

**COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**  
**Oral Report to Council**  
**James C. Carver, Chair**

**August 23, 2017, Washington, DC**

[slide 1] Madam President, members of Council, and guests. The ACS Governing Documents, also known as Bulletin 5, was updated on the web as of June 1, 2017; the online version is the authoritative version.

[slide 2] The Committee on Constitution and Bylaws (C&B) certified 15 unit bylaws so far in 2017. Congratulations and thank you. We also thank the four Local Sections and nine Divisions that sent proposed bylaw changes for which C&B sent reviews.

Most of these units amended their bylaws using C&B's model bylaws, while a couple units used C&B's questions option. You may use whichever method you prefer. We are happy to work with any units that submit proposed bylaw changes, and hope to hear from the 54 Local Sections and two Divisions that have not updated their bylaws since 2000.

[slide 3] As you know, your current bylaws and options to update the bylaws are available on ACS's website. We suggest that you check your Division or Section bylaws to see if they are up to date, and if are your elections are being done in compliance with your bylaws.

It was recently brought to our attention that Local Sections and Divisions want to involve more post docs and graduate students in their activities and have them to run for office. Please note that they are considered members and have full member rights.

At this meeting, there are two petitions for consideration; we invite your attention to the yellow sheets, on pages 96 to 98 for the Petition on the Composition of Society Committees and pages 99 to 101 for the Petition for Election of Committee Chairs.

Within 30 days from this Council meeting, which is September 22, opponents of these petitions may submit written arguments to [bylaws@acs.org](mailto:bylaws@acs.org).

Final reports from B&F and C&B will be included in these petitions when they are up for action at the spring 2018 meeting.

New petitions to amend the Constitution or Bylaws must be received by the Executive Director no later than November 29 to be included in the Council agenda for consideration at the spring 2018 meeting in New Orleans. We will be happy to give you initial feedback on your draft petition; if you wish to do so, send your draft petition to [bylaws@acs.org](mailto:bylaws@acs.org) before November 1. The petition guidelines are in Bulletin 5 and on the web, but we would be happy to walk you through the process. Contact C&B if you have any questions or need any information on bylaws or petitions.

Madam President, this concludes my final report as Chair of C&B.

James C. Carver, Ph.D., J.D.  
Registered Patent Attorney  
The Carver Law Firm, LLC  
% The Baringer Law Firm, LLC  
201 St. Charles St.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
[bylaws@acs.org](mailto:bylaws@acs.org)