The Board of Directors of the American Chemical Society (ACS) met in Boston, Massachusetts, on August 19, 2018, beginning at 12:00 p.m. John E. Adams, Chair, presided. Other Directors present for all or part of the meeting were Christina C. Bodurow, Allison A. Campbell, Bonnie A. Charpentier, Thomas M. Connelly, Jr., Peter K. Dorhout, Teri Quinn Gray, Rigoberto Hernandez, Paul W. Jagodzinski, Wayne E. Jones, Jr., Lee H. Latimer, Ingrid Montes, Laura E. Pence, Dorothy J. Phillips, Barbara A. Sawrey, and Kathleen M. Schulz. Present by invitation for all or part of the meeting were Brian A. Bernstein, Brian D. Crawford, Kate Fryer, LaTrease Garrison, Manuel Guzman, John Katz, Mary Kirchhoff, Martha K. Lester, Flint H. Lewis, Scott J. Oliphant, David T. Smorodin, John R. Sullivan, Frank E. Walworth, and Marleen G. Weidner. More than 300 observers were present at various times during the meeting.

Call to Order and Chair’s Report from Executive Session

John E. Adams, Chair, opened the meeting by welcoming the attendees and introducing his Board colleagues. Next, he summarized the key actions and discussion points from the Board’s executive session held August 17-18.

The Board’s Committees

The Board of Directors received and discussed reports from its committees on Corporation Associates, Professional and Member Relations, Executive Compensation, the ACS Governing Board for Publishing, and the Society Committee on Budget and Finance. Based on those reports and with regard to the Board’s strategic vision for the Society, the Board acted on several recommendations.

- The Board approved, on the recommendation of the Committee on Professional and Member Relations, the Society’s nominees for the 2019 Perkin Medal and the 2019 National Science Board Public Service Award.
- The Board voted to approve the appointments or reappointments of several editors-in-chief for ACS journals as recommended by the Joint Board-Council Committee on Publications and Editor Selection Committees. Information about those appointments will appear in C&EN once the individuals concerned have been notified.
- In light of the recent financial performance of the technical-meeting component of our national meetings, the Board voted to approve an advance member registration fee of $490 for national meetings held in 2019 (that is, the current advance member registration fee escalated to account for inflation only); to reauthorize a program funding request for the Chemistry Festival program; and in accordance with past practice, to allocate on a pro-rated basis to qualified ACS Divisions any net revenues accrued to the Society from the 2020 and future International Chemical Congresses of the Pacific Basin Societies (Pacifichem).

The Board liaison to the Committee on Corporation Associates presented a proposed committee Future State Operating Model and considered options for committee member terms and appointment processes. The Board expressed support for the value of industry to ACS and acknowledged Corporation Associates as being uniquely positioned within the Society to represent the voice of industry to the Board and ACS.
The Board’s Society Programs global liaison offered an update on efforts to strengthen the global presence of Society programs to better serve our international members and the global chemistry enterprise. Efforts are underway to clarify and articulate the current state of international activities, products, and services; to clarify the challenges associated with globalization of existing domestic activities; and to offer recommendations for moving forward. Next steps include interviewing key stakeholders, reviewing past efforts, and exploiting existing market research with a view toward developing a strategic plan, activities, and timelines for Board consideration.

The Board liaison to the Leadership Advisory Board provided an update on initial efforts geared towards the development of a next-generation ACS Leadership Program. A small task force has been charged with investigating the state of the art in leadership development, assessing the future needs of the Society as well as those of individual members and their employers, and then proposing, by the end of 2019, a strategic vision for and the specifications of a next-generation ACS leadership program focused on 2030 and beyond.

**The Executive Director/CEO Report**

The Executive Director/CEO and his direct reports provided updates to the Board on the activities of Chemical Abstracts Service and the ACS Publications Division. He offered current and proposed strategies to increase membership in the Society; reported on safety initiatives, resources and security; and provided an update on the Atlantic Basin Conference on Chemistry (ABCChem) scheduled for January 2018. As part of his report, he invited the Treasurer to brief the Board on the Enterprise Financial Systems Program, which is unifying several financial operations for Society staff; the Financial Planning Conference in early November; and ACS Development Activities.

**Other Society Business**

The Board approved a proposed merger of an ACS subsidiary into the operations of ACS International. It also approved the foundation documents of the newly created endowment for the Henry H. Storch Award in Energy Chemistry, which originally was established as a national award in 1964.

