get the resources needed to recover from devastation. This initiative would involve reaching out to affected communities, cataloging their needs, and creating a clearinghouse for donations of laboratory instruments, equipment and supplies. She invited members to continue to share ideas and suggestions with her at [a.campbell@acs.org](mailto:a.campbell@acs.org).

### Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer

ACS Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer Thomas M. Connelly stated he is pleased to report that the Society had a very successful 2017. In addition to Chemists Celebrate Earth Day and National Chemistry Week, the March for Science provided an additional opportunity for promoting science education and awareness. The Congressional Chemistry Caucus has grown to 63 members of the House of Representatives and 14 members of the Senate. International and student chapters continue to grow globally. Two more journals, *C&EN Global Enterprise*, and *ChemRxiv* were launched, and major upgrades were made to two flagship CAS products that resulted in the introduction of SciFinder<sup>®</sup> and STNnext<sup>™</sup>. Membership continues to be a key concern, given that we are experiencing a ten-year decline, and he announced that new strategies and tactics are underway to increase ACS relevance to the chemical sciences. He concluded by announcing that in 2017 ACS achieved all five of its financial targets for the first time in a decade.

### Guest Presentation

Dr. Adams then introduced the featured speaker for the meeting: Lisa M. Balbes, Balbes Consultants, LLC and an ACS Career Consultant. Her presentation was titled “Nontraditional Careers for Chemists: Thinking Outside the Beaker.” Dr. Balbes provided a broad overview of nontraditional careers for chemists and presented typical tasks, education or training requirements, and personal characteristics that make for a successful career in each field. She also offered valuable tips and advice about planning career transitions. Dr. Balbes concluded her presentation by introducing Brandon Presley and Isa Watson, alumni of the ACS Scholars and SEED programs, who are engaged in ‘nontraditional’ careers. Both spoke about their career transitions and progressions and offered encouragement especially to the student members of the audience.

Before declaring the meeting adjourned, Dr. Adams thanked all the participants and his colleagues on the Board for a successful meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

Flint H. Lewis  
Secretary