

Official Reports from the
San Diego, California Meeting

The major actions taken by the ACS Board and Council during the national meeting in San Diego, California were reported in C&EN, March 21, page 5.

Reports of Society Committees

Budget and Finance

The Society Committee on Budget and Finance (B&F) met on Saturday, March 12, 2016, to review the Society's 2015 financial performance. ACS ended 2015 with a net contribution from operations of \$16.6 million, on revenues of \$511.7 million and expenses of \$495.1 million. This was \$3.2 million favorable to the 2015 Approved Budget. After including the results of the Member Insurance Program, the Society's overall net contribution for 2015 was \$11.5 million, which was \$1.0 million unfavorable to the Approved Budget. The Society's financial position improved in 2015 with unrestricted net assets increasing from \$144.7 million at December 31, 2014, to \$163.3 million at December 31, 2015. The year-end balance includes a \$17.7 million partial reversal of previously accrued accounting charges for the Society's underfunded postretirement benefit plans and the aforementioned \$16.6 million net from operations. The positive impact of these two items was partially offset by investment losses of \$15.7 million.

The committee elected Dr. Joseph Heppert as Vice Chair and voted to recommend to Council that dues for 2017 be set at the fully escalated rate of \$166.00, an increase of \$4.00 versus the 2016 dues rate. In addition, the committee received reports from the Subcommittees on Communications, Program Review, Program Funding Requests, and Financial Impacts of Constitution & Bylaw Amendments.

Kristin M. Omberg, Chair

Education

The Society Committee on Education (SOCED) discussed a report from the joint SOCED/Division of Chemical Education Task Force on General Chemistry Performance Expectations, which is charged with specifying a process for the creation of performance expectations in general chemistry. SOCED approved a motion to seek external funding for a workshop to further explore this process. The committee formed a working group to review and propose changes to the ACS Science Education Policy Statement, and identified members to work with the International Activities Committee in revising the ACS Visa Policy Statement in 2016. SOCED received an update on the American Association of Chemistry Teachers (AACT). More than 3,300 individuals, 88 percent of whom are K-12 teachers, are now AACT members. The Chair of the Committee on Chemical Safety provided an overview of ACS safety resources and initiatives and asked SOCED to consider ways in which the two committees can collaborate to strengthen safety cultures at all levels of learning. SOCED received a demonstration of ChemIDP, a new online Individual Development Plan tool designed to assist graduate students and postdoctoral scholars with career planning and preparation. This resource is available at chemidp.org. Highlights from a new National Research Council report, *Effective Chemistry Communication in Informal Environments*, were presented to the committee. This report offers a framework for communicating chemistry outside the classroom.

Diane Krone, Chair

Board Committee Reports

Standing Committees

Grants and Awards

The American Chemical Society (ACS) Board of Directors (Board) Standing Committee on Grants and Awards (committee) met virtually on March 7, 2016. The 2016 committee and subcommittee mission and goals were reviewed, and the committee discussed the February 22nd *C&EN* comment entitled “Help Diversify ACS National Awards” and the feedback that has been received to date.

The committee voted to recommend Board approval of an endowment to support the E. Bright Wilson Award in Spectroscopy Award, beginning with the 2018 presentation; and that the Irving Langmuir Award in Chemical Physics be financially supported by the ACS for the 2018 presentation, unless a cosponsor is found to support this award.

The committee also voted to recommend that the Board approve language to be included in the guiding documents for the National Awards and Fellows Program to allow for the rescission of national awards and the ACS Fellows designations where reasonable grounds exist.

The committee approved for presentation to the Board screened lists of nominees for the 2017 Priestley Medal; the 2017 Award for Volunteer Service to the American Chemical Society; and the 2017 Charles Lathrop Parsons Award.

The committee approved changes to the safety and ethics statement and nominator response, and the safety and ethics adjudication protocol for the ACS National Awards and ACS Fellows Programs.

The ACS Fellows Oversight Committee reported that enhancements were made to the nomination system for 2016, and that the call for nominations for the 2016 opened February 1 and will close on April 1, 2016.

The committee received reports from the ACS Treasurer on the status of the Award endowments.

Staff from the Office of Research Grants and the ACS Petroleum Research Fund (ACS PRF) reported that the total ACS PRF distribution for 2016 is \$25.75 million, which includes administrative costs, the contribution to the PRF Reserve, as well as the ACS PRF Research Grants. The ACS PRF estimates to distribute \$20.8 million in research grants during 2016.

George M. Bodner, Chair

Professional and Member Relations

The Committee on Professional and Member Relations (P&MR) was briefed on the outcomes of the 2016 ACS Leadership Institute held in Dallas in January. The Leadership Advisory Board (LAB) reported the event attracted over 330 delegates, including staff and governance members, and generated 448 attendee enrollments across 21 Leadership Development Course sessions. Initial feedback from attendees was tremendously positive, and supportive of the Leadership Institute as an essential venue to develop leadership skills.

LAB also reported that in the period January – June 2016, it will have facilitated eight strategic planning retreats with a variety ACS entities such as divisions, committees, local sections and staff offices.

P&MR reviewed a report from the Malta VII Conference held November 15-20 in Morocco. Malta VII organizers expressed thanks to ACS for its nominal support of the event.

The committee discussed a proposed bi-lateral agreement between the American Chemical Society and the French Chemical Society to establish a “USA-France Chemistry Lectureship.” While support for the agreement in principle was expressed, the committee felt the document could benefit from additional structure and detail. P&MR asked Brad Miller to amend the document using the ACS Alliance framework, recirculate it to P&MR for further consideration in May.

The Chair of the Collaborative for Re-Imagining a Diverse ACS Membership, briefed the committee on the short-term collaborative’s first meeting which was held on February 17. The group’s charge is to develop and implement recommendations to improve diversity in the ACS. The collaborative identified key first steps to take, proposed key success metrics, and agreed on a timeline for future group meetings. Findings and final recommendations are due to the Board for its consideration in December 2016.

