

MINUTES  
REGULAR SESSION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY  
BOSTON, MA  
August 16, 2015

The Board of Directors of the American Chemical Society met in Boston, Massachusetts, on August 16, 2015, beginning at 12:00 p.m. Pat N. Confalone, Chair, presided. Other Directors present for all or part of the meeting were: John E. Adams, Tom J. Barton, George M. Bodner, William F. Carroll, Jr., Thomas M. Connelly, Thomas R. Gilbert, Rigoberto Hernandez, Paul W. Jagodzinski, Valerie J. Kuck, Ingrid Montes, Donna J. Nelson, Dorothy J. Phillips, Barbara A. Sawrey, Diane G. Schmidt, and Kathleen M. Schulz. Present by invitation for all or parts of the meeting were: Brian A. Bernstein, Denise L. Creech, Manuel Guzman, Mary Kirchhoff, Martha K. Lester, Flint H. Lewis, Glenn S. Ruskin, David T. Smorodin, Frank E. Walworth, Marleen G. Weidner, and George M. Whitesides. More than four hundred observers were present at various times during the meeting.

Call to Order and Report from Executive Session

Pat N. Confalone, 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, August 14-15:

- The Board voted to approve Society nominees for the National Science Board Public Service Award and the 2016 Alan T. Waterman Award; reappoint an Editor-in-Chief for an ACS journal; set the advance member registration fee for national meetings held in 2016; authorize a new program funding request for the *ACS Festival Series* program; and to reauthorize funding for the *ACS Science Coaches* program.
- The Board heard reports on the activities of Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) and the ACS Publications Division; received updates from the Executive Director and CEO and the Society's Secretary and General Counsel; and was briefed by members of the Presidential Succession on their current activities and those planned for 2016.
- As part of its ongoing commitment to consider the most important strategic issues facing the Society, the Board held a discussion on the health and strength of Local Sections and Divisions.

Reports of Officers

President

ACS President Diane G. Schmidt highlighted the presidential symposia and events scheduled for the Boston meeting: 21st Century Chemistry Education, ACS Scholars: Rising Stars in Academe and Industry, and Transforming University-Industry Partnerships. She also announced that there are four symposia at this meeting, each organized to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Henry Hill, an ACS past president, sponsored by the divisions of the History of Chemistry, Polymer Chemistry, Professional Relations, and Small Chemical Businesses.

President-Elect

ACS President-Elect Donna J. Nelson reported on the progress of the presidential task force on employment issues. The main goal of the task force is the implementation of solutions identified by the task force and others. The task force will report on its activities and results through articles and symposia at ACS meetings, and is currently collecting the opinions and concerns of the chemical community via poster sessions at ACS meetings. Comments can also be sent directly to the task force through its chair,

Attila Pavlath (attilapavlath@yahoo.com). She also announced future national meeting programming in the areas of employment in chemical sciences, diversity in chemical sciences, and organic chemistry education.

#### Immediate Past President

ACS Immediate Past President Tom J. Barton, in his final report at an open meeting, briefly reviewed the 3 areas on which he focused during his years in the presidential succession. In the education arena, he spoke on many occasions against the various obstacles facing attainment of uniform high-quality K-12 science education in the U.S. In the arena of internationalization, he is most proud of strengthening ACS relationships with chemical societies south of the border, in particular, the Sociedad Química de México. Finally, in efforts to find better ways to serve invaluable industrial members, he is pleased to have been a force in establishing a more meaningful relationship with the American Chemistry Council, which currently has resulted in the establishment of a task force to design community college programs to provide chemical industries with workers ready to hit the ground running in the various aspects of manufacturing.

#### Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer

ACS Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer Thomas M. Connelly reported that ACS is strengthening its support to all members, and cited two examples of offerings to industrial members. First, the Heroes of Chemistry Awards, which recognize significant contributions of teams representing the full breadth of the chemistry industry. Second, he announced that ACS will host a Summit for Chemical Sciences Chief Technology Officers (CTOs) later this fall. CTOs from nearly 20 companies will explore ways to further increase the value of ACS to chemists and engineers in industry.

Dr. Connelly reported that the Society has received more than \$3.2 million in new gifts and pledges, year to date. He thanked ACS leaders, dedicated volunteers and generous members who have contributed to the success of the ACS Scholars 20th Anniversary Appeal, and recognized Teva Pharmaceuticals for its third pledge of \$1 million to support research grants to early career faculty.

#### Guest Presentation

Dr. Confalone introduced the guest speaker, Dr. George M. Whitesides, who spoke on the topic “Reengineering Chemistry.”

Dr. Whitesides asserted that chemistry is ending a post WWII era of extraordinary intellectual growth and commercial contribution to society, which was characterized by a mutually beneficial expansion of academic and industrial chemistry. Although that era is over, the new opportunities that have appeared are greater in terms of intellectual challenge and impact on society: they are broader in scope and greater in complexity, requiring new structures and new methods. Chemistry is now a field with unique capabilities in manipulating molecules and matter; its future extends from living cells to megacities, and from harvesting sunlight to improving healthcare. In this new era, chemistry – academic and industrial, with cooperation from government – would benefit from abandoning distinctions between science and engineering, between curiosity-driven understanding and solving hard problems, and between chemistry and other fields – from materials science to sociology.

Following Dr. Whitesides’ presentation, Dr. Confalone thanked him for sharing his thought-provoking views. Dr. Whitesides then answered questions posed by members of the audience. At the conclusion of the question and answer session, Dr. Confalone thanked all the participants for the success of another filled-to-capacity meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Flint H. Lewis  
Secretary