

ORIGINAL

FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Petition to Amend the Name and Duties of the Committee on Patents and Related Matters
(AMENDMENTS TO THE STANDING RULES)

Standing Rule II, Sec. 4, b, (10)
Standing Rule VIII, Sec. 1, b, (10)

Petition

We, the voting members of the American Chemical Society’s Committee on Patents and Related Matters, hereby petition to amend the SOCIETY’s Standing Rules as follows (additions **underlined**; deletions ~~struck through~~):

STANDING RULE II
Council Executive Function

...

Sec. 4.

Society Committees

...

b. Society Committees Reporting to the Council and the Board of Directors

...

(10) Committee on ~~Patents and Related Matters~~ **Intellectual Property**

...

STANDING RULE VIII
Duties of Committees

Section 1.

...

b. Duties of Committees that Report to both the Council and the Board of Directors

...

(10) ~~Committee on Patents and Related Matters~~ **Intellectual Property**

The duties of this committee shall include the following, *inter alia*: consider patents and **other forms of intellectual property** ~~related matters~~ insofar as such consideration and possible action are appropriate under and in conformity with the SOCIETY’s Charter.

Explanation

Since its inception, the subject matter conducted by the Committee on Patents and Related Matters (CPRM) has not been limited to patents; it has related to all aspects of intellectual property, including patents, copyrights, trademarks, and trade secrets. The broad scope of work conducted by the committee is reflected in the committee’s new mission and vision statements and in its Board-approved policy statement, all of which refer generally to “intellectual property” rather than elevating patents over other forms of intellectual property. At its recent Strategic Planning Session, members of CPRM

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expressed an interest in renaming the committee to better reflect its work in all areas of intellectual property and to remove the ambiguous language “and related matters” in the current committee’s name. At the fall 2023 meeting of CPRM, members discussed the potential renaming of the committee, and the members voted strongly in favor of renaming the committee. There was potential concern whether the proposed name would overlap with some copyright responsibilities of the Committee on Publications (PUBS). Following a discussion with PUBS, it was agreed that the work CPRM is doing in copyright is distinct from the copyright-related work that PUBS handles, and that there would be a significant benefit to the Society if the committee increased its copyright-related education, outreach, and advocacy.

CPRM has been charged by the ACS Board of Directors with promoting the Society’s, as well as the public’s awareness, in all aspects of intellectual property. To achieve this goal, CPRM is responsible for educating ACS membership and advising the ACS governing bodies on any pertinent developments in intellectual property to the extent they are relevant to the chemical enterprise. The proposed name change better reflects the workings of the committee and the Board’s ongoing mandate to the committee. As such, CPRM proposes to change the committee’s name from the Committee on Patents and Related Matters to the Committee on Intellectual Property and changing its acronym from CPRM to CIP.