

Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs (CEPA)

254th ACS National Meeting
Washington, DC
August 23, 2017

[SLIDE 1]

Madam President, Members of Council and Guests:

The Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs, CEPA, maintains responsibility for monitoring and improving the careers of ACS members. CEPA conducted a strategic planning retreat in April and approved the resulting plan at this meeting. Shown on the screen is our new vision statement: “ACS members have fulfilling professional lives,” new mission statement: “CEPA supports ACS members in their professional lives,” and three strategic goals. With a focus on these strategic goals, CEPA has reorganized to form three matched subcommittees. The Committee will be posting the completed plan including the strategies on its website.

[SLIDE 2]

As we have witnessed a precipitous decline in response rates to surveys, ACS has implemented a revised survey methodology over the past year. Rather than a large annual survey tool, a more periodic and nimble modular survey is now being used. This new survey deploys different modules throughout the year with the net results being the same as previously collected but creating quarterly running averages.

Under this new data collection process, the results show a small increase in the ACS Chemist unemployment rate over the past year from 2.6% to 2.8%; values which continue to remain at relative parity with the larger U.S. unemployment rate for Bachelor's degrees and above.

[SLIDE 3]

The ACS onsite career fair is celebrating its 80th anniversary. In Washington we have continued the revisions launched earlier this year to provide increased member and employer interactions, both formal and informal. Most prominent among these were the integration of the career fair with the expo; and the elimination of a check-in process for all members and a pre-registration requirement for many. We are delighted to report the results shown on the screen for Washington. This fair had very strong employer participation. From amongst the fairs of the last decade it trails only our last meeting in San Francisco for total number of both public recruiter booths and private interview offices.

[SLIDE 4]

At the San Francisco meeting, CEPA chartered a Working Group on Immigration and Work-Related Visas to explore if there is a consensus position among ACS membership, and if so, recommend a policy position to the Board of Directors. The group's composition and charter are shown on the screen. In Washington, CEPA and the five other Committees currently involved received an update on their progress. The group is still in the process of data gathering and listening to the voice of the members. Please continue to send any comments on this topic to policy@acs.org.

Madam President this concludes my report.