

FOR ACTION

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~~):

REVISED

VERSION

FOR

COUNCIL

ACTION

Bylaw IX
International Chemical Sciences Chapters

...
Sec. 4.

An International Chemical Sciences Chapter **may receive financial support** ~~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. (11/18/94)

Explanation

This section of the Bylaws was written more than twenty-five years ago when the concept of an International Chemical Sciences Chapter (ICSC) was created. It included financial and representation restrictions on ICSCs to see how they fit into an organization that operates thousands of miles away. The results proved successful, and it is time to bring these ICSCs closer to the Society. This amendment is the first step in that process. It would eliminate the financial and representation restrictions outlined in Bylaw IX. These changes would pave the way for various committees and task forces to determine and propose the conditions under which ICSCs could be helped financially and participate in the decision-making processes of the Society.

ICSCs have been part of the ACS for more than two decades. The first chapter was formed in Saudi Arabia by a number of ACS members, mostly Americans, who were working in the country and seeking to establish some type of group comparable to an ACS Local Section in the country. Since its inception, a number of local chemists have become ACS members and joined the group. This was followed by Hong Kong in 2000 and Hungary in 2003. Presently, there are 19 chapters operating on every inhabited continent of the world.

ICSCs are governed and operated in a manner similar to that of Local Sections. They have meetings and conduct numerous activities in their own areas benefitting chemists and chemical enterprises as well as the ACS. While total ACS membership rose by 0.6 percent in 2015, foreign membership increased by 3.85 percent. Each ICSC, with the exception of those in China, represent all ACS members located in their respective countries with memberships ranging from 50–250 members.

Currently, there are 9,108 ACS members represented by ICSCs, which is about one-third (1/3) of the Society's total international membership of 27,697.

International members are taking an active and increasing role in the Society. For example, the number of members belonging to at least one Division is 39.6 percent for international ACS members vs. 35.4 percent for ACS members in the United States. Moreover, the number of international members increased by 1,000 during the past three years, while the total membership of the Society declined by 1,800 members. This trend will likely continue in the future, and the Society's membership will become even more international.

As the globalization continues, the ACS must maintain its interaction with the international community of chemistry professionals if it wants to continue to be the premier scientific society in the world. ICSCs can play an important part in this effort. The removal of the financial and representation restrictions of Bylaw IX is the logical next step in welcoming these international members to play an even bigger role in the life and activities of our Society. This petition is signed by Past Presidents of the Society.

Signed:

Dr. Paul. Stanley Anderson	Dr. Ned D. Heindel	Dr. Brian Mandel Rushton
Dr. Thomas J. Barton	Dr. Nancy B. Jackson	Dr. Paul H.L. Walter
Dr. Ronald Breslow	Dr. Elizabeth Ann F. Nalley	Dr. Marinda P. Li Wu
Dr. Charles P. Casey	Dr. Attila E. Pavlath	

(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**

FINAL STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL IMPACT

The Society Committee on Budget and Finance has examined this petition and concludes that it will have no impact on the finances of the Society (\$0).

FINAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

The Committee on Constitution and Bylaws and the petitioners agreed to remove "in some form" after "financial support" because the wording was not necessary and the removal of this text did not change the meaning and intent of the petition. International Chemical Sciences Chapters currently may receive financial support without making this Bylaw change. Removing the phrase, "shall receive no allotment of funds," does not entitle Chapters to receive an allotment. Also, by removing the phrase, "and shall not be entitled to elected representation on the Council," does not entitle Chapters to have Councilors; changes to a number of Constitution Articles and Bylaws would have to be made to permit this.

The Committee finds the revised petition to be legal and consistent with other provisions of the Society's documents.

A two-thirds (2/3) vote of Council is required for approval of amendments to the Bylaws. If approved by Council, the amendments will become effective upon confirmation by the Board of Directors.

Dr. James C. Carver
Chair