

Committee on Professional & Member Relations (P&MR)

ACS Board of Directors

December 12, 2015

The committee **VOTED** to approve an interim action taken in September authorizing nominal co-sponsorship of the *CO2 Summit II: Technologies and Opportunities* Conference scheduled for April 10-14, 2016, in Santa Ana Pueblo, NM.

The Chair reported on the outcomes of the ACS Leadership Advisory Board (LAB) Strategic Planning Retreat held October 3-4. During the retreat, LAB developed a draft for its vision, mission, and goals. LAB also reviewed a number of its key 2015 activities which included delivering 47 Leadership Development courses drawing 839 enrollees, as well as facilitating 11 Strategic Planning Retreats on behalf of committees, sections, and divisions. The next LAB meeting will occur in Dallas in conjunction with the ACS Leadership Institute, which will be held January 22-24, 2016.

The committee was briefed on the Medicinal Chemistry Symposium held September 25-30 in Brisbane, Sydney, and Melbourne. The event, a collaboration between the Royal Australian Chemical Institute (RACI) and the proposed ACS International Chapter in Australia, drew over 300 people, and was successful enough to prompt RACI to consider repeating the joint symposium on an annual basis.

P&MR **VOTED** to express support for the following requests made by the Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Board through its Chair, Teri Quinn Gray:

- Adopt an ACS strategic imperative for increasing the diversity of ACS membership and their involvement in the Society
- Create a time-limited “Collaborative for Re-imagining a Diverse ACS Membership”
- Establish the charter of the “Collaborative” – to recommend a range of experiments to specifically recruit and retain ACS members from diverse groups
- Present those recommendations to MAC by the San Diego Meeting, March 2016
- Call for implementation (plan, milestones, success measures, resources) of recommendations to start by Fall 2016

Tom Gilbert, Chair, Task Force on Web Based Resources for Volunteers, shared some preliminary recommendations from the group. They include featuring volunteer information and tools prominently on acs.org to engage newbies, as well exploring the development of convenient, easy-to-follow navigation pathways toward descriptions of volunteer opportunities. Next steps for the task force include reviewing the content for the pages as well as reviewing draft concept pages and pathways, and initiating target audience user testing.

Staff updated the committee regarding the Presentations on Demand (POD) Shorts initiative in San Diego. In order to increase the quality of each posted POD Short, staff will collaborate with four divisions (Organic, Medicinal, Polymer and Polymeric Materials and Scientific Engineering) that will decide which of their oral presenters will be asked to provide a POD Short in San Diego. Staff believes the divisions will also now have a greater incentive to promote the videos, resulting in a greater audience for the videos.

H.N. Cheng, Chair, International Activities Committee (IAC), reported on the ACS International Activities Building Opportunity Out of Science and Technology (BOOST) program. He noted, among other things, ACS members and staff traveled to five cities in Thailand to provide educational modules to over 400 early career scientists and engineers on topics such as “Communicating Science to the Public”, “Publishing Research”, “Grant Writing” and “Career Pathways”. ACS International Activities is working with the U.S. State Department for the expansion of the program to South America, with workshops and a Trainer Leadership Institute in Panama, Peru and Colombia in 2016.

P&MR voted on two motions brought to the committee by IAC:

P&MR **VOTED** to recommend ACS Board approval of new strategic alliances with the Mexican Chemical Society (SQM) and the Brazil Chemical Society (SBQ) 2016-2018.

P&MR **VOTED** to recommend to the ACS Board approval of the renewal of the ACS / South African Chemical Institute (SACI) Alliance 2016 - 2020

Kent Voorhees, chair of the ACS Green Chemistry Institute (ACS GCI), provided a comprehensive review of 2015 ACS GCI activities. Among other things, he cited increasing numbers of ACS members at the Institute’s annual June conference, along with steadily increasing subscribers to *The Nexus*, the Institute’s newsletter, and increased traffic on ACS GCI web pages. Dr. Voorhees concluded with a quick review of the ACS GCI Roundtables.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Sawrey, Chair