

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 April 20, 2018.

ORIGINAL

FOR CONSIDERATION

Petition to Rename and Remove Restrictions for International Chemical Sciences Chapters

Constitution Article XIV, Bylaw III, Sec. 3, d, (1), (f), Bylaws IX, Sec. 4

Petition

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

Constitution Article XIV International Chemical Sciences Chapters

Upon the written request of not fewer than 25 members of the SOCIETY residing in a defined geographic area outside the United States of America, the Board of Directors with the approval of the Council may authorize formation of an International Chemical Sciences Chapter, **hereinafter International Chapter**. The criteria for the formation and review of International ~~Chemical Sciences~~ Chapters of the SOCIETY are provided in the Bylaws. (~~11/18/91~~)

Bylaw III Sec. 3

Committees of the Council

...

d. Standing Committees of the Council

(1) The names and duties of the Standing Committees of the Council shall *inter alia* include:

...

(f) *Committee on Constitution and Bylaws*

(i) performing the duties assigned in the Constitution and Bylaws of the SOCIETY;

...

(iv) reviewing and making recommendations to the Council concerning desirable changes in the charter bylaws for new Local Sections and International ~~Chemical Sciences~~ Chapters, and in the bylaws for Divisions in probationary status; (~~11/18/91~~)

[Similar changes would be made to all subsequent Bylaws.]

Bylaw IX, Sec. 4.

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

Explanation

The first proposal is to allow all instances of “International Chemical Sciences Chapters” in the Constitution and Bylaws to be also known as “International Chapters.” This is to help streamline the ACS Governing Documents without changing current, Council-approved chapter bylaws.

The second proposal addresses the recent ACS Council Meeting in Washington, D.C. when a similar petition failed by fewer than eight votes; it did not receive the required two-thirds (2/3) approval. Bylaw IX was written more than twenty-five years ago when International Chemical Sciences Chapters were created. In addressing concerns raised on the Council floor in D.C., this simplified petition creates a pathway for International Chapters to have a role in the Society to help to carry out Article II, Section 3 of the ACS Constitution: “The SOCIETY shall cooperate with scientists internationally and shall be concerned with the worldwide application of chemistry to the needs of humanity.”

The International Chapters are governed and operated by ACS member volunteers in the same way as Divisions and Local Sections. International Chapter leaders are ACS members, including: U.S. citizens working and teaching abroad; chemists, chemical engineers and chemistry educators who have received their education in the U.S. or abroad; ACS award recipients, editors, authors, donors, and national/regional meeting presenters based outside the United States. In their countries, these volunteers donate their time to hold meetings and conduct activities to benefit chemistry and the Society.

The leaders and members of these International Chapters provide ACS with valuable international networks within the worldwide chemistry enterprise. The Society cannot afford to be insular considering the value that members of International Chapters bring to the Society.

The proposed, revised language removes the allotment restriction that International Chapters shall not receive funds but does not authorize any allotment of funds from ACS; this does not take away any dues funds from Divisions or Local Sections. The Board of Directors may grant funds for a specific requested purpose. The petition also removes the restriction that International Chapters are not entitled to elected representation on the Council; it does not permit them to have Councilors, but it paves the way in case this is permitted in the future.

Signed:

Dr. Madan M. Bhasin
Dr. Ellene Tratras Contis
Dr. Richard S. Danchik
Ms. Merle I. Eiss
Dr. Morton Z. Hoffman

Dr. Cynthia A. Maryanoff
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Petition to Rename and Remove Restrictions for International Chemical Sciences Chapters

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***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 and Bylaws of the SOCIETY. There are a few similarities between this petition and the one that was up for action at the ACS national meeting in Washington, DC. Both petitions remove the phrases, “shall receive no allotment of funds” and “shall not be entitled to elected representation on the Council”. However, this petition 1) did not add the phrase, “may receive financial support”, which is already permitted if granted by the Board; 2) changed “may assess local dues” to “may assess its members Chapter dues”; and 3) proposed to refer to an International Chemical Sciences Chapter as an “International Chapter” in the Constitution and Bylaws. By making changes to the Constitution, this portion of the petition would be up for vote by ACS members if this petition is approved.

The deleted phrases that are mentioned above do not (yet) permit International Chemical Sciences Chapters to have elected representation on Council and to receive an allotment of funds because other provisions in the Constitution and Bylaws would have to be amended in both cases.

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. V. Dean Adams
Chair