

Minutes for the ACS Committee on Nomenclature, Terminology  
and Symbols, March 24, 2007 meeting in Chicago.

DRAFT MINUTES

May 9, 2007

List of attendees - See APPENDIX 1

1. Avogadro's Number

Action Item: Dr. Karol will seek endorsement from the ACS, the American Institute of Physics, the National Academy of Sciences and the American Physical Society explaining the Avogadro Number change and will request further discussion and resolution by each interested body.

Also, he is to write to C&ENews and the ACS Councilor's Bulletin requesting that all interested parties come to the Open Meeting in Boston for participatory discussions and recommendations.

Action Item Dr. Giles will seek representatives from NIST who may be interested in joining this discussion. All Committee members are also asked to follow up on this effort to bring more input to the Boston Open meeting by asking their contacts with an interest to participate.

Also see Dr. Karol's email response to the editors of American Scientist - Appendix II.

Action Item Dr. Rusch will request Society level support from Dr. Catherine Hunt for her response and follow on action.

Since the writing of these minutes, the following email reviews the actions taken by Dr. Rusch on this topic and the wiki topic, printed in its entirety.

After our meeting on Saturday, I made several contacts concerning two Committee projects:

1. Redefinition of the kilogram; and
2. A wiki for nanotechnology terminology.

With regard to redefinition of the kilogram through defining Avogadro's Number, It seems to me that this project needs to move ahead with the full support of the ACS and its membership. I contacted the Committee on Public Affairs & Public Relations (PA & PR) chaired by Bonnie Charpentier. She thinks that we should contact her committee and request that this redefinition become a national policy of the ACS. This committee has not had such a request but it is the place to start on getting what I believe to be a necessary endorsement of the ACS and its membership.

The mechanics are straight forward. We (that could mean you, Paul) simply write a letter to the committee explaining the situation and request that they move forward on making this national ACS policy. Who knows how long it will take but we want to be on their agenda for the Boston Meeting. That means getting something out by mid-May. The contact is Ray Garant or Glen Ruskin of OLGA. I suspect their respective e-mail addresses are: r\_garant@acs.org & g\_ruskin@acs.org.

I also mentioned to President-Elect Bursten that this issue would come up during his forthcoming tenure and asked for his support. He was stunned (as are many others who hear about this). In fact, he was nearly speechless but did manage to blurt out he had never heard of this desire to define Avagadro's Number as an integer. Another recruiting opportunity.

With regard to a wiki for nanotechnology terminology, I attended the session where Martin Walker presented his wiki experiences and uses. Martin is very busy (read also distracted) but is willing to be a consultant to the committee. That's a good thing and he should probably be officially invited but his time is likely to be limited (email: [walkerma@potsgdam.edu](mailto:walkerma@potsgdam.edu)). Thinking ahead about resources for any wiki experiment or implementation, I inquired about whether Martin could let us use his server at the U of NY Potsdam. Sure, no problem.

As a backup and more attractive in the long-run I contacted ACS headquarters staff on the same topic, As an aside, I believe that every local section, division and committee will want some computing resources for wikis or similar applications so ACS must be prepared to handle a growing number of requests.

Well, I got to the chief, as it were: Melody M. Voith, Director Web Strategy (e-mail: [m\\_voith@acs.org](mailto:m_voith@acs.org); Tel. 202-872-4406). She was receptive to my request and is willing to provide some server resources as an experiment. She was even aware of the leading wiki software: "Media Wiki." That's great for us. We need to get her on our committee's agenda for Boston. She is willing to discuss this with us but needs to get invited fairly soon so she can commit to attending.

Let me know what I can do next.

Best Regards, Pete

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## 2. ASTM

Dr. Dehne reported the new name for the former American Society for Testing Materials is now ASTM International. There are 100 Technical Committees which report on 200 terminology standards. ASTM International has published E2456-06, Terminology for Nanotechnology. More information can be obtained by going to <http://astm.org>, clicking on "Technical Committees", selecting E 56, and then further selecting "Additional Information". Also see Agenda Book, ASTM Tab Section for details.

## 3. USAN

Dr. Karet reported on the United States Adopted Names (USAN) program for the review, assignment and selection process of simple and useful nonproprietary names for drugs and certain other agents. See Agenda Book, USAN Tab Section for details.

## 4. Carbohydrates and Enzymes

Dr. Horton summarized the discussions and actions for the meeting held in Bonn, Germany, May 13-14, 2006 of the IUPAC-IUBMB (International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry-International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology) Joint

Commission on Biochemical Nomenclature (JCBN). The use and importance of Enzyme Classification numbers (EC numbers) were noted. Please note that the next meeting of JCBN is May 5-6, 2007, at the Embassy Suites, located in Chevy Chase, Washington D.C. This is a location change from Bethesda, MD. - Appendix III.

