Please attend the open meetings of any of the following committees to discuss this petition, ask questions and/or hear comments. This petition has not yet been referred to the **\*Committee on Committees,** Council Policy Committee, Society Committee on Budget and Finance, Society Committee on Education, and Committee on Constitution and Bylaws. (**\*Committee with primary substantive responsibility**)

For more information see [www.acs.org/bulletin5](http://www.acs.org/bulletin5) (click on petitions) or contact bylaws@acs.org. The deadline for written comments is September 22, 2017.

**O R I G I N A L**

**FOR CONSIDERATION**

**Petition on the Composition of Society Committees**

**Bylaw III, Sec. 3, e, (3), (4), and (8)**

**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 III**

**Council**

**Sec. 3**

*Committees of the Council*

 . . .

 e. Society Committees

. . .

(3) The Chair of each Society Committee shall be ~~a voting Councilor and~~ appointed jointly by the President and the Chair of the Board, with the advice of the Committee on Committees, for one calendar year, each individual being limited to three successive one-year terms as Chair of the same Committee. However, a Chair shall continue to serve until a successor has been appointed. ~~(1/1/78)~~

(4) Each Society Committee annually shall elect one of its members ~~who is a voting Councilor~~ to serve as Vice-Chair. ~~(1/1/82)~~

. . .

(8) Appointees shall be selected such that at the time of appointment ~~the Chair and at least two-thirds (2/3) of each Society Committee~~ **a majority of the members** are qualified voting Councilors. ~~(1/1/78~~)

**Explanation**

Society Committees, which are the Committee on Budget and Finance (B&F), and the Committee on Education (SOCED), are composed of Councilors and non-Councilors. Committee appointments are made adhering to the requirement that two-thirds (2/3) of the committee members are qualified voting Councilors. The Society’s Bylaws also require the Chair and Vice-Chair of Society Committees to be Councilors.

B&F requires members with significant budget and financial experience and expertise. SOCED strives for a balance of members with expertise across many facets of chemical education. They include chemical education researchers as well as active educators at four-year colleges and universities, graduate schools, two-year colleges, and high schools. Councilors who are educators at two-year colleges or high schools are few in number.

To comply with the Society’s Bylaws, it is not unusual for an active, contributing member of a Society Committee to be removed from the committee member roster as a result of a change in status from Councilor to non-Councilor. It is also not unusual for a non-Councilor to be removed from the committee member roster because of another committee member undergoing a change in status from Councilor to non-Councilor.

This petition changes the Councilor requirement of Society Committee members from at least two-thirds (2/3) to a majority in order to provide for greater flexibility in member appointments and continuity of committee membership.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Number of committee members | Minimum number of Councilors required by current Bylaws | Minimum number of Councilors required by this petition |
| 12 | 8 | 7 |
| 13 | 9 | 7 |
| 14 | 10 | 8 |
| 15 | 10 | 8 |
| 16 | 11 | 9 |
| 17 | 12 | 9 |
| 18 | 12 | 10 |
| 19 | 13 | 10 |
| 20 | 14 | 11 |

This petition also removes the Councilor requirement for the Chair and Vice-Chair of a Society Committee. Committee members with expertise and strong leadership abilities should not be disqualified to serve as Chair or Vice-Chair because of status as a non-Councilor.

Signed:

Dr. Christopher J. Bannochie

Dr. Iona Black

Dr. Mitchell R.M. Bruce

Dr. Dee Ann Casteel

Dr. Bonnie A. Charpentier

Dr. Deborah Cook

Dr. Alan B. Cooper

Dr. Milagros Delgado

Dr. Donna G. Friedman

Dr. Carmen Gauthier

Ms. Kathleen Gibboney

Dr. Joseph A. Heppert

Dr. Wayne E. Jones, Jr.

Ms. Diane Krone

Ms. Bonnie Lawlor

Dr. Carolyn Ribes

Ms. Susan M. Shih

(This petition has been referred to the **\*Committee on Committees**, Council Policy Committee, Society Committee on Budget and Finance, Society Committee on Education, 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. The proposed Bylaw amendment accomplishes the petitioners’ goal of not requiring that the Chair and Vice-Chair of Society Committees be voting Councilors. The petition also reduces the number of voting Councilors as members of Society Committees, from at least two-thirds (2/3) to a majority, for greater flexibility in member appointments, especially those with needed expertise.

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 Committees, which has primary substantive responsibility for the petition. Comments and suggestions may be sent to bylaws@acs.org.

Dr. James C. Carver

Chair