As is customary, the Board heard reports from members of the Presidential Succession on their current and planned activities for 2018-2019. Several presidential symposia and events incorporating and supporting this national meeting’s theme of “Nanoscience, Nanotechnology & Beyond” were highlighted in those reports.

**Reports of Officers**

Dr. Adams then invited the members of the Presidential Succession and the Executive Director & CEO to provide brief reports.

**President**

ACS President Peter K. Dorhout stated that it has been an exciting year for him. He displayed a list of all the Presidential events that he promoted for the Boston national meeting and thanked all the volunteers who were working to make them successful. Each symposium aligned with his initiatives and focus areas for the year, but he highlighted two: advancing safety values and Project SEED. Citing a personal accident while woodworking, he emphasized that one can recognize hazards and assess and minimize risks, but sometimes nothing is as important as planning for accidents. He next recognized the 50th anniversary of Project SEED, which has served over 10,000 young people. Its complementary program, ACS Scholars, celebrated its 300th alumnus or alumna to attain a Ph.D. He concluded that we have come a long way to ensure that thousands of outstanding scientists have had the opportunity to realize their professional potential.
President-Elect

ACS President-Elect Bonnie A. Charpentier announced that her overarching theme for 2019 is Collaboration, both actively establishing and growing collaborations and also developing an understanding of what works and does not work in different types of collaborations. Two broad areas of focus are (1) Advocacy and (2) Safety and the Environment. She met with Division program chairs at this meeting to discuss opportunities for co-sponsored symposia, future tools designed to facilitate program collaborations, and opportunities for Divisions to participate in regional meeting programming. As 2019 is the International Year of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements, she has encouraged all Divisions to consider programming in this area. She intends to build on the work of her predecessors in ensuring the sustainable growth of our Advocacy programs, particularly Advocacy work for our members at the state level. Dr. Charpentier invited the audience to send ideas and suggestions to her at b.charpentier@acs.org

Immediate Past President

ACS Immediate Past President Allison A. Campbell, in her last meeting as part of the presidential succession, stated that she accomplished much of what she had planned for her term. Her initiative on Science Advocacy continues to grow with workshops offered at all National Meetings between 2016 and 2018 and the debut of such a workshop at the regional meeting level. To date, more than 100 ACS members have participated in the workshops. A pilot program is planned for this fall with members of the Indiana Local Section. At the present meeting, she supported symposia on chemical forensics and synthetic biology as well as a symposium and reception highlighting the science of our LGBTQ+ members. She is also working on building online tools that would help ACS sections and members affected by various disasters obtain the resources needed to recover. Both a policy and process are expected to be in place by the end of the year. She stated that she has enjoyed getting out and engaging with members and that it has been a great honor to serve such a wonderful Society. She thanked everyone for their support and guidance over these past three years and looks forward to seeing how she can serve the Society and its members in the future.

Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer

ACS Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer Thomas M. Connelly welcomed everyone to the national meeting. He stated that the Society had a very successful 2018, as evidenced by a number of recent accomplishments: membership in the American Association of Chemistry Teachers is now more than 5,300; at the International Chemistry Olympiad, the US team brought home a perfect score of four gold medals (for the second consecutive year); the Membership team has launched an unprecedented effort to reverse the multiyear decline in membership and is seeing early benefits; ACS Publications saw published output grow 8% over prior year; the new CAS product SciFinder® has already exceeded its target for new customers during its first full calendar year; and the Congressional Chemistry Caucus has now grown to 64 members in the House and 14 in the Senate. He said that 2019 will provide a unique opportunity to communicate chemistry’s value through the celebration of the International Year of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements (IYPT), and ACS will kick off the IYPT celebration at this meeting.

Guest Presentation

Dr. Adams introduced the featured speaker for the meeting, 2016 Nobel Laureate Sir Fraser Stoddard of Northwestern University, who spoke on the dual nature of research (transformative versus incremental) and serendipitous discoveries along the way, offering a novel review of his contributions in supramolecular chemistry and molecular recognition. He encouraged students to be aware especially of the various drivers of excellence in research when pursuing their careers. In addition, as a Champion of the program, he advocated for ACS Project SEED on its 50th anniversary.
Following his presentation, Sir Fraser answered questions from the audience. He remained after the meeting to greet audience members individually.

Before declaring the meeting adjourned, Dr. Adams thanked all the participants and his colleagues on the Board for a successful meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.