

MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY
DENVER, CO
March 22, 2015

The Board of Directors of the American Chemical Society met in Denver, Colorado, on March 22, 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, 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, Bibiana Campos-Seijo, Brian D. Crawford, Denise L. Creech, Manuel Guzman, Mary Kirchhoff, Martha K. Lester, Flint H. Lewis, Robert H. Rich, 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 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, March 20-21:

- On the recommendation of the Committee on Grants and Awards and of the Committee on Science, the Board voted to approve a Society nominee for the National Medal of Science.
- On the recommendation of the Committee on Professional and Member Relations, the Board voted to provide nominal sponsorship, without financial commitment, for the "Frontiers of Science Research and Education in the Middle East: A Bridge to Peace" (Malta VII) to be held in Rabat, Morocco, November, 2015.
- The Board received an extensive briefing and approved several recommendations from its Committee on Executive Compensation. The compensation of the Society's executive staff receives regular review from the Board.
- On the recommendation of the Society Committee on Education, the Board voted to approve a procedure for the establishment of the inaugural Governing Board for the American Association of Chemistry Teachers (AACT).
- On the recommendation of the Joint Board-Council Committee on Publications, the Board voted to approve the reappointment of an Editor-in-Chief for an ACS journal.
- The Executive Director/CEO offered a review of his initial month in the position, and his direct reports updated the Board on the activities of Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS), the ACS Publications Division, the Society's Treasurer, and the Society's General Counsel.
- The Board heard reports from the Presidential Succession on their current and planned activities for 2015.
- As part of its ongoing commitment to consider the most important strategic issues facing the Society, the Board held a discussion on improving governance agility.
- The Board received an update on its retreat planned for June 2015 as part of the June Board meeting.

Reports of Officers

President

ACS President Diane G. Schmidt encouraged participants to attend two Presidential Symposia focused on the advances being made in nanotechnology and nanoscience. The first symposium, “Nanotechnology: Delivering on the Promise,” highlights the fascinating research, development, and commercialization of nanochemistry and nanotechnology. It includes 16 senior-level speakers from industry, academe, and government. The other symposium, “DOE Nanoscience Research Centers: National Resources for the Nanoscience Community,” features the five heads of these research centers at U.S. national laboratories. This is the first symposium of its type to highlight these speakers collectively.

President-Elect

ACS President-Elect Donna J. Nelson reported receiving, as responses to her emails sent to ACS members, approximately 1500 emails containing suggestions and comments. She identified several issues identified by ACS members, as well as how these issues were being reviewed and/or addressed. Members noted the urgency of the jobs issue, and she is establishing a task force to examine the mismatch between the number of job seekers and jobs available. The task force will begin by reviewing the contributors to the jobs problem, including demographic concerns, public attitudes toward science, STEM salaries and job differences between STEM disciplines. Dr. Nelson concluded by announcing the membership of her task force.

Immediate Past President

ACS Immediate Past President Tom J. Barton reported that he has been continuing to advance his initiatives, which include working with the staff in the Education Division to provide stipends to incentivize high school chemistry teachers to attend ACS regional meetings, hosting sessions at regional meetings for industrial chemists, holding meetings with ACC, developing plans for a joint task force on community colleges, and working with fellow Board member Ingrid Montes to conduct ACS webinars in Spanish.

Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer

ACS Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer Thomas M. Connelly stated that he is honored to have the opportunity to serve in his position, and that the members of the Board and staff have been helpful, friendly, and welcoming. He reflected on his time allocation over his first 100 days as CEO, and of his meetings and conversations with members and staff. He noted that ACS has tremendous strengths in its membership activities, its journals, and in CAS, and looks forward to the challenges ahead.

Guest Presentation

Dr. Confalone informed the audience that Deborah Blum, the speaker originally scheduled for the meeting, was unable to attend due to extenuating family circumstances. He then introduced Bibiana Campos-Seijo, Editor-in-Chief, C&EN, who graciously agreed to rearrange her schedule to speak on “Getting Bang for Your Buck in Science Communications.”

Dr. Campos-Seijo shared her life story and work before assuming her duties at ACS’ weekly newsmagazine in December, 2014. Speaking on the importance of reporting and communicating about chemistry using all forms of social media, she reminded the audience that chemistry is a wide-ranging discipline that has a vibrant legacy of great researchers. It is vital to know the “language” of chemistry, to understand our audience, to be accurate but accessible, and to have fun. She briefly shared current activities and future projects associated with C&EN and C&EN Online.

Following Dr. Campos-Seijo's presentation, Dr. Confalone thanked her for sharing her informative and enlightening views on how science is communicated in today's world via various social media. Dr. Campos-Seijo 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