The committee focused on a discussion item focusing on the following question: “Should ACS offer products and services in non-English languages to aid in developing international markets?” Data was discussed which seemed to suggest that while there may be opportunities for ACS to offer information in non-English languages, the Society ought to be judicious in how it determines when to do so. For example, the limited data implies that scientific information is better communicated in English, while it might be beneficial to offer some ‘outreach’- related information in other languages.

The committee reviewed the mission of IAC, which is to “Assist scientists and engineers worldwide to communicate and collaborate for the good of the chemical and chemically related sciences, chemical engineering, and their practitioners.” Regarding ACS International Chapters, in 2015 their number increased from 9 to 16 with the additions of Taiwan and India in the first half of the year, and the approval of Australia, Brazil, Nigeria, Peru, and the United Arab Emirates during the December ACS Board Meeting in Hawaii. At the San Diego National Meeting in March, IAC will consider new international chapter applications from ACS members in Greater Beijing/Tianjin, Southwest China, and Iraq.

In 2015, ACS finalized two new strategic alliances with the Brazilian Chemical Society (SBQ) and the Mexican Chemical Society (SQM), and renewed its alliance with the South African Chemical Institute (SACI). This brings the number of current alliances to eight, which includes the following five: The Canadian Society for Chemistry (CSC), the Chinese Chemical Society (CCS), the Federation of Asian Chemical Societies (FACS), the German Chemical Society (GDCh), and the Federation of Latin American Chemical Associations (FLAQ).

Barbara A. Sawrey, Chair

Public Affairs and Public Relations

The Board Standing Committee on Public Affairs and Public Relations (PA&PR) met virtually on March 3, 2016. The Chair reviewed the agenda and highlighted three upcoming advocacy events:

- SETWG Congressional Visits Day - April 12 & 13
- ACS Legislative Summit - April 19 & 20
- DOE National Lab Day on the Hill – April 20

ACS staff updated committee members on the upcoming Capitol Hill launch of the Congressional Chemistry Caucus (CCC) on April 27. Representatives John Moolenaar (R-MI) and Daniel Lipinski (D-IL) are co-creators of the CCC. ACS CEO and Executive Director Tom Connelly will be joined in making remarks at the ceremony by his counterparts from the American Chemistry Council and the National Association of Chemical Distributors. The purpose of the CCC is to educate Members of Congress, their staff and the public on the value of the chemistry enterprise to the nation.

The Chair also highlighted several resources behind Tab 1 of the agenda book including the Committee Information Sheet; message points for communicating on ACS top-tier policy priorities; a snapshot of Governance advocacy; a chart of major ACS coalitions and partnerships; the federal legislation tracking chart; and a press release outlining ACS 2016 federal legislative priorities.

ACS Public Policy Statement Prioritization

The Chair led the committee through the annual process of prioritizing ACS public policy statements and thanked committee members for submitting their input via a survey instrument.

ACS Office of Public Affairs (OPA) staff presented the background for the prioritization process and explained how the committee's input helps set the ACS advocacy agenda. Based on survey input received from both PA&PR members and OPA staff, policy statements were put into four tiers. The committee reviewed each tier and discussed the statements proposed for inclusion in each tier.

After discussion, the committee VOTED to approve the advocacy priorities for 2016.

Public Opinion Research on Attitudes to Chemistry Update

Following up on the committee's request in December 2016, OPA staff presented a conceptual framework to conduct a public opinion survey of attitudes towards chemistry similar to research the

Royal Society of Chemistry published in 2015. After discussion, the committee felt that OPA should better inform ACS members about the wealth of research already available indicating that the public perception of chemistry is much better than perceived by chemists and also direct members to the substantial number of resources available to them for engaging effectively with the public, both to explain their vital role as chemists and to promote the value of chemistry in improving people's lives. OPA staff was asked to investigate cost-effective methods to accomplish the aforementioned and report to the committee at the June meeting.

ACS Journal Article Embargo Pilot

OPA staff presented an innovative new pilot they developed in concert with the ACS Publications Division to build on current publicity success by securing even greater media attention to research published in ACS journals. The pilot, focused initially on four ACS journals, will be initiated formally in late April 2016.

2016 Legislative Outlook

ACS staff highlighted ACS legislative successes in 2015 and the challenges of the 2016 congressional environment, made more difficult by the politics of a presidential election year. The 2016 outlook examined prospects for FY17 funding of research and development and STEM education as well as reauthorization of the Toxic Substances Control Act, passage of a comprehensive energy bill and other issues.

ACS Citation for Leadership in Public Policy

The Chair presented the recommendations from OPA for the first nominees to receive the ACS Citation for Leadership in Public Policy. The citation is a new form of recognition approved by the committee in December 2014 that permits OPA flexibility in recognizing public policy leadership in an effective and efficient manner. The nominees, both members of Congress, will receive their citations at a Capitol Hill reception ACS is co-sponsoring with the Council for Undergraduate Research on April 20, 2016.

John E. Adams, Chair

Corporation Associates

The Committee on Corporation Associates (CA) met on March 14, 2016. Dr. Diane Grob Schmidt, CA Chair and Immediate ACS Past President, gave a brief presentation on the major focus areas during her term as ACS President – industry initiatives included: CEO/CTO visits, the CTO summit, industry roundtables, awards and recognition, and advocacy. The ACS Strategic plan was discussed.

The committee received reports from Dr. Kristen Kulinowski, U.S. Chemical Safety Board Member, regarding chemical and process safety, and Dr. Joe Stoner of the Division of Business Management and Development on collaborations in national meeting programming.

The committee approved four (4) local section/international chapter grant proposals and one (1) seed grant proposal. Those approved for the grants were:

Local Section Grants:

- Dallas-Ft. Worth Local Section
- Midland Local Section
- Portland Local Section
- Princeton Local Section

Seed Grants:

- Hungary International Chapter

The committee discussed the language describing the ACS National Award on Team Innovation. The subcommittee on Strategic Awards and Investments will review the language to determine if changes are required.

The committee discussed a partnership between Corporation Associates, Committee on Environmental Improvement, and the Division of Environmental Chemistry to develop programming of interest to industry attendees on sustainability for the Fall ACS National Meeting in Philadelphia.

