

MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY
SAN DIEGO, CA
March 13, 2016

The Board of Directors of the American Chemical Society met in San Diego, California, on March 13, 2016, beginning at 12:00 p.m. Pat N. Confalone, Chair, presided. Other Directors present for all or part of the meeting were: John E. Adams, George M. Bodner, Allison A. Campbell, William F. Carroll, Jr., Thomas M. Connelly, Jr., Rigoberto Hernandez, Paul W. Jagodzinski, Lee H. Latimer, Ingrid Montes, Donna J. Nelson, Laura E. Pence, Dorothy J. Phillips, Barbara A. Sawrey, Diane G. Schmidt, and Kathleen M. Schulz. Present by invitation for all or parts of the meeting were: Brian A. Bernstein, Brian D. Crawford, Denise L. Creech, Manuel Guzman, Mary Kirchhoff, Martha K. Lester, Flint H. Lewis, Scott Oliphant, Glenn S. Ruskin, David T. Smorodin, John R. Sullivan, Frank E. Walworth, and Marleen G. Weidner. More than three hundred observers were present at various times during the meeting.

Call to Order and Report from Executive Session

Pat N. Confalone, Chair, opened the meeting by welcoming the attendees and asking his Board colleagues to introduce themselves. Next, he summarized the key actions and discussion points from the Board's March 11-12 executive session:

- Board Development
ACS is a large, highly complex, global organization, with two major businesses – Chemical Abstracts Service and ACS Publications – and a significant professional membership organization component. The Board sets aside substantial discussion time at each meeting for the most important strategic issues facing the Society.
- Strategic Issues and Retreat
The Board held a conversation focused on strengthening the process used for strategic issues discussions, and a discussion on timing and topics of a possible facilitated retreat for all Board members during 2016. Also, the Board is committed to development and discussed ways to continuously improve its effectiveness in the service of ACS as individual board members, and as a collective body.
- The Board's Committees
On the recommendation of the Committee on Grants and Awards, the Board voted to approve an endowment to support the E. Bright Wilson Award in Spectroscopy.

Also on the recommendation of the Committee on Grants and Awards, the Board voted to approve language to be included in the guiding documents for the National Awards and Fellows Program to allow for the rescission of national awards and the ACS Fellows designations where reasonable grounds exist.

The Board received an extensive briefing and approved several recommendations from its Committee on Executive Compensation. The compensation of the Society's executive staff receives regular review from the Board.

On the recommendation of the Joint Board-Council Committee on Publications, the Board voted to approve the reappointments of Editors-in-Chief for two ACS journals.

- The Executive Director/CEO Report
Executive Director and CEO Thomas M. Connelly, Jr. discussed ACS membership programs, reviewed the Information Technology area, and offered personal reflections on his first year as Executive Director and CEO. His direct reports updated the Board on the activities of Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS), the ACS Publications Division, the Office of the Treasurer and CFO, and the Society's Secretary and General Counsel.

Dr. Confalone concluded his report by reminding the audience that the Board of Directors is elected by and acts in the best interests of the members of the Society. He invited everyone to send comments, concerns, ideas, and suggestions to the Board at secretary@acs.org.

Reports of Officers

President

ACS President Donna J. Nelson encouraged participants to attend the Presidential programming for this national meeting: "Employment in the Chemical Sciences," following the Board Regular Session; and two sessions on Monday, March 14: "Diversity in the Chemical Sciences" and "Organic Chemistry Education." She reported that each was developed in response to the concerns of the ACS community, and has a format of brief talks followed by a panel discussion and a poster session for contributed posters. On Wednesday, March 16, during the Council meeting, there will be a special discussion to receive feedback on select questions posed by Dr. Nelson to her Presidential Task Force on the U.S. Employment of Chemists. She concluded her report by announcing programming being planned for the Philadelphia national meeting in August: "Employment in the Chemical Sciences", "Fracking: Economics vs Environment", and "Public Perception of Science and Scientists."

President-Elect

ACS President-Elect Allison A. Campbell stated that she is deeply honored to be serving as President-Elect and has spent her first quarter learning and listening to members. She reported that although just getting started, her topical areas, special projects, and targeted Presidential symposia for next year are taking shape. Three themes will guide her term in the presidential succession: Science Advocacy; Science Literacy; and Chemistry as a global enterprise. She concluded by stating that we can and must work together to improve the ACS and make its voice clearer, louder, and more effective, and encouraged members to share their ideas and suggestions with her at a.campbell@acs.org.

Immediate Past President

ACS Immediate Past President Diane G. Schmidt highlighted a special symposium she is co-sponsoring on Sunday, March 13, titled "Research Opportunities for Future Energy Technologies," with the ACS Division of Energy & Fuels (ENFL), ACS Energy Letters, ACS Publications Division, CAS, and Chemical and Engineering News (C&EN). The Honorable Franklin (Lynn) M. Orr, Under Secretary for Science and Energy, U.S. Department of Energy, is a featured speaker.

Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer

ACS Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer Thomas M. Connelly stated he is pleased to report that the Society is strong. Society revenue grew in 2015, with a positive return for the twelfth consecutive year. He focused his report on the exciting products and programs that ACS will be leading this year through CAS, ACS Publications, and Membership and Scientific Advancement. He especially encouraged members to join the ACS Insight Lab (www.acsinsightlab.com), an online research panel of nearly 4,000 highly engaged ACS members. In 2016, the Insight Lab plans to grow lab members to 10,000. He also reported that the ACS Green Chemistry & Engineering Conference is headed for the West Coast for the first time. It will be held in Portland, Oregon on June 14-16. Finally, as part of ACS's support to education, the American Association of Chemistry Teachers will grow to nearly 4,000

members this year. He concluded by referring members to the highlights of 2015 ACS achievements at www.acs.org/acshighlights2015.

Guest Presentation

Dr. Confalone introduced guest speaker Amy Harmon, a *New York Times* journalist and two-time Pulitzer Prize winner. Ms. Harmon was invited to speak on the public perception and communication of science, and titled her presentation “Telling Science Stories: Dispatch from the Conflict Zone.”

Ms. Harmon shared some of her experiences reporting for the *New York Times* on the social implications of science and technology. She offered advice to scientists on how to communicate science without becoming defensive or resorting to “data dumping,” and steering clear of jargon. She challenged the audience to instead tell their stories of science in an exciting way, and to not be afraid to state the obvious.

Following Ms. Harmon’s presentation, Dr. Confalone thanked her for sharing her views on the challenges of communicating science. Ms. Harmon then answered questions posed by members of the audience, and remained afterward for several minutes to speak with others.

At the conclusion of the question and answer session, Dr. Confalone thanked all the participants for a successful meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Flint H. Lewis, Secretary