

MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY
Philadelphia, PA
August 19, 2012

The Board of Directors of the American Chemical Society met in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on August 19, 2012, beginning at 12:00 p.m. William F. Carroll, Jr., Chair, presided. Other Directors present for all or part of the meeting were: George M. Bodner, Dennis Chamot, Bonnie A. Charpentier, Pat N. Confalone, Peter K. Dorhout, Nancy B. Jackson, Madeleine Jacobs, Neil D. Jespersen, Larry K. Krannich, Valerie J. Kuck, Barbara A. Sawrey, Kathleen M. Schulz, Bassam Z. Shakhashiri, Kent J. Voorhees, and Marinda Li Wu. Present by invitation for all or part of the meeting were: Rudy M. Baum, Brian A. Bernstein, Brian D. Crawford, Denise L. Creech, Yvonne D. Curry, Gregory M. Ferrence, Mary Kirchoff, Martha K. Lester, Flint H. Lewis, Robert J. Massie, Scott J. Oliphant, Robert H. Rich, Glenn S. Ruskin, Ronald E. Siatkowski, David T. Smorodin, John R. Sullivan, Frank E. Walworth, and Marleen G. Weidner. More than two hundred observers were present at various times during the meeting.

Report from Executive Session

William F. Carroll, Jr., Chair, opened the meeting with a summary of the key Board actions and discussion points from its executive session, August 17-18. He reported that the Board agreed to:

- approve Society nominations for the Perkin Medal and the National Science Board Public Service Award;
- receive a briefing and approve a recommendation from its Committee on Executive Compensation;
- approve an advance member registration fee of \$370 for national meetings held in 2013;
- reauthorize funding for inclusion in the 2013 proposed budget two programs: *ACS Science Coaches* and *ACS Global Research Experiences, Exchanges, and Training (GREET)*;
- authorize an in-depth review of the expectations for the financial goals for national meetings, and develop a financial plan for the long-term viability of the *ACS Presentations on Demand* program (formerly known as Electronic Dissemination of Meeting Content) and share it with the Committee on Budget and Finance at its 2013 spring meeting;
- receive a briefing from its working group on Society Program Portfolio Management;
- receive reports from the Executive Director/CEO and several of her direct reports on security threats faced by the Society's information technology systems and the measures in place to protect against them, a recommendation from the 2011 Financial Planning Conference that ACS identify additional revenue sources, and the activities of CAS, the ACS Publications Division and the Society's General Counsel (including an update on the Leadsopé litigation);
- approve the re-appointment of several journal editors;
- receive a strategic assessment of the ACS information services divisions;
- receive reports from the Presidential Succession (President, President-Elect, Immediate Past President) on their current and planned activities for the remainder of 2012 and 2013;
- approve the appointment of Dr. Jerauld Skotnicki as the Coordinating Editor, *ACS Presentations on Demand*; and
- receive briefings from several international guests representing the Canadian Society for Chemistry, the German Chemical Society, the Chemical Society of Japan, and the Royal Society of Chemistry.

OPEN FORUM

Dr. Carroll announced that the Board of Directors had put on its agenda an open forum entitled, “What are the ‘Real World’ ethics issues faced by students and practitioners of chemistry?” He said that the Society’s charter explicitly lists as one of its objects “the improvement of the qualifications and usefulness of chemists through high standards of professional ethics, education and attainments.” Dr. Carroll also said that ACS core values include professionalism, integrity and transparency, and high standards. He shared several examples of ethical issues that students and practitioners of chemistry face as follows: Publishing (plagiarism, redundant publication, disputed authorship); Interpersonal Dynamics (faculty-student relationships, harassment, hostile work environment); Collecting and Analyzing Data (falsification or manipulation of data, inability to duplicate); and Cheating and Dishonesty (improper meeting access/fees, grading, improper/illegal use of publications). Following the topic overview, Dr. Carroll opened the floor for discussion.

Gregory Ferrence, Chair, ACS Committee on Ethics invited his committee members to stand and then stated that they are prepared to listen and take notes on the concerns and suggestions that will be shared. Attendees offered numerous observations as follows: the need to view ethics as a human behavior issue; seek advice from the ACS Committee on Professional Training as to how they handle or advise on ethical issues that arise within chemistry departments; a proposal to review the general honor system in chemistry departments; a possible symposium on the topic; the need to communicate with the general public and not just scientists; the consequences of submitting incomplete data packages; and how the Society can develop pathways to lower instances of unethical behavior.

At the conclusion of this discussion, Dr. Carroll opened the meeting to other subjects and /or questions that attendees might have for the Board of Directors. Attendee comments included a concern that the governor of California may be proposing elimination of the second year of science courses as a high school graduation requirement; information that the proposal to create a senior chemists committee is up for a vote at the Council meeting; and the importance of sustainability at our national meetings and the visibility of receptacles.

Dr. Carroll then thanked participants for their many comments and the success of another standing-room-only forum.

Reports of Officers

President Bassam Z. Shakhshiri re-stated the theme for his presidential year of “Advancing Chemistry – Communicating Chemistry” and reminded attendees the theme aligns with the Society mission “... for the benefit of Earth and its peoples.” Dr. Shakhshiri shared a quote from Chemistry Nobel Laureate F. Sherwood Rowland as follows: “Isn’t it a responsibility of scientists, if you believe that you have found something that can affect the environment, isn’t it your responsibility to do something about it, enough so that action actually takes place? If not us, who? If not now, when?” He issued this challenge to attendees and asked that they consider it as a call to action. He concluded his comments with a brief update on the ACS Climate Science Toolkit and informed attendees of its internet address for more information www.acs.org/climatescience.

President-Elect Marinda Li Wu reported that her presidential task force: “Vision 2025: Helping ACS Members Thrive in the Global Chemistry Enterprise” has been working to identify opportunities with respect to jobs, advocacy and strategic collaboration. Dr. Wu said that she is working to build bridges between industry, academia, government, small business and various disciplines in today’s increasingly multidisciplinary research environment. She added that much of this activity has been through establishing connections with our sister societies and international organizations. However, Dr. Wu reminded attendees that her top priority remains serving domestic members, and that she will continue working toward turning challenges into opportunities.

Immediate Past President Nancy B. Jackson said that despite winding up her time in the presidential succession, she continues to remain active in support of the Sustainable Manufacturing initiative. She added that increasing the US manufacturing base is an important step for reinvigorating our economy and benefiting from the innovative process. Dr. Jackson said that she continues to promote international collaborations. She added that the increasingly global nature of science today can be seen in all avenues of the scientific enterprise.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

Flint H. Lewis
Secretary