Diane Grob Schmidt, Chair

Other Board Standing and Joint Board-Council Committees

Chemical Abstracts Service

The CCAS Committee met in Executive Session on March 11, 2016 where CAS management reported on highlights from 2015 including financial and strategic updates. CAS President Manuel Guzman reported that CAS's sustained solutions performance continues to support ACS initiatives. New products released in 2015 (PatentPak™, NCI™ Global, and CHEMCATS®) are being well received by customers around the world as CAS continues to expand its global reach through support for the scientific enterprise. Dedicated customer-facing resources have been added to many countries including Japan, South Korea, Brazil and Mexico.

Committee members were pleased to learn that new CAS solutions, designed to enable discovery and advance workflows for scientific researchers and patent professionals around the world, continue to emerge. Launched this February, MethodsNow™, a new workflow solution for analytical, pharmaceutical and biotech scientists, provides access to the largest collection of analytical procedures, indexed and organized by CAS scientists, thereby saving researchers time in the lab. PatentPak™ is also now available for STN customers, allowing information search professionals to radically reduce time spent acquiring patents and pinpointing relevant chemical substance information.

New CAS branding was shared with the committee which more strongly aligns CAS with the ACS. The new branding emphasizes that CAS is a solutions provider with several new solutions now in the market including NCI™ Global, PatentPak and MethodsNow.

CCAS held a robust discussion, providing CAS management with input on multiple topics including evolving product and service concepts. CCAS continues to fulfill its role as a conduit of information between Society members and CAS, providing valuable feedback on current and future initiatives.

Wendy D. Cornell, Chair

Chemical Safety

The Committee on Chemical Safety (CCS) has continued its strategy to help strengthen academic safety culture by providing authoritative resources for the ACS community. The CCS Task Force for Safety Education Guidelines has been developing guidelines for laboratory safety education for secondary, undergraduate, and graduate education and the final drafts of the guidelines were presented to the CCS during its meeting in San Diego. The overarching goal of these guidelines is to enable students to develop a deep understanding of the principles and practices of chemical and laboratory safety, to empower them to apply these concepts when working in a laboratory, and to share them with other professionals. The CCS Education Subcommittee has been revising the *Safety in Academic Chemical Laboratories (SACL)* publication. The updated 2016 edition will include sections on safety culture, new changes in OSHA Hazard Communication Standard to reflect the use of the Globally Harmonized System (GHS), and some additional reorganization. The work on this new edition is currently being completed, and the anticipated release of Volume 1 of the 8th Edition of SACL is the latter part of 2016. ACS staff is also working with the CCS volunteers to add the associated web tools related to the *Identifying and Evaluating Hazards in Research Laboratories*, a guide presenting assessment approaches to be used in the academic research laboratory environments. The CCS published this guide in 2015 and it can be downloaded from the CCS website at www.acs.org/safety. The committee welcomes comments from the community at safety@acs.org.

Elizabeth M. Howson, Chair

Chemists with Disabilities

The Committee on Chemists with Disabilities (CWD) Open and Executive Meeting in San Diego featuring the following activities:

The ACS Examinations Institute and CWD met at the San Diego national meeting and are working together to make ACS Standard Exams, Practice Tests and Study Guides available to blind students.

The ACS Department of Higher Education also met with CWD in San Diego and brainstormed on developing guidance for creating classroom environments where all students are encouraged to contribute.

To increase awareness and highlight accomplishments of scientists who are differently abled, CWD is continuing to develop travelling pop-up banners of famous scientists with disabilities. Upon the request of teachers, these banners/posters have been made available to educators in the form of bookmarks and class room-sized posters.

John J. Johnston, Chair

Community Activities

The Committee on Community Activities (CCA) held its Presidential Outreach Event at the San Diego Central Library on Saturday, March 12. More than 60 ACS volunteers, including many student members and members of CCA, presented eight tables of hands-on activities from 1 – 4 pm. The event reached an estimated 400 members of the public. Also on Saturday, the theme teams for National Chemistry Week (NCW) 2016 and Chemists Celebrate Earth Day (CCED) 2017 met.

On Monday, March 14, an outreach workshop attended by approximately 100 students was held as part of the Undergraduate Program to demonstrate outreach activity ideas. On Tuesday, March 15, CCA, in conjunction with the Committee on Local Section Activities, held a joint open meeting and reception from 2:00 – 5:00 pm.

The themes for CCED and NCW 2017 were also approved. The CCED 2017 title “Chemistry Helps Feed the World!” explores the topic of agriculture. The NCW 2017 title “Chemistry Rocks” explores the topic of geochemistry.

CCA is looking for theme team members for 2017 and beyond. Those interested in joining a theme team should contact outreach@acs.org for more information.

Michael B. McGinnis, Chair

Environmental Improvement

The Committee on Environmental Improvement (CEI) continues to focus its attention on increasing ACS leadership related to sustainability and sustainable chemistry. Just as advancing sustainability requires collaboration, CEI does much of its best work through establishing partnerships with a wide array of ACS units.

Continuing our effort to support local section sustainability activities, CEI awarded two \$500 local section mini-grants to the Eastern New York and Northeastern sections.

CEI is leading the process to recommend to the ACS Board of Directors updates to two ACS public policy statements: Chemical Risk Assessment and Regulatory Decision Making (in partnership with Corporation Associates) and Climate Change. If you have comments for consideration for either of these statements, please provide them to the Chair (cei@acs.org) as soon as possible.

CEI continues to sponsor the attendance at the Conference of Parties (COP) global climate talks by an ACS student team. Originally launched during the International Year of Chemistry, nine students represented ACS at COP21 in Paris. There has been a lot of press around this project, and you are urged to visit www.studentsonclimatechange.com. The committee is looking to develop an “Adopt a Student” opportunity to sponsor this program, and to develop additional partnerships to increase and diversify participation.

In San Diego, the students were featured at a symposium on Sunday afternoon and two served on the panel discussing Waste Land, the most recent entry in the Chemistry and the Environment Film Series sponsored by CEI, SOCED, and the ACS Undergraduate Programs Office.

