Petition for Election of Committee Chairs

Bylaw III, Sec. 3, c, (1); d, 3, (3), (8); e, (3), (8); g, (3); i (3)

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

. . .

c. Committee on Committees

(1) The duties of the Committee on Committees shall include:

(a) acting for the Council in the selection of Council-related SOCIETY bodies by assisting and advising in the appointment of the chairs and members of such SOCIETY bodies; (6/10/78).

. . .

(e) appointing members to fill vacancies that have existed longer than sixty days on Council-related SOCIETY bodies whose members or chairs are normally appointed by the President; (9/15/78)

(f) participating as members of a group which acts to fill vacancies that have existed longer than sixty days on Council-related SOCIETY bodies whose members or chairs are normally appointed jointly by the President and the Chair of the Board; all members of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors who are not appointing authorities comprise the other members of said group. (9/15/78)

. . .

d. Standing Committees of the Council

. . .

(3) The Chair of each Standing Committee shall be appointed by the President, with the advice of the Committee on Committees, elected by the voting members of said Committee for one calendar year, each individual being limited to three successive one-year terms as Chair of the same Committee. (11/19/74)

. . .

(8) The Chair and other Members of each Standing Committee must be qualified voting Councilors when appointed. If any member of a Standing Committee becomes disqualified,
that member shall be dropped and a vacancy declared, except that the President may postpone until the end of the calendar year dropping from the Committee a Councilor so disqualified and the simultaneous declaration of a vacancy if such postponement will significantly benefit the operations of the Committee. (6/8/94)

e. Society Committees

   (3) The Chair of each Society Committee shall be a voting Councilor and shall be appointed jointly by the President and the Chair of the Board, with the advice of the Committee on Committees, elected by the voting members of the same Committee 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)

   (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 are qualified voting Councilors. (4/1/78)

   g. Other Joint Board-Council Committees

   (2) The Chair of each Other Joint Board-Council Committee shall be appointed jointly by the President and the Chair of the Board, with the advice of the Committee on Committees, elected by the voting members of the same Committee for one calendar year, each individual being limited to three successive one-year terms as Chair of a given Committee. However, a Chair shall continue to serve until a successor has been appointed elected. (3/1/79)

   i. Other Committees of the Council

   (3) The Chair of each Other Committee shall be appointed by the President, with the advice of the Committee on Committees, elected by the voting members of said Committee, for one calendar year, each individual being limited to three successive one-year terms as Chair of a given Committee. However, the President may waive this three-term limit in specific instances. A Chair shall continue to serve until a successor has been appointed elected. (11/12/87)

**Explanation**

The petitioners propose changes to the ACS’s Bylaws to allow the voting members of all ACS Committees to select their own Chairs. The members of the Committees have the career and ACS experience as well as the judgment to select their own Chairs. This will free up the President, the Chair of the ACS Board, and the Committee on Committees to focus on priorities only they can deliberate and act upon. The proposed Bylaw changes will also make the Society, in a small way, more representative and democratic, and less bureaucratic.

Signed:

Dr. Peter J. Bonk
Dr. Mukund Chorghade
Dr. Mary E. Dery
Dr. Harry J. Elston
Dr. John Engelman II

Ms. Mary K. Engelmann
Dr. Sheila Kanodia
Ms. Jackie J. O'Neil
Dr. Mary Virginia Orna
Dr. Roger Alan Parker

Dr. Mary Jane Shultz
Dr. Kristine S. Smetana
Dr. Ann M. Sullivan
Ms. Jane V. Thomas

8/17
1/24/18
(This petition has been referred to the *Committee on Committees*, 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. The proposed Bylaw amendment accomplishes the petitioners’ goal of allowing voting committee members the right to elect their own chairs, instead of this being done jointly by the President of the Society and the Chair of the Board of Directors, with advice from the Committee on Committees.

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
2017 Chair