

Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs (CEPA)

253rd ACS National Meeting
San Francisco, CA
April 5, 2017

[SLIDE 1]

Madame President, Members of Council and Guests:

The Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs, known as CEPA, provides programs, products, and services to support ACS members in achieving their career goals. CEPA's main activity at this meeting was a strategic planning retreat to develop its goals for the next 3 years.

One instrument that CEPA uses to track the health of the US job market is annual surveys of new graduates and ACS members. As discussed in a 2016 CEPA C&EN comment, response rates to these surveys have been in decline. As is evident on the screen, the response rates to these and other ACS surveys are now so low that this committee can no longer be confident in their accuracy. Additionally, many of those still responding are not necessarily reflective of ACS membership or the chemistry enterprise.

[SLIDE 2]

Historically, the old survey methodology worked well. To modernize our data collection we have responded by creating a modular survey. This survey deploys different modules throughout the year providing a wealth of data on member, chemist, and new graduate professional outcomes. The net results are the same as previously collected offering quarterly running averages.

Under this new process, CEPA expects to return to regular reporting to Council on the economic and professional data at our next national meeting in Washington, DC.

[SLIDE 3]

The ACS onsite career fair is celebrating its 80th anniversary and changes were implemented in order to ensure the continued sustainability and relevance of the program. The fair has been integrated with the exposition to provide employers and candidates a seamless and high traffic experience. To provide as many career opportunities to as many members as possible, the need to check-in onsite was eliminated and the registration process was removed for many participants. We are delighted to report the results shown on screen and also note that decade-long records were set for the number of booths sold, employers opting for a booth, private offices sold, and spring fair revenue.

[SLIDE 4]

CEPA believes the time is appropriate to investigate the creation of an ACS policy statement on work-related visas and immigration. At this meeting CEPA moved to create a cross-committee working group to investigate this topic with the goal of bringing a recommendation to the ACS Board of Directors. The topic has been discussed in many forums including the two most recent presidential task forces on Supply and Demand and Job Creation. CEPA has also brought in external experts to discuss the issue. The ACS committees involved and their representatives to this working group are shown on the screen. The group requests that any comments at this time be sent to policy@acs.org.

Madame President this concludes my report.