Anthony M. Noce, Chair

International Activities

At its meeting in San Diego on Saturday, March 12, 2016, the ACS Joint Board-Council Committee on International Activities (IAC) welcomed visiting dignitaries from our sister societies from Canada and Brazil, as well as the leadership of our ACS Chemical Sciences International Chapter in South Korea, and the Croatian representative to the 2016 ACS Pittcon Delegation.

IAC was pleased to contribute to the meeting's success with symposia honoring Professor Eli Pearce, US student science resulting from the 2015 ACS/NSF International Research Experiences for Undergraduates program, and a networking session organized in collaboration with Chemical & Engineering News on ACS Spanish-language resources.

In its 2016 and beyond strategic focus, IAC affirmed its priorities to work in the following areas to assure ACS success and impact on the Society's journey toward relevant, science-driven, member-focused and sustainable global engagement.

- Advance and serve the growing community of ACS International Chapters.
- Review ACS membership structures, policies, and activities that can accelerate and/or hinder fulfillment of the ACS brand promise to our member volunteers, chemists, chemical engineers, and chemical educators with global interests.
- Expand awareness and presence of ACS International Activities across ACS technical divisions, local sections, committees, meeting attendees, award recipients, ACS Fellows, and editorial and author communities.
- Assure a committee environment that welcomes and supports open communication and service opportunity where a diversity of thought, opinion, and contribution is nurtured.

The committee welcomed the ACS President Elect who addressed the IAC luncheon gathering and provided information on her international experiences, interests and priorities.

During IAC's subcommittee and open meetings, the committee heard reports on key programs and activities on current and envisioned ACS global research collaboration, exchange, education and outreach as we continue to refine the Society's science-driven global presence efforts. This included a report on the 2015 Malta Conference in Rabat, Morocco and plans for the 2017 IUPAC World Congress in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

The committee reviewed and recommended ACS Council and ACS Board of Director approval for the establishment of ACS International Chemical Sciences Chapters in Iraq, Southwest China, and Greater Beijing. The applications will come before Council and the Board later this year.

Ellene T. Contis, Chair

Minority Affairs

The Committee on Minority Affairs (CMA) met at the ACS National Meeting in San Diego on Sunday, March 13. CMA continues to promote its mission to advance ethnic and racial diversity and inclusion in ACS and the broader chemistry enterprise.

CMA held a luncheon in collaboration with the Committee on Chemistry and Public Affairs on Monday, March 14. Dr. Willie E. May, Under Secretary for Standards and Technology, U.S. Department of Commerce and Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, was the keynote speaker for the event. His talk, “My Incredible Journey: From the Projects in Birmingham, Alabama, to Leading the U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology” was delivered to a packed room. In addition, the event recognized the Diversity & Inclusion Advisory Board travel award winners from the American Indian Science and Engineering Society, the National Organization for the Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers, and the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science.

CMA partnered with the Division on Professional Relations on a half-day symposium on Monday, March 14, on “How to Foster Diversity in the Chemical Sciences: Lessons Learned and Taught from the Stories of Recipients of the Stanley Israel Award.” The symposium honored the memory of the late Dr. Stanley C. Israel, a distinguished polymer scientist, member of the ACS Board of Directors, and proponent of diversity in ACS. Eight recipients of this award shared their stories on topics spanning from, “Diversifying the STEM professional workforce by building capacity at a two- year college on the U.S.- Mexico border” to “Taking charge of the lack of diversity in STEM from graduate school to the professoriate: Developing a national, non-profit organization.” Through this symposium, CMA hopes to build awareness of this award, which recognizes individuals and/or institutions who have advanced diversity in the chemical sciences and significantly stimulated or fostered activities that promote inclusiveness within the region. The remaining deadlines for 2016 are July 1 for MWRM, SERMACS, SWRM, and WRM. The nomination process is detailed on the ACS website.

We invite you to visit the CMA website <http://www.chemdiversity.org/>. We have also extended our online presence to many social networks including Facebook (www.facebook.com/acs.cma), LinkedIn, and Twitter (@chemdiversity) to engage and interact. We would love for you to join the conversation.

Madeleine Jacobs, Chair

Patents and Related Matters

The Committee on Patents and Related Matters (CPRM) serves the ACS in a number of ways. The committee monitors legislative and regulatory developments influencing intellectual property. The committee provides ACS members and the general public with information about patents and other intellectual property issues. The committee's website is updated frequently and contains a wealth of helpful information about intellectual property matters relevant to those of us in the chemical enterprise.

CPRM also prepares nominations of notable inventors for external national awards recognizing the inventions of chemical professionals. We welcome your suggestions for possible nominees.

Recently, the committee submitted suggestions to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) to improve the quality of patents and the patenting process. We are very pleased to note that the PTO has accepted several of our suggestions. In addition, the committee has begun providing speakers for the PTO's Technology Fair. These speakers have provided patent examiners with hour-long updates on the latest developments in the chemical sciences. If you would like to participate in these efforts, please let us know.

We have reorganized the committee to encompass such diverse topics as intellectual property aspects of entrepreneurship, technology transfer and sponsored research. As part of these efforts we have begun drafting a Strategic Plan and a Job Manual. We expect to post these documents on our website by the end of the year.

Any and all communications regarding these matters should be sent to Patents@acs.org.

Thank you.

Sadiq Shah, Chair

Professional Training

At the March 2016 meeting, the Committee on Professional Training (CPT) evaluated 46 periodic reports from approved programs and held conferences with nine departments applying for ACS approval. CPT also evaluated site visit reports from six programs seeking approval and two probation reports. The committee approved four new programs and withdrew approval of one program. Currently 681 colleges and universities offer an ACS-approved bachelor's degree program in chemistry.

The committee approved a supplement that offers guidance on how departments might satisfy the new requirement for coverage of macromolecular systems. The supplement will be available on the CPT web page shortly after this meeting. The committee has organized a symposium on this new requirement for the Biennial Conference on Chemical Education this summer.

