

MINUTES  
REGULAR SESSION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY  
San Francisco, California  
August 10, 2014

The Board of Directors of the American Chemical Society met in San Francisco, on August 10, 2014, 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, Tom J. Barton, George M. Bodner, Bonnie A. Charpentier, Pat N. Confalone, Thomas R. Gilbert, Rigoberto Hernandez, Madeleine Jacobs, Valerie J. Kuck, Ingrid Montes, Barbara A. Sawrey, Diane G. Schmidt, Kathleen M. Schulz, and Marinda Li Wu. Present by invitation for all or parts of the meeting were: Brian A. Bernstein, Brian D. Crawford, Denise L. Creech, Manuel Guzman, Mary Kirchoff, Martha K. Lester, Flint H. Lewis, Robert H. Rich, Glenn S. Ruskin, Ronald E. Siatkowski, 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.

Report from Executive Session

William F. Carroll, Jr., Chair, opened the meeting by welcoming the attendees and introduced his Board colleagues. Next, he summarized the key actions and discussion points from the Board's executive session, August 8-9:

- On the recommendation of the Committee on Grants and Awards, the Board voted to approve Society nominations for the 2015 Perkin Medal and the 2015 nominee for the National Science Board Public Service Award.
- On the recommendation of the Committee on Budget and Finance, the Board voted to approve an advance member registration fee of \$390 for national meetings held in 2015.
- The Board received a 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.
- The Executive Director/CEO and her direct reports updated the Board on the following: a summary of a recent survey measuring ACS employee engagement; the ACS's global presence and activities; a recommendation on allocating certain investment income from the ACS Endowment Fund to Project SEED; activities and plans of CAS (Chemical Abstracts Service) and the ACS Publications Division; and a report on "Challenges and Opportunities for ACS, 2015-2017." As a follow-up to the Publications report, the Board voted to appoint or reappoint several editors of Society publications.
- The Board was also updated on the American Association of Chemistry Teachers (AACT), a new organization sponsored by the ACS that is officially launching in September. Members of AACT will receive customized curriculum resources, a peer-reviewed periodical, a subscription to *ChemMatters* magazine, and professional development opportunities, including webinars and workshops. Membership is now open to anyone with an interest in chemistry education.

The Board also:

- Held a discussion on strategic questions related to how we can strengthen ACS's service to chemistry communities and professionals worldwide.
- Received an update on the recruitment process for the Executive Director and CEO position. This position offers wonderful challenge and opportunity. We have retained Korn Ferry International, a large, globally known firm, to conduct the search, and the position is currently being advertised. We hope to complete the process in time to have a new Executive Director and CEO in place January 1, 2015.
- Received reports from the Presidential Succession on their current and planned activities for the remainder of 2014 and 2015.

- On the recommendation of its Committee on Professional and Member Relations, approved a resolution to recognize the contributions of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in the peaceful application of the chemical sciences to improving people's lives through the transforming power of chemistry.

### Presentation

Dr. Carroll then introduced Sam Kean, author of *The Disappearing Spoon* and *The Violinist's Thumb*, both of which were national bestsellers and named Amazon's "Top 5" science books of the year. His newest book, *The Tale of the Dueling Neurosurgeons*, was recently released and is receiving high acclaim. Mr. Kean's stories have appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, *Mental Floss*, *Slate*, *Psychology Today*, and *The New Scientist*, among other places, and his work has been featured on "Radiolab" and NPR's "All Things Considered," among other shows.

In his presentation, Mr. Kean described his early childhood fascination with the wonders of science, how he came to write *The Disappearing Spoon*, and highlighted some of his favorite people and events connected to various elements on the periodic table. At the conclusion of Mr. Kean's presentations, Dr. Carroll thanked him for a thoroughly entertaining and engaging presentation. Mr. Kean then answered questions posed by members of the audience, and was available afterward to sign copies of his books.

### Reports of Officers

#### President

ACS President Tom Barton urged those present to attend his two major presidential symposia at this meeting – "Hydraulic Fracturing - Where We Are and Where We Are Going," and "Photocatalytic Conversion of Water." He also recommended "Evolving Science and Environmental Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing."

#### President-Elect

ACS President-Elect Diane G. Schmidt announced a major presidential symposium on nanotechnology planned for the spring 2015 national meeting, "Nanotechnology: Delivering on the Promise." Co-chaired by Dr. Laurence Doemeny and Dr. Charles Geraci, it will feature 16 senior-level chemical professionals from industry, academe, and government.

#### Immediate Past President

ACS Immediate Past President Marinda Li Wu gave a brief update on activities in support of her presidential theme "Partners for Progress and Prosperity", including her ACS symposium books, international outreach, and her symposium at this meeting, "Women Leaders of the Global Chemistry Enterprise." She concluded by announcing the new Partners for Progress and Prosperity (P3) Award, which will recognize successful and exemplary partnerships resulting in impactful outcomes between industry, academia, government, small business and other domestic or overseas entities.

#### Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer

Executive Director & CEO Madeleine Jacobs expressed her gratitude for the personal and professional support that her colleagues on the current and past Boards of Directors, members of the staff, and most especially the members, have given in her positions as Managing Editor and Editor-in-Chief of Chemical & Engineering News and as Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer of ACS. Ms. Jacobs said she is proud of what has been accomplished during her tenure as Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer, and is confident that she is leaving ACS well-positioned with a strong foundation for an even brighter future.

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

Flint H. Lewis, Secretary