**Council Policy Committee**

**Report to Council**

**San Diego, California**

**March 16, 2016**

Madam President, Colleagues of Council:

The Council Policy Committee (CPC) remains quite active between meetings through its subcommittees and task forces.

I would first like to inform you about changes in CPC’s membership since the Boston meeting. Lee Latimer resigned when he was elected to the Board, and Angela Wilson had to resign for work-related reasons. President Diane Grob Schmidt has appointed Dwight Chasar and Doris Lewis to replace them.

The Subcommittee on Long-Range Planning continues to enthusiastically manage the orientation program for new Councilors through its New Councilor Webinar, the New Councilor Orientation on Saturday, the mentoring program, and provision of significant amounts of electronic and written information. The New Councilor Webinar was presented to 35 Councilors and Alternate Councilors. Three CPC members and one Board Member were the briefers. The New Councilor Orientation at this meeting was again very successful – 28 new Councilors and Alternate Councilors were briefed by 3 dozen ACS leaders including special welcoming remarks by President Nelson, President-Elect Campbell, Board Chair Pat Confalone, and Executive Director/CEO Tom Connelly. The Subcommittee continues to focus on improving training opportunities for our new and potential leaders. Two of these training opportunities are the mentoring program and Strategy Cafés. The ACS Councilor Mentorship Program, which matches new Councilors with experienced Councilors and Alternate Councilors, continues to grow. Additional Councilors as mentors continue to be sought.

Strategy Cafés continue to be scheduled both within the New Councilor Program, and in other venues. CPC is working closely with the Board’s Standing Committee on Planning to make the Strategy Café process available to ACS generally.

The Guidelines for Special Discussion Items at Council Meetings were approved in Denver in 2015, and are available for use. The guidelines require the sponsor or sponsors to obtain CPC approval. For this meeting, ACS President Donna Nelson has requested that CPC approve scheduling of a Special Discussion Item – “Gathering Input: ACS Presidential Task Force on the U.S. Employment of Chemists”. She will provide more details shortly. CPC has approved scheduling of this Special Discussion.

In April 2015, the CPC Subcommittee on Long-Range Planning was asked to review the way Local Sections and Divisions are currently represented on Council – more specifically, to consider the overall size of the Council and the perception that Council continues to increase in size. It turns out that the increase in size over the last decade or so was due to the increase in the number of ex-officio Councilors – past presidents – who are younger and living longer (thanks goodness)!

Recommendations for CPC’s consideration are contained in the resulting report. While the CPC subcommittee has fulfilled the original charge, important issues and questions and questions need to be answered, such as the role of international members, whether there should be a cap on the number of Councilors per Local Section and Divisions, and what will make Council more effective in the governance of the Society. CPC will continue the Task Force with representatives from the committees on Divisional Activities and on Local Section Activities included in the composition of this task force.

The vice-chair of CPC is a member of the Board Committee on Planning by designation in the Board’s Regulations. As reported before, a principal focus of this group is developing and communicating the ACS Strategic Plan. In 2012, the Committee began research on an ongoing “Environmental Scan,” which is intended to explore and evaluate the forces affecting the future for chemists and the chemical enterprise. Since then, the Environmental Scan has been presented to many groups both for their information and for their input to ongoing revisions of the Strategic Plan. Since I became CPC Vice-Chair I have been a presenter or facilitator for such discussions. At this meeting I presented the scan and had discussions with the Women Chemists Committee, Committee on Minority Affairs, the Younger Chemists Committee, and the Committee on Membership Affairs.

N&E has formed a task force called Vote 2020 to review all ACS Elections bylaws and procedures and propose appropriate changes. D. Richard Cobb, Chair of Nominations and Elections, will report on this in detail in his upcoming report. CPC has approved our participation in this Task Force, and I have appointed Dwight Chasar as the CPC representative.

CPC concurred in the proposed raise in dues by $4 and in CEPA’s “Academic Professional Guidelines.”

Finally, CPC is interested in assessing Councilors’ needs for assistive technologies at Council. D. Richard Cobb, Chair, Nominations and Elections, will now conduct a brief survey on CPC’s behalf.

Thank you, Richard.

Madame President, this concludes my report.

Alan M. Ehrlich

Vice-Chair