A subcommittee was appointed to create a survey of chemistry programs on their use of online courses and virtual laboratory experiences. The committee continued discussion of the resources and modifications to the existing approval program that might be needed if ACS were to develop a recognition process for undergraduate chemistry programs located outside the United States and its territories.

The committee held a breakfast meeting with the volunteers who make site visits to programs seeking initial approval. The committee also met with representatives from 41 institutions that offer a PhD in chemistry. The results of the recently published report on a survey of PhD recipients and the new requirement to teach macromolecular-related topics were reviewed. The new ACS Chemistry Individual Development Plan (ChemIDP) was also highlighted.

Thomas J. Wenzel, Chair

Publications

The committee elected Jerzy Klosin as vice chair, who will serve in that capacity for the period March 11, 2016 to December 31, 2016.

The monitoring reports for *Nano Letters*, *ACS Nano*, and *Analytical Chemistry* were presented, discussed thoroughly and accepted with thanks. Editor reappointments for the two latter journals were reviewed and recommendations were made. The next publications to be monitored will be *ACS Sustainable Chemistry & Engineering*, *Chemical Research in Toxicology*, and *Inorganic Chemistry*.

The ACS Conference of Editors was held in January 2016, chaired by Professor Kirk Schanze, Editor-in-Chief of *ACS Applied Materials & Interfaces*. The agenda for that meeting and overview of the proceedings were shared with the committee. Topics included operational and technology innovation updates and a review of ongoing developments across all aspects of the Society's publishing operations, including outreach strategies in China and strategies for globalization and how to engage key stakeholders. The theme for the meeting was "Growing Globally" which featured several speakers from the academic community in Hong Kong, India, and South America.

The committee encouraged that outreach be taken to the ACS Editors to seek nominations for the Kavli Foundation Emerging Leader in Chemistry Lecture for the 2017 Spring ACS National Meeting in San Francisco, CA.

A success story in the area of digital innovation is C&EN's weekly newsletter, which has stimulated reader and advertiser interest.

Nicole S. Sampson, Chair

Science

The Committee on Science, ComSci, continues its emphasis on the emerging field of advanced materials. On March 14 at the San Diego national meeting, ComSci organized a forum on key challenges in the computational design of advanced materials. This forum, featuring experts from academic, industrial and government laboratories, was the third organized by ComSci on advanced materials, and all of these forums generated content that will be distributed widely. A paper based on our first forum, which focused on advanced materials for solar energy, will be submitted for publication soon.

Several valuable recommendations resulted from our roundtable forum last August in Boston with division, journal and industry leaders. One that the committee is currently pursuing is to develop success stories of chemistry-related industry and university collaboration. These stories are intended to encourage stakeholders to accelerate innovation.

ComSci is also working to help inform policymakers and our membership on strengthening forensic science. The committee led an effort to develop the Society's first policy statement on this issue in 2013, and ComSci will enhance and update the statement this summer for Board consideration. In addition, the committee is organizing a symposium on forensic science at the national meeting in August in Philadelphia.

ComSci submitted an ACS nomination in February for the French Grand Prix award, and the committee is on track to submit an ACS nomination in April for the Presidential National Medal of Science—the nation's highest honor for a scientist.

Mark C. Cesa, Chair

Senior Chemists

The Senior Chemists Committee (SCC) met for the first time virtually in 2016 on February 18 and face-to-face on March 14 in San Diego during the ACS National Meeting. The committee members received information from the strategic planning retreat held in December and were presented with modified Vision and Mission statements. New strategic goals were shared (develop and implement an active senior network to provide two-way communication; increase the number of Local Section Senior Chemists Committees in the next three years; and develop activities that engage senior chemists in utilization of their expertise and experience) and identified champions of each goal shared their ideas for implementation. Plans are underway to re-launch the Senior Chemists Group on the ACS Network and to collaborate with AACT for the Science Coaches Program; mini-grants are also being offered to local sections in an effort to increase the engagement of senior members.

On March 15, Dr. Margaret Leinen, Director of Scripps Institution of Oceanography and a Vice Chancellor of the University of California, presented a dynamic talk on “*Our Changing Oceans: The Challenges from Climate Change*” during the Senior Chemists Breakfast and responded to a number of questions from the attendees. Lynn Hartshorn, editor of *The Newsletter for Senior Chemists*, gave a short presentation on its history, provided information on the types of articles that are featured, and requested article submissions and additional contributing editors.

Thomas R. Beattie, Chair

Women Chemists

The Women Chemists Committee (WCC) continues to be leaders in attracting, developing, promoting, retaining, and advocating for women in the chemical sciences in order to positively impact society and the profession.

In preparation for WCC strategic planning in 2017, the Environmental Scan from the Board Standing Committee on Planning was discussed.

In San Diego, WCC recognized:

- Ten recipients of the 5th annual WCC Rising Star Award
- Ten recipients of WCC/Eli Lilly Travel Awards
- Dr. Annie Kersting, 2016 recipient of the Francis P. Garvan-John M. Olin medal
- Carol A. Fierke, 2016 recipient of the ACS Award for Encouraging Women into Careers in the Chemical Sciences

The committee also developed plans for recognizing the first eight recipients of the WCC Merck Research Award at the next ACS National Meeting.

The past chair and chair of the Board Committee on Grants & Awards (G&A) met with WCC, summarizing efforts to diversify the recipients of ACS national awards and sharing the 2012-2016 percentages of female nominees and awardees. As reported in the ACS Comment in the February 22 issue of *Chemical & Engineering News*, “From 2012-2016, only 13% of the nominees and only 16% of the recipients for ACS national awards were women.” The percentages are even lower for technical awards. Women are approximately 30% of the ACS membership. The WCC Awards Task Force will continue its efforts to increase the number of women receiving technical ACS national awards, working with G&A and other ACS units. WCC urges you to nominate an extraordinary woman chemist this November.

Amber F. Charlebois, Chair

Younger Chemists

The Younger Chemists Committee (YCC) met on Saturday and Sunday, March 12th and 13th, of the 251st ACS National Meeting.

