

MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
New Orleans, Louisiana
April 7, 2013

The Board of Directors of the American Chemical Society met in New Orleans, Louisiana, on April 7, 2013, beginning at 12:00 p.m. William F. Carroll, Jr., Chair, presided. Other Directors present for all or part of the meeting were: John E. Adams, Thomas J. Barton, George M. Bodner, Bonnie A. Charpentier, Pat N. Confalone, Thomas R. Gilbert, Madeleine Jacobs, Larry K. Krannich, Valerie J. Kuck, Ingrid Montes, 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: Brian A. Bernstein, Brian D. Crawford, Denise L. Creech, Yvonne D. Curry, Mary Kirchoff, Martha K. Lester, Flint H. Lewis, Scott J. Oliphant, Robert H. Rich, Glenn S. Ruskin, Ronald E. Siatkowski, David T. Smorodin, John R. Sullivan, Matthew Toussant, Frank E. Walworth, and Marleen G. Weidner. More than three 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, April 5-6. He reported that the Board agreed to:

- a screened list of nominees for the 2014 Priestley Medal and the Award for Volunteer Service to the ACS;
- approve a Society nominee for the National Medal of Science;
- approve several actions relative to executive compensation for the Society's executive staff;
- approve an alliance with the Latin American Federation of Chemical Associations (FLAQ) and to renew an alliance with the Chinese Chemical Society;
- discuss the Committee on Planning's initial findings from the ACS Environmental Scan/Strategic Context Research;
- receive a report from the Oversight Group on Society Program Portfolio Management on its current activities and plans for the remainder of 2013;
- receive a report from the Executive Director/CEO and several of her direct reports on Society accomplishments from 2012; major challenges and projects facing the Society in 2013; and the activities of CAS (Chemical Abstracts Service), the Publications Division and the Society's General Counsel;
- approve the reappointment of journal editors and an appointment to the ACS Governing Board for Publishing; and
- ratify several interim actions including an appointment to the Committee on Executive Compensation.

Dr. Carroll also reported that the Board received reports from the Presidential Succession on their current activities and plans for the remainder of 2013 and the beginning of 2014; from the new director of the ACS Green Chemistry Institute[®]; and on the newly instituted ACS Career Pathways[™] Workshops.

OPEN FORUM

Dr. Carroll announced that the Board of Directors had put on its agenda an open forum focused on two questions: "1) What one thing would you like from ACS that you don't get now?" and "2) What one thing do you get from another organization that you wish you got from ACS?" Dr. Carroll

reviewed new member products and services introduced or expanded in 2012 including the Entrepreneurial Initiative; the Career Pathways™ Workshops; the ACS International Center; ACS on Campus; Presentations on Demand; Publications member programs; weekly webinars; and a new SciFinder member benefit to be launched on April 25. Following the topic overview, Dr. Carroll opened the floor for discussion.

More than 20 attendees offered comments and suggestions on current Society products and services and opportunities for future enhancements. The comments and suggestions included the importance of a multidisciplinary outlook as a way of increasing the inclusion of allied scientists and engineers, particularly as they consider membership in boutique chemistry societies; ways of involving student members in all activities; business development and strategic partnerships (meetings within national meetings) to foster greater industry participation; an understanding of what it means to be a student member; mentoring for early and mid-career chemists; better forums for informing Society members of ACS products and services; the importance of closing the gap between local sections and ACS “national”; offer greater incentives for joining the Society; more outreach activities for graduate students; promotion of chemical science internships; more use of digital communications; better mechanisms to increase member/community engagement. At the conclusion of the discussion, Dr. Carroll thanked participants for the success of another standing-room-only forum.

Reports of Officers

President Marinda Li Wu reported that her presidential task force, “Vision 2025: Helping ACS Members Thrive in the Global Chemistry Enterprise” will be sharing presentations on its findings with 26 stakeholder committees and divisions at this meeting. She said that her priorities as ACS President include: serving members interests; promoting science literacy and education; driving action; transparency and inclusivity; building bridges for strategic collaboration; and advocating for jobs and professional growth. Dr. Wu highlighted her presidential events at the New Orleans meeting and those planned for the fall national meeting. She reported that eleven presidents of chemical societies from Europe, Asia, the Americas, and Africa will be speaking at this meeting on how they might partner among themselves to better address global challenges.

President-Elect Thomas J. Barton reported that he will be hosting a public symposium on fracking in San Francisco and will be working with Professor Daniel Nocera on a symposium on photocatalytic conversion of water to hydrogen and oxygen. Dr. Barton also announced plans to convene a summit meeting of CEOs of American chemical companies to produce a white paper on factors inhibiting growth and development of the chemical industry in the US. Dr. Barton expressed concern over the state of K-12 chemistry education in the US and the necessity of action in this arena. This, too, will be an area of focus during his presidential year.

Immediate Past President Bassam Z. Shkhashiri reminded attendees of the grand challenges to society and scientists as they help to sustain earth and its people in the face of population growth, finite resources, malnutrition, spreading disease, deadly violence, war, climate change, and denial of basic human rights – especially the right to benefit from scientific and technological progress. Dr. Shkhashiri also offered a progress report on implementation of the ACS Commission on Graduate Education Report and the ACS Climate Science Initiative. He said that several grants through the Climate Science Initiative have been awarded under the ACS Challenge Grant Program for local sections and divisions.

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

Flint H. Lewis
Secretary