

Please attend the open meetings of any of the following committees to discuss this petition, ask questions and/or hear comments. This petition has been referred to the ***Committee on Membership Affairs**, Committee on Divisional Activities, Committee on Local Section Activities, Council Policy Committee, Society Committee on Budget and Finance, and Committee on Constitution and Bylaws. (***Committee with primary substantive responsibility**)

For more information see www.acs.org/bulletin5 (click on petitions) or contact bylaws@acs.org. The deadline for written comments is May 5, 2017.

ORIGINAL

FOR CONSIDERATION

Petition on International Chemical Sciences Chapters

Bylaw IX, Sec. 4

Petition

We, the undersigned Councilors of the American Chemical Society, hereby petition to amend the SOCIETY Bylaws as follows (additions **underlined**; deletions ~~struck through~~):

Bylaw IX **International Chemical Sciences Chapters**

... **Sec. 4.**

An International Chemical Sciences Chapter **may receive financial support in some form** ~~shall receive no allotment of funds from the SOCIETY and shall not be entitled to elected representation on the Council.~~ A Chapter may assess local dues to be expended for its own purposes in harmony with the objects of the SOCIETY. (~~11/18/91~~)

Explanation

This part of the Bylaws was written twenty-five years ago when the concept of the International Chemical Science Chapter was created placing financial and representation restrictions on them while waiting on to see how they will fit into the life of the SOCIETY thousands of miles away. The results proved the success of the experiment and it is time to bring them closer to the SOCIETY. The amendment is the first step in this process. It would eliminate the restrictions and allow various Committees and Task Forces to determine and to propose the conditions under which they could be helped financially and they could participate in decision making of the SOCIETY's affairs.

The first Chapter was the one in Saudi Arabia where a number of ACS members, mostly Americans were working and they wanted to have some type of group with similar background and activities as Local Sections. During the years of its existence, local chemists became ACS members and joined

group. In 1996, ACS members in Hong Kong formed a Chapter to confirm their relation to the ACS ahead of the expected take over by China. The third chapter was formed in 2003 in Hungary with close cooperation of the local national chemical society. This was the first chapter, which was formed to promote the goals of ACS through such cooperation. Their number started to increase rapidly. Presently there are 19 chapters.

These Chapters are governed and operated in the same way as the Local Sections. They have meetings and conduct numerous activities in their own areas benefitting chemistry and the ACS. While total ACS membership rose by 0.6 percent in 2015, the foreign membership increased by 3.85 percent. Presently these Chapters, with the exception of those in China, represent all ACS members located in their whole country on the average with 50–250 members. There are 9108 ACS members in those countries where these chapters are located about one third of our total international members: 27,697. In comparison, twelve of our 185 Local Sections each represent a whole State with a total 8241 ACS members.

International members are just as active in the scientific life of our SOCIETY domestic ones: 39.6 percent vs. 35.4 percent. This is the ratio of those members who belongs to at least one Division. During the past three years the number of international members increased by 1,000 (330/year) while the total membership declined because on the average we recruited 24,400 members while 26,200 dropped their membership. Without the increased number of international members the drop would be higher.

In today's world the SOCIETY must maintain its interaction with the international community of chemistry professionals of the world. Our International Chemical Science Chapters can play a very important part in this effort. The removal of these restrictions would assure them that they are essential parts of the life and activities of our SOCIETY. When this is followed up later with appropriate conditions for their total involvement, they will be efficient partners in our worldwide effort to promote chemistry.

Signed:

Dr. Paul. S. Anderson
Dr. Thomas J. Barton
Dr. Ronald Breslow
Dr. Charles P. Casey

Mr. Ned D. Heindel
Dr. Nancy B. Jackson
Dr. Elizabeth Ann F. Nalley
Dr. Attila E. Pavlath

Dr. Brian Mandel Rushton
Dr. Paul H.L. Walter
Dr. Marinda P. Li Wu

(This petition has been referred to the ***Committee on Membership Affairs**, Committee on Divisional Activities, Committee on Local Section Activities, Council Policy Committee, Society Committee on Budget and Finance, and Committee on Constitution and Bylaws.)

***Committee having primary substantive responsibility**

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL IMPACT

The financial implications of this petition are still being assessed. The Final Statement of Financial Impact will be available per Article XVIII, Sec. 2, d, which states in part, "The Chair of the Society Committee on Budget and Finance shall prepare a financial impact statement which also shall appear in the Council agenda when action is to be taken on the petition."

PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

The Committee on Constitution and Bylaws has reviewed the petition and finds it to be legal and not inconsistent with the Constitution of the SOCIETY. By deleting the phrase, “and shall not be entitled to elected representation on the Council,” this does not mean that International Chemical Sciences Chapters will be permitted to have elected representation on Council because of provisions in the Constitution and other Bylaws that are not included in this petition. For example, the Constitution provides that Council is made up of 20 percent of Councilors elected by Divisions and 80 percent of Councilors elected by Local Sections. Thus, it does not appear that this petition if approved would satisfy the purpose of the petition as set forth in the “Explanation”, except perhaps that this is a first step.

Regarding the addition of the phrase, “may receive financial support in some form,” this is already permitted since the Board may approve such financial support. However, C&B would have no objection to this being added, with suggested edits from C&B. Regarding the deletion of the phrase, “shall receive no allotment of funds,” this does not necessarily permit them to have an allotment of funds. The Constitution and other Bylaws would most likely need to be amended if it is their intent to have such an allotment of funds

Within thirty days after the Council meeting at which this petition is considered, comments and suggestions on the substance of the petition from opponents, committees, petitioners, and other interested members should be directed to the Chair of the Committee on Membership Affairs, which has primary substantive responsibility for the petition. Comments and suggestions may be sent to bylaws@acs.org.

Dr. James C. Carver
Chair