At the ACS National Meeting in San Diego, the Younger Chemists Committee (YCC) welcomed the newly appointed YCC associates, and introduced the YCC mentoring program in an effort to help orientate and onboard new/recently appointed YCC associates, by pairing them with a more “seasoned” YCC member. This falls in line with our efforts to effectively engage in the act of succession planning, and better prepare members to enter leadership roles both internal and external to the committee. This meeting also marked the introduction of a Programming Task Force, a new initiative chartered to discuss the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of the committee’s current programming structure. The task force members span all subcommittees within the YCC, and aim to improve the ongoing effort to bring quality programming to younger chemists within the broader ACS.

Outside of the YCC meeting, it is the committee’s desired outcome to better engage in communication across the Society by collaborating with ACS Committees, and Divisions. We believe this will allow the entire committee to contribute to programming efforts, engage within the Society, and improve communication with younger chemists attending National Meetings and beyond. An excellent example of this was the Networking 101 Workshop sponsored by ACS Undergraduate Programs and co-sponsored by YCC and the ACS Division of Professional Relations (PROF).

“As young representatives of ACS, our goals are to make the ACS relevant to younger chemists, to dramatically increase the involvement of younger chemists in all levels of the ACS, and to better integrate younger chemists into the profession.”

Natalie A. LaFranzo, Chair

Council Committee Reports

Elected Committees

Committees

During the meeting in San Diego, the Committee on Committees (ConC) voted to approve the diversity study ConC will be conducting this year of ACS Committee Chairs, members, associates, and consultants from the 29 Council-related Committees. The purpose of the survey is two-fold: 1) an educational tool to broaden ACS member awareness of the variety of race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and employment sector representation by our membership; 2) a method for ConC to get a snapshot of where the committee diversity picture stands now as we look toward future recruitment and retention of committee members. ConC will use the aggregated data to learn about the demographics and experiences of our committee volunteers and to guide our future diversity efforts. The survey will be confidential and voluntary.

The ConC Subcommittee on Diversity gave a presentation entitled “Diversifying ACS Committees” during the Councilor and Division Caucuses. Those interested in giving this presentation during their local section or division meeting can download a copy at www.acs.org/conc and click on “Committee Information.”

ConC has begun developing its recommendations for 2017 Committee Chair appointments for consideration by the President-Elect and the Chair of the Board of Directors. The online committee preference form opened on March 28 at <https://www.yellowbook.acs.org/>. Committee associates, and especially those finishing a term or who have reached the statutory limit on a committee need to complete the online form to reaffirm their interest and commitment to service in the Society.

Wayne E. Jones, Jr., Chair

Council Policy

CPC remains quite active between meetings through its subcommittees and task forces.

The CPC Subcommittee on Long-Range Planning (LRP) continues to manage the orientation program for new Councilors through its New Councilor Webinar, the New Councilor Orientation, the mentoring program, and provision of significant amounts of electronic and written information. Strategy Cafés continue to be scheduled both within the New Councilor Program, and in other venues. CPC is working closely with the Board's Standing Committee on Planning to make the Strategy Café process available to ACS generally.

LRP was asked to review the way Local Sections and Divisions are currently represented on Council. It was noted that while the subcommittee fulfilled the original charge (size of Council), important issues and questions need to be brought to attention of CPC for further examination and discussion, e.g., the role of international members, a cap on the number of Councilors per Local Section and Divisions to ensure more balance, and adjustments to the ratio of Local Sections and Divisions. Representatives from the committees on Divisional Activities, on Local Section Activities, and on International Activities will be asked to be part of the subcommittee's work moving forward.

The [Guidelines for Special Discussion Items at Council Meetings](#) were approved in 2015, and are available for use.

CPC concurred in the proposed raise in Member dues to \$166, and in the Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs proposed revisions to the "Academic Professional Guidelines."

Finally, CPC is interested in assessing Councilors' needs for assistive technologies at Council. A brief survey on CPC's behalf was conducted at Council, and plans are underway for an additional survey of Councilors.

Alan M. Ehrlich, Vice-Chair

Nominations and Elections

The Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E) announced that the candidates for President-Elect 2017 are Peter K. Dorhout and Thomas R. Gilbert. Their selection as candidates by Council was conducted according to specific procedures approved by Council for preferential balloting, effective January 1, 2016. Their names, and any other petition candidates certified by the July 15 deadline, will be placed on the ballot this fall.

N&E continues to consider improvements to the election process so that nominees, candidates, and the Society as a whole are served more effectively. The committee has established a Vote 20/20 Task Force, charged with examining all aspects of nominations and elections for ACS national offices, and designing a viable process to be in place by the year 2020. The ultimate goal is an effective and equitable process for calling forth all those willing to stand for office and serve the Society. Representatives from N&E and other ACS committees have been invited to serve, but it is vital that we also seek ideas from all members as to how nominations and elections should be handled. Comments can be sent to vote2020@acs.org.

The committee developed slates of potential candidates for the Council Policy Committee and the Committee on Committees for 2017-2019 terms. The names of the candidates will appear in the Philadelphia Fall Council agenda.

N&E solicits Councilors' input of qualified individuals for President-Elect and/or Directors for future consideration. Suggestions can be sent by email to nomelect@acs.org.

D. Richard Cobb, Chair

Standing Committees

Constitution and Bylaws

In 2015, the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws (C&B) certified a record 29 unit bylaws, 20 of which were certified since the Boston meeting. We also certified five bylaws since January.

C&B reviewed bylaws for 13 Local Sections and one Division since the Boston meeting. Bylaw reviews are taking less time with units using the bylaws template and the expedited bylaws, which require that you answer only 14 questions.

Fifty-six Local Sections and four Divisions have not updated their bylaws since 2000. These and other units that have not updated their bylaws recently should check that their bylaws permit electronic balloting, or their elections might be invalid.

Options to update your bylaws, certified bylaws, and a bylaws status report are available at www.acs.org/bulletin5 or feel free to contact C&B at bylaws@acs.org.

