Please attend the open meetings of any of the following committees to discuss this petition, ask questions and/or hear comments. This petition has been referred to the **\*Committee on Membership Activities,** Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs, Council Policy Committee, Society Committee on Budget and Finance, and Committee on Constitution and Bylaws. (**\*Committee with primary substantive responsibility**)

For more information see [www.acs.org/bulletin5](http://www.acs.org/bulletin5) (click on petitions) or contact bylaws@acs.org. The deadline for written comments is April 15, 2016.

**O R I G I N A L**

FOR CONSIDERATION

# Petition to Extend the Unemployed Members’ Dues Waiver

**Bylaw XIII, Sec. 3**

# Petition

We, the undersigned Councilors and members of the American Chemical Society, hereby petition to amend the SOCIETY Bylaws as follows (additions **underlined**; deletions ~~struck through~~):

**Bylaw XIII**

**Finances**

**Sec. 3.**

 k. After one year of paid membership, a member who is unemployed and is seeking full-time professional employment, upon request to the Executive Director and affirmation of such status, shall be entitled to a waiver of membership dues. Such annual waiver shall commence on the member’s anniversary date and may be renewed **each year for a total not to exceed three years** ~~for a second year~~ so long as this status is reaffirmed **each year**. This provision may be invoked again only after a period of full-time professional employment. (~~10/4/99~~)

**Explanation**

The petitioners propose changes to the ACS’s Bylaws to allow unemployed members of the Society to remain as members without paying dues for a period of up to three years. Bylaw XIII, Sec. 3, k currently provides for the dues to be waived for an unemployed member for a period of up to two years. The Committee on Membership Affairs (MAC), prepared a Market Data Status Report (as of 5-14-15), which resulted in the following data.

Consecutive Years Unemployed Count

1-year unemployed 882

2-years unemployed 331

3-years unemployed 179

Expanding this benefit to a third year prevented 179 members from being removed from membership in the Society. The extension of the benefit by another year would result in virtually no cost to the Society, yet would preserve membership status for those individuals who have been unemployed as chemists for up to three years.

Signed:

Dr. Lisa Balbes

Dr. Mark T. Blankenbuehler

Dr. Peter Joseph Bonk

Ms. Merle I. Eiss

Mr. Dana Ferraris

Ms. Barbara R. Hillery

Dr. Michael Hurrey

Dr. Wayne E. Jones, Jr.

Dr. Resa M. Kelly

Dr. Melanie J. Moser

Dr. Kevin Pate

Mr. Frank Romano

Dr. Herbert B. Silber

Dr. Ann Marie Sullivan

Dr. Ruth Tanner

Dr. John R. Vercellotti

Ms. Sharon V. Vercellotti

(This petition has been referred to the **\*Committee on Membership Affairs**, Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs, Council Policy Committee, Society Committee on Budget and Finance, and Committee on Constitution and Bylaws.)

**\*Committee having primary substantive responsibility**

**PRELIMINARY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL IMPACT**

The financial implications of this petition are still being assessed. The Final Statement of Financial Impact will be available per Article XVIII, Sec. 2, d, which states in part, “The Chair of the Society Committee on Budget and Finance shall prepare a financial impact statement which also shall appear in the Council agenda when action is to be taken on the petition.”

**PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

The Committee on Constitution and Bylaws has reviewed the petition and finds it to be legal and not inconsistent with the Constitution of the SOCIETY. The proposed Bylaw amendment accomplishes the petitioners’ goal of expanding the unemployed members’ dues waiver from two to three years. We recommend changing “a waiver” to “an annual waiver” in line 3 of the Bylaw so that it is consistent with the sentence that follows. The Committee on Constitution and Bylaws concurs with the addition of reaffirming the status each year.

C&B is concerned with the assumption in the Explanation that without the waiver extension, the Society would lose those members who would benefit from the waiver extension.

Within thirty days after the Council meeting at which this petition is considered, comments and suggestions on the substance of the petition from opponents, committees, petitioners, and other interested members should be directed to the Chair of the Committee on Membership Affairs, which has primary substantive responsibility for the petition. Other comments and suggestions may be directed to the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws (bylaws@acs.org).

Dr. James C. Carver

Chair