

Committee on Divisional Activities
Council Report
257th ACS National Meeting, Orlando, FL
April 2019

Madam President and Fellow Councilors:

The mission of the Committee on Divisional Activities (DAC) is to provide guidance, support, and resources to enable technical divisions to accomplish their goals. The committee's four subcommittees met Saturday to discuss issues related to communication and technology, governance, divisional enhancement, and collaborative programing. The full committee met Sunday to review their recommendations and discuss related divisional issues.

In September, a survey designed to identify key challenges related to collaboration, engagement, and the recruitment and retention of division membership was developed by the ACS Technical Divisions Office and sent to division leaders. The Committee reviewed the results of that survey and is considering ways to follow up with divisions.

DAC is working with staff to develop some novel approaches to persuade a higher percentage of new ACS members to join divisions. Since March 2018, new members have been given the option to join up to three divisions at no cost for the first year. Preliminary data indicate that many are taking advantage of this new offer. More than 13,000 free divisional memberships were activated in 2018 compared to fewer than 7,000 in 2017. However, retaining new members remains challenging. Enhanced efforts and new strategies are being sought.

The committee continues its initiative called “Division Row”, placing divisional posters in a well-trafficked area of Sci-Mix. The objective is to provide divisions with more exposure to national meeting attendees - particularly, those younger chemists in attendance whom divisions are eager to engage. Seventeen divisions participated in Orlando.

DAC wants to enhance collaborative programming between divisions on emerging topic areas. It is continuing to develop a concept and plans to share the idea with division officers and councilors for comment before the San Diego meeting.

The committee voted to fund nine Innovative Project Grants (IPG) totaling \$59,904. Included are strategic planning proposals from three divisions. Another group of IPG proposals will be considered at the Fall meeting. The deadline for that round of submissions is July 1, 2019.

Finally, at the Council meeting in New Orleans DAC proposed a new formula for allocating dues to divisions. That proposal was returned to DAC for further consideration. The Committee will not propose a new formula at this meeting but is continuing to collect data on division participation in ACS regional and international meetings.

The committee wishes to acknowledge the efforts of the divisions and the Multidisciplinary Program Planning Group in organizing and delivering a wide range of excellent programming in support of the Orlando theme: “*Chemistry for New Frontiers*”

Madam President and fellow Councilors, this concludes my report.