Thanks to LSAC and DAC, updated templates are available for Local Sections and Divisions, and C&B can submit for Council's approval in Philadelphia, changes to the Charter bylaws for new Local Sections and Divisions. IAC had asked to postpone their review.

New petitions to amend the Constitution and/or Bylaws must be received by the Executive Director by May 4 to be included in the Council agenda for consideration in Philadelphia. We encourage you to send your draft petition to C&B at least six weeks before that deadline so that we can give you initial feedback. The petition guidelines are in Bulletin 5 (www.acs.org/bulletin5) and we are happy to walk you through the process if you wish.

James C. Carver, Chair

Divisional Activities

The Committee on Divisional Activities, DAC, will hold a strategic planning retreat in June to plot a course on how best to serve divisions and the Society over the next 3-5 years. We will report to Council in Philadelphia on the highlights from that retreat.

DAC has established two priorities for 2016. The first one focuses on division membership chairs, and providing them with more tools, training, and guidance on how to recruit and retain division members. DAC is working with staff and the Membership Affairs Committee to accomplish this goal.

A second DAC priority centers on developing and launching a pilot program with several divisions to help them integrate an ongoing business planning component into their operations. Operating in a dynamic and highly competitive global environment, divisions must have a thorough understanding of the external challenges and opportunities that confront them.

DAC voted to approve a petition to amend the Bylaws to permit greater flexibility with respect to rights that divisions and local sections grant to their affiliates. If all goes according to plan, this petition will be on the Council agenda for consideration in Philadelphia.

DAC voted to fund 12 Innovative Project Grants (IPG) totaling \$68,980. The committee will consider another set of IPG proposals during the Philadelphia meeting; the deadline for that round of submissions is July 1, 2016.

DAC wishes to acknowledge the efforts of the divisions and the Multidisciplinary Program Planning Group in organizing and delivering a wide range of excellent programming in support of the San Diego theme, "Computers in Chemistry."

Rodney M. Bennett, Chair

Economic and Professional Affairs

The Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs, CEPA, remains committed to its mission of empowering ACS members to continuously develop professionally.

The subcommittee on events, volunteers, and employment services examined new tactics initiated at the career fair to boost participation and engagement including lightning round talks and a consultant advice booth on Recruiter's Row. The San Diego career fair was at or near recent averages in employer turnout, jobs posted, and number of job seekers. The subcommittee is also developing a best practice response to large-scale layoffs using a recent event organized by the ACS Delaware Local Section and ACS staff as a prototype.

The CEPA subcommittee on marketing and research reviewed the results of the 2015 ACS ChemCensus and New Graduate Survey. The data reveal that domestic unemployment among ACS member chemists edged slightly upwards in the last year from 2.9% to 3.1%. More concerning is the continued high unemployment rate for new graduates, currently at 13%. The ChemCensus also showed a modest salary increase year-over-year of about \$4,000 in both constant and current dollars with all degree levels gaining.

The subcommittee on public policy reviewed the policy statement on employment non-discrimination and expects that any revisions will be ready for action by the ACS Board of Directors prior to the end of 2016.

Lastly, the revisions made to the Chemical Professional's Code of Conduct by the subcommittee on standards and ethics were presented to Council for consideration. Revisions or comments from Councilors are welcomed at careers@acs.org before April 30 in preparation for possible action in Philadelphia. The revised Academic Professional Guidelines was approved by Council with the inclusion of one friendly amendment. The document now goes to the ACS Board of Directors.

William (Rick) Ewing, Chair

Local Section Activities

The Committee on Local Section Activities (LSAC) recognized the local sections celebrating a significant anniversary in 2016. The sections include: 25th - Orlando and South Florida; 50th - South Central Missouri; 75th - Binghamton, San Diego, and Southeastern Pennsylvania; and, for their 125th - the New York and Rhode Island local sections.

LSAC thanked the 148 out of 185 local sections that completed their 2015 Annual Reports. In addition, through FORMS, local sections submitted a total of 1,511 events that were completed in 2015, as well as 159 ChemLuminary nominations. LSAC is beginning to review the Annual Reports and will have all reviews completed by June 1st.

LSAC awarded 19 Innovative Project Grants for a total of \$39,930. LSAC is continuing to offer grants for local sections to host a Leadership Development System course or Strategic Planning Retreat in the fall of 2016 or spring 2017. More information about all LSAC grants is available at www.acs.org/getinvolved.

LSAC voted to approve a petition to amend the ACS Bylaws related to the rights of affiliates. LSAC voted to approve the Charter Bylaws for New Local Sections as drafted by the Committee on Constitution & Bylaws (C&B). LSAC voted to approve the model Bylaws template as presented by the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws.

Martin D. Rudd, Chair

Meetings and Expositions

The Committee on Meetings and Expositions (M&E) accepted more than 12,000 papers for the National Meeting in San Diego, CA. The total attendance for this meeting was 16,398. The Exposition had 415 booths with 274 exhibiting companies.

ACS continues to lead the meeting industry in green chemistry efforts and has been named 1 of 5 finalists for the 2016 UFI Sustainable Development Award from the premier organization representing the exhibition industry, a significant accomplishment for our program.

As part of M&E's comprehensive sustainability plan, print copies of the program book for San Diego were significantly reduced and a limited number were available for sale. 2,138 program books were sold as most members are choosing to use the online program or the download the Mobile App, which received 7,684 downloads.

In compliance with the National Meeting Long Range Financial Plan and the recommendations of the 2015 Task Force on Implementing National Meeting Financial Targets, M&E recommends the Early Member Registration Fee for the 2017 national meetings will be \$440.

Over the last 3 years, the Meetings team has rigorously implemented an economic model which leverages the \$35,000,000 the Society and our attendees spend while we are on-site. By leveraging this spending; we have driven the average meeting lease cost for the convention centers from over \$350,000 to under \$100,000. Cost reduction efforts such as this will continue with the hope that we can eliminate the incremental cost adjustment in the registration sooner than the 2021 projected date.