#### 5. IUPAC Division VIII

Drs. Giles and Wilson discussed various topics relating to Division VIII work. See Agenda Book, IUPAC Division VIII tab for details.

#### 6. Nanotech Terminology and Wiki

**Action Item** It was noted that the American National Standards Institute has an ANSI subcommittee on Nanotechnology. Dr. Giles will follow up to determine if this subcommittee has been active.

**Action Item** Dr. Martin Walker, who is involved with chemistry in Wikipedia, was invited to this meeting; however, he sent his regrets. Since Walker is attending the Chicago meeting this week, Dr. Giles asked members to talk with him concerning his collaboration with our committee and the need to have him present at the Boston meeting. Dr. Rusch will follow up on this action item.

#### 7. Committee Website

Dr. Giles reported on the need to update the Nomenclature, Terminology and Symbols ACS committee website. Several action items were identified:

- add Chemdraw link
- review animaps (animated detailed sequences of biochemical reactions occurring within the cell) site for ideas
- add more Web resource links - three identified were USAN, Carbohydrate/Enzyme and appropriate Chemical Education links
- add Current Activities page; minutes from past meetings with live links and dialog box
- add CA Nomenclature changes link; could add process on how CA chooses a unique unambiguous name with examples

All upgrades to the Website must be communicated to the ACS IT staff working on the general ACS chemistry.org Website. Fenske and Giles will follow up with ACS Washington staff to make recommendations for navigation, graphics, and content decisions in the next month. Several possible templates must be reviewed and a decision made on which template format will provide the best user interaction.

#### 8. ACS Strategic Plan

Dr. Giles asked members to send their ideas and thoughts on the new ACS strategic plan now available on the web at [www.chemistry.org/strategicplan](http://www.chemistry.org/strategicplan) - Appendix IV - to [strategicplan@acs.org](mailto:strategicplan@acs.org) before May 1, 2007.

#### 9. CAS Nomenclature

Drs. Wilson and Giles highlighted some of the major components of the latest changes in CA Index names. These changes were implemented beginning December, 2006 and represent the most significant name modifications to CAS index nomenclature since 1972. The need for more clarity, accuracy and non-ambiguity led CAS to make the changes for the user community.

## 10. IUPAC Recommendations

Dr. Giles reported that the IUPAC website <http://www.iupac.org/reports/provisional/index.html> contains several Provisional Recommendations available for comment. These are listed below with their deadlines on input.

- Glossary of Terms Related to Kinetics, Thermodynamics and Mechanisms of Polymerization, comments by 31 July 2007
- Glossary of Terms Related to Solubility, comments by 31 July 2007
- Graphical Representation Standards for Chemical Structure Diagrams, comments by 30 June 2007
- Further Conventions for NMR Chemical Shifts, comments by 31 May 2007
- Structure-Based Nomenclature for Cyclic Macromolecules, comments by 31 May 2007

## 11. Meeting Announcements

- The Boston Open Meeting for our committee is scheduled for Monday, August 20, 2007 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm.
- The New Orleans Full Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 5, 2008 from 1:00pm to 5:00pm.

12. Dr. H. N. Cheng, our representative from the Committee on Committees, has made several suggestions for the Nomenclature committee members for their review and action.

- a. Organize a symposium at the National ACS meeting on their key or select committee activities.
- b. Publicize the activities of the committee through appropriate communication channels.
- c. Write to the 34 Division chairs, communicating the committee's mission, seeking input on nomenclature issues, and asking for suggestions of new potential members.
- d. Validate and update, if needed, the strategic plan of the committee.

There are a number of personnel issues as well to identify and resolve.

- a. A challenge is to find suitable members for the Nomenclature committee. Ideally, the committee needs members that are balanced in their expertise in the nomenclature of different fields of chemistry (e.g. organic, medicinal, biotech, inorganic, nuclear etc.). Younger members would also be helpful.
- b. This is Pat Giles last year as Staff Liaison for the committee. Jerry Fenske will replace him in 2008.

## APPENDIX I

### Attendees - March 24, 2007

Dr. Albert C. Censullo  
California Polytechnic State University

Dr. H. N. Cheng  
Hercules Pulp and Paper

Dr. G. Clark Dehne  
Columbus, Ohio

Mr. Gerald Fenske  
Chemical Abstracts Service

Dr. Patton M. Giles  
Chemical Abstracts Service

Dr. Derek Horton  
The American University

Dr. Gail B. Karet  
USAN Council

Dr. Paul Karol  
Carnegie-Mellon University

Dr. Art Landis  
Emporia State University

Ms. Marsha Phillips  
Aurora, Illinois

Dr. Jeffrey A. Rahn  
Eastern Washington University

Dr. Peter F. Rusch  
Mountain View, California

Dr. Pamela Shapiro  
University of Idaho

Dr. Jack H. Stocker  
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dr. Jeffrey Wilson  
Chemical Abstracts Service