

MINUTES  
REGULAR SESSION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY  
PHILADELPHIA, PA  
August 21, 2016

The Board of Directors of the American Chemical Society met in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on August 21, 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 stated that at its executive session held August 19-20, the Board of Directors had experimented with a new agenda format that emphasized discussion rather than longer oral reports. He then summarized the key actions and discussion points from that session:

The Board's Actions

- On the recommendation of the Committee on Grants and Awards, the Board voted to approve the Society's nominees for the 2017 Perkin Medal, the 2017 National Science Board Public Service Award, and the 2017 Alan T. Waterman Award; and to approve amendments to the rescission process for the national awards and ACS Fellows designation.
- On the recommendation of the Joint Board-Council Committee on Publications, the Board voted to approve the reappointment of editors-in-chief for two ACS journals.
- On the recommendation of the Society Committee on Budget and Finance, the Board voted to approve the advance member registration fee of \$445 for national meetings held in 2017 and also authorized several program funding requests.

The Board's Discussions

- The Board of Directors received and discussed reports from the Governance Agility Task Force, the Committee on Grants and Awards, the Committee on Planning, the Society Committee on Budget and Finance, and the ACS Governing Board for Publishing.
- The Board is seeking way to engage ACS stakeholders in identifying opportunities and issues for governance improvement that will enable ACS to advance its mission in a streamlined and simplified manner. A new task force that will look at the Society's future governance needs is being created, and the Board itself is considering proposed changes to certain Board committee duties and roles. The Chair's report to the Council on August 24 will provide

additional details on a proposed Society-wide initiative to ensure an agile, efficient, and effective ACS.

- The Board discussed the history, role, and contributions of its Standing Committee on Corporation Associates, and the responsibility of ACS to effectively capture the needs of industrial members and their corporations.
- The presidents of Chemical Abstracts Service and the ACS Publications Division shared details on their financial performance and editorial and new product development highlights.
- Executive Director and CEO Tom Connelly and his direct reports updated the Board on issues relating to Human Resources, ACS Finances, Information Technology, and Education.
- The Board heard reports from members of the Presidential Succession on their key priorities and activities as they relate to those of the Board and for the purposes of coordinating their ongoing activities on behalf of the Society.

### Reports of Officers

Dr. Confalone invited the members of the presidential succession and the Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer to offer brief reports.

#### President

ACS President Donna J. Nelson encouraged participants to attend the Presidential programming for this national meeting on the topics of ‘Fracking: Economics vs. Environment’, ‘NSF Opportunities’, ‘Chemical Business of, by, and for the People’, and ‘Chemists and the Public’. She reported that each was developed in response to the concerns of the ACS community. Dr. Nelson announced that planned future programming areas for national meetings next year will be in the areas of public perception of science and scientists; public policy makers; and chemists of courage. She concluded her report by announcing that during the Council meeting August 24, there will be a special discussion to present major outcomes thus far from the Presidential Task Force on the U.S. Employment of Chemists. Additional input will be sought from Councilors to help the task force identify any gaps or to address specific questions.

#### President-Elect

ACS President-Elect Allison A. Campbell stated that she is honored to be serving as President-Elect. She reported that three themes will guide her term in the presidential succession: Science Advocacy; Science Literacy; and Chemistry as a global enterprise. Presidential symposia planned for next year include ‘Holy Grails of Chemistry: Celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Accounts of Chemical Research Journal’ and ‘Science for a Sustainable Energy Future’ at the spring meeting in San Francisco, and ‘Building a Safety Culture Across the Chemical Enterprise’ and ‘The Chemistry of our Planet’ for the fall meeting in Washington, DC. She concluded by encouraging members to share their ideas and suggestions with her at [a.campbell@acs.org](mailto:a.campbell@acs.org).

#### Immediate Past President

ACS Immediate Past President Diane G. Schmidt highlighted two special symposia she is cosponsoring and helping to organize at this meeting. The first is titled, ‘Kavli Symposium on Chemical Neurotransmission: What Are We Thinking?’ and will take place on August 22, cosponsored with the Kavli Foundation and several ACS technical divisions and journals. On August 23, Merck and several ACS technical divisions will present ‘Connectivity and the Global Reach of Chemistry: Honoring the Life and Scientific Contributions of Ernest L. Eliel.’

## Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer

ACS Executive Director and CEO Thomas M. Connelly stated he is pleased to report that Society revenues have increased by 3.4%, or about 4% on a constant currency basis, in the first seven months of this year – the strongest revenue growth in more than a decade. He focused a portion of his report on the exciting products and programs that ACS has announced this year through CAS and ACS Publications, culminating two weeks ago as ACS announced its intent to develop ChemRxiv – a preprint server for chemistry and related sciences. This will be a collaborative effort by ACS, working with other scientific societies, around the world. A New SciFinder™ will be unveiled later this year, and will be widely available in the first half of 2017. Dr. Connelly also reported that ACS continues to grow its activities globally and that more than 17% of ACS members reside outside the U.S. Even higher percentages of authors and CAS users are outside the US. Five alliances with other international chemical societies will be initiated or renewed at this national meeting as ACS expands its network of alliances. He concluded with a reference to his June 27th *C&EN* Comment on “ACS’s Role in Safety” and called attention to the extensive and varied programing of the Division of Chemical Health and Safety at this meeting. Chemical laboratory safety is receiving needed emphasis within the Society and beyond, and Dr. Connelly assured those present that ACS will continue to look for ways to advance chemical laboratory safety in academic and industrial settings.

## Special Discussion

Dr. Confalone announced that the Board decided to take some time at this meeting to listen to the comments, observations, and suggestions of our members on the topic “ACS National Meetings of the Future.” He explained the topic was selected because National Meetings are a key way that ACS fulfills its obligation to deliver scientific information. While these meetings are successful, the Board is always looking for ways to improve and to anticipate what members’ future needs – as to these meetings and other subjects – will be. To assist the discussion, the Board displayed on the screen a proposed a set of questions.

Almost 30 members offered comments and suggestions on features that would make future national meetings a “must attend,” how ACS can attract a more diverse set of attendees (e.g., industrial chemical engineers and technicians, and underrepresented groups in the sciences), and how ACS can experiment with hybrid meeting models featuring real-time and virtual (online) components. Several commented that while face-to-face meetings have increased in length, in time away from work and school, and in expense (travel, accommodation, and meals), the networking opportunities are invaluable and should be fostered. Poster sessions have become increasingly popular, more accessible, and equal in value to symposia. It was suggested that recording restrictions at sessions should be relaxed to allow more social media communication such as Twitter to come from the meeting. Interactions with speakers and awardees (e.g. “meet and greets” and other forms of social interaction) should be encouraged and built into the programming. Perhaps a greater emphasis could be made to emphasize and increase programming into Thursday of the meeting. It was also observed that undergraduates are a growing component of national meeting attendees, and travel awards and other grants should be considered to encourage continued student attendance.

At the conclusion of the session, Dr. Confalone stated that the input gathered will be shared with a governance task force that is reviewing aspects of ACS national meetings. He thanked everyone for their attendance and participation.

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

Flint H. Lewis, Secretary