ACS Committee on Nominations and Elections

Excerpt

Duties and Desired Skill Sets for:

ACS President

American Chemical Society
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The ACS Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E) seeks ACS members with regards to becoming potential candidates for ACS President on the ACS Board of Directors.

The responsibilities of this diverse position and the desired skill sets required for the ACS Board of Directors appear on the following pages.

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ACS President

Responsibilities 3
Experience and Skill Set 4

The President of the American Chemical Society

Some Thoughts on Roles and Competencies

The following summary reflects the thoughts of a number of past presidents and several senior staff members. There are conflicting viewpoints about the importance of some competencies/experiences. The Committee on Nominations and Elections is encouraged to consider the range of the competencies and skills possessed by a potential candidate, rather than seek one who has every asset mentioned as desirable.

Major duties

The following are the major duties of the President as described in ACS governing documents or delegated by tradition:

- Appoint members to the committees of the Council, with the advice of the Council and to the Joint Board-Council Committees, in cooperation with the Chair of the Board.
- Appoint members to National Awards canvassing and award committees.
- Chair the Council Policy Committee.
- Preside over the Council meetings.
- Represent the Society at regional meetings, local section and division meetings, etc.
- Represent the Society in advocacy activities (including testifying before Congress) that encourage government support for science research and education.
- Represent the Society at national and international gatherings of scientific society leaders.
- Serve as a spokesperson to the media.
- Serve as a voting member of the Board of Directors.

Past ACS Presidents have identified the following activities as also appropriate for the President:

- Actively assist in moving the Society toward achieving the goals presented in the Strategic Plan.
- Interface with leaders in industry to encourage support of and participation in ACS activities.
- Develop themes for national meetings, choose and organize Presidential events.
- Motivate individual members to become and remain active in Society affairs and programs.

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Skills/Experiences/Competencies

The following are the characteristics of a successful candidate as well as comments from the past presidents: (The list is provided in alphabetical, not priority, order.)

Ability to travel	Having the flexibility to meet the travel demands of the three-year term in office, with particular freedom during the year of the presidency.
Business Skills	A general awareness of business practices, operations, and budgets. There was no consensus among the past presidents on how much related experience was desirable.
Commitment	A strong personal commitment to advocate chemistry as the central science, to promote recognition of its service to society and to increase awareness of the ACS and its goals is essential. Enthusiasm for the job.
Communications/ Interpersonal Skills	The ability to communicate in writing and orally, with particular emphasis on confidently addressing large groups. It is important to feel comfortable with any audience—high school students, industry executives, government officials, or ACS members.
Experience in ACS Governance	Experience in national governance at the Council/local section/division level is helpful. There was no consensus among the past presidents on how much this should be weighed in considering candidates. One individual stated that "election to the presidency should not be used as a reward for service." Another suggested that "understanding the need to work within the organization to accomplish goals and acknowledging the politics and culture that exists are critical" to a successful presidency.
Integrity	As the Society's most visible representative, the President must be a person of integrity and moral character, biding by the accepted ethics of the profession, and leading by example.
Leadership Skills	Experience in a leadership role in a large organization or in another membership organization.
Name Recognition/ Credibility	Visibility and creditability in at least one and preferably all of our constituencies (academe, industry, or government) was considered valuable. There was no consensus on the specific importance of having received national awards/ recognition for scientific research, but a need for having a national reputation was expressed commonly.
Vision	A candidate should have activities or an agenda which would be beneficial to

the membership and contribute to achieving the Society's goals. It is critical that (s)he is committed to moving forward these initiatives in the Society.

Other attributes suggested:

- Understanding of professional and national trends that affect ACS and its members.
- Willingness to work constructively with the Immediate Past President, the President-Elect and the Chair of the Board
- Ability to delegate as opposed to doing everything oneself. Trust others, members and staff, to do their jobs.
- Willingness to "stick one's neck out" for what one believes to be important.
- Ability to interact effectively with diverse groups with diverse opinions
- Willingness to keep on top of related issues by reading newspapers and reports as well as listening to others, attending meetings, etc.

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