John Pochan, Chair

Membership Affairs

The Membership Affairs Committee (MAC) continues to focus on new efforts to recruit and retain members. As of December 31, the ACS membership was nearly 157,000, which is 0.96% less than on the same date in 2014. The number of new members who joined in 2015 is 25,000. The Society's overall retention rate is 84%. The number of international members has increased to 26,022, with the international growth rate at 3.85%.

Two of the MAC's early market data collection tests are due to expire in 2016. MAC submitted a petition for consideration in San Diego to permanently extend the Unemployed Member Dues Waiver Benefit period from two years to three years.

ACS International Chemical Science Chapters were challenged to recruit new members, and were offered a \$15 commission for each new paid ACS member they recruited. This program looks promising, with results comparable to similar sized local sections. The committee favors the continuation of this test and will request that the Council authorize a three-year extension in Philadelphia.

Now that the required IT tools are in place to allow discounted billing and based upon the success of the World Bank Economic Model dues discount in India, MAC has approved testing to collect data on the adjustment of ACS dues prices in the other countries where ACS has International Chapters.

In San Diego, MAC approved a test to allow the Marketing Staff to discount dues based on industry best practices as part of promotional offers.

James M. Landis, Jr., Chair

Other Committees

Ethics

The ACS Committee on Ethics (ETHX) met Sunday, March 13, 2016 from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm in open session. The committee completed the restructuring of the subcommittees. Both the Subcommittee on Resources and Communications and the Subcommittee on Awareness and Education presented plans for activities at the Philadelphia meeting.

After a review of the committee charge, members recommended a slight wording change, and also discussed methods that could be used to recognize both ethical behavior and ethics programming at the local and divisional levels.

The committee also heard presentations regarding the ACS Environment Scan that is being conducted to assist with the next iteration of strategic planning, and ACS Publications regarding a new position in Journals and Ethics Policy. The discussion with ACS Publications included both policies currently in place to help identify areas of plagiarism, authorship issues, and mechanisms that may be used to help smaller journals to help authors avoid many of the common ethical issues that have been observed by Publications.

Discussion was held pertaining to the petition for consideration to extend membership benefits to unemployed members from two years to three years, and voted to support the petition.

ETHX reviewed a document regarding the Global Chemists' Code of Ethics, and discussed a symposium in Philadelphia regarding professional expectations for chemists.

Keith R. Vitense, Chair

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Nomenclature, Terminology and Symbols

The ACS Committee on Nomenclature, Terminology, and Symbols (NTS) met in executive session in San Diego on Monday, March 14, 2016.

The committee discussed the recent provisional recommendation from IUPAC Division II entitled “How to Name New Elements” during their open comment period. NTS provided comments that agreed completely with the recommendation in the endings for new element names. The committee will, however, propose a project to Division II to address the use of Latin nomenclature for undiscovered elements.

NTS hosted a booth (#326) in the Exposition for the San Diego meeting. The booth invited visitors to suggest names for the recently discovered elements. While the names will not be forwarded to IUPAC for consideration, attendees to the booth received a “livermorium” element pin and were entered into a drawing for one of three \$100 ACS Store gift certificates. The aim of the booth was to provide the membership with information about the purpose and activities of NTS, recent proposed redefinitions of the SI units, and the newly discovered elements. After evaluating the success of the booth, NTS plans to repeat the effort to inform the membership of their activities with a poster at the Fall Sci-Mix. In addition, NTS will co-sponsor a symposium on elements and their discoveries at the Fall meeting.

NTS continues to be involved in evaluation and potential input into the development of InChI codes, preferred IUPAC names, and offering its support to the US National Committee to IUPAC.

Michael D. Mosher, Chair

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Project SEED

Since its inception in 1968, ACS Project SEED has provided hands-on research experiences to nearly 10,000 economically disadvantaged high school students in chemically-related research in academic, government and industrial laboratories. The results of the 2015 survey indicates that Project SEED does serve its target population. Sixty-three percent of the surveyed students come from families that had an income of \$25,000 or less. Students agreed that Project SEED helped developing skills and abilities (97%), deciding to continue their education after high school (89%), and improving self-confidence (91%). Seventy-eight percent of the students expect to complete a college degree in a STEM field. Of mentors surveyed, 96% indicated they would recommend the experience to others.

The Programs I and II Subcommittee reviewed 451 research projects involving 493 students from 97 programs in 42 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. The projected cost of the program is \$1,296,000. The Scholarship Subcommittee reviewed 52 student applications and awarded 32 scholarships to Project SEED alumni entering college in fall 2016 totaling \$160,000. The students were selected from 16 states. Twenty-three of the recipients are females and nine are males.

The committee approved a proposal to request additional ACS funding to gradually increase fellowship awards in line with the proposed minimum wage increase.

We invite volunteers from Arizona, Kentucky, Maine, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Washington, and Wyoming to help realize Project SEED 50th Anniversary goal to establish programs in all 50 states.

The committee encourages ACS members to support Project SEED via the check-off on their ACS membership renewal form.

Anna G. Cavinato, Chair

Technician Affairs

Given the importance of industry members to the Society, the Committee on Technician Affairs (CTA) has worked to become more closely aligned with industry programs. At this meeting, CTA co-sponsored a symposium with The Division of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry (I&EC) and The Society Committee on Education (SOCED), a Presidential event, entitled “New Reality of the Chemical Enterprise: Traditional & Nontraditional Career Paths.” In addition, CTA members were invited to attend the Corporation Associates luncheon at this meeting, providing an opportunity for the two groups to network.

CTA honored the 27th recipient of the National Chemical Technician Award at a luncheon at this meeting. This award was established to recognize the outstanding career achievements of exceptional technicians, who have significantly contributed to the field through their technical achievements, leadership and mentoring, publications, presentations, patents, quality and safety practices, and professional and community activities. The luncheon was well attended.

CTA partnered with the Younger Chemists’ Committee to provide a travel award to a younger chemical technician interested in attending the ACS Leadership Institute. CTA will increase its commitment to include two awardees for the coming year as part of its effort to develop new younger leaders in the chemical technician community.

Kara M. Allen, Chair