

## **Committee on Public Affairs and Public Relations**

### Report to the ACS Board of Directors

The Board Standing Committee on Public Affairs and Public Relations (PAPR) met virtually on August 10, 2017. The Chair welcomed Committee members, reviewed the agenda, and highlighted reference materials in the agenda book.

**Chair's Remarks:** The Chair informed the Committee of his appointment of Committee member Lee Latimer as PAPR envoy to ACS local sections and technical divisions with a primary mission of encouraging their greater participation in outreach efforts such as advocacy on behalf of ACS policy priorities as well as nominating and publicizing National Historic Chemical Landmarks. The Chair then asked Committee member Dorothy Phillips to provide an update on her activities in the human rights arena.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the June 1, 2017 meeting were approved as distributed, with minor verb tense edits made as discussed by the Committee.

**Chemical Weapons Prohibition Updates:** The Committee received updates from two guests – Laura Gross, Director, Executive Director, U.S. National Authority for the Chemical Weapons Convention; and Dr. Kabrena Rodda, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and Chair of the PAPR Weaponization of Chemicals Work Group. Ms. Gross gave a detailed overview of her organization's role in coordinating multiple US government agencies in preventing use of chemicals as weapons and outlined several areas where ACS and its members could be helpful in education, outreach and collaboration on the national and international levels. Dr. Rodda updated the Committee by reporting on recent activities of the work group involving the further development of the group's objectives and metrics as well as on the start toward drafting a ACS policy statement on the weaponization of chemicals. The Chair thanked each guest for their excellent presentations.

**National Historic Chemical Landmark Nomination:** The Committee discussed and voted to approve a National Historic Chemical Landmark nomination received from the PAPR subcommittee on National Historic Chemical Landmarks as noted below.

- Nomination to recognize, at multiple institutions, St. Elmo Brady's achievement as the first African-American Ph.D. in chemistry in the U.S. and his legacy in chemical education. The nomination was made by the ACS East Central Illinois Local Section.

**Update on Reorganization of the ACS Advocacy Toolkit:** The Chair thanked ACS President Allison Campbell for making advocacy one of her presidential focus areas and for her leadership in promoting the updating and reorganization of the ACS advocacy toolkit to make it more engaging and easier for ACS members to use. Staff demonstrated the new and improved advocacy toolkit for the Committee and outlined future enhancements. Committee members complimented the updated toolkit and expressed optimism for increased use by ACS members.

**Legislative & Federal Science Appointments Update:** Staff provide the Committee with two government affairs updates. The first update focused on the current political environment in the nation's capital and its impact on ACS advocacy priorities. Despite the difficult political environment, staff outlined several areas where progress had been made on key ACS priorities in STEM education, green chemistry, energy and growth of the Congressional Chemistry Caucus. The second presentation focused on ACS efforts to provide assistance to the Administration in finding qualified candidates for major science positions at key federal agencies as well as federal advisory boards. A current initiative underway is to nominate candidates for the National Science Foundation's National Science Board.

**EAC National Meeting Activities:** Staff provided an overview of the support External Affairs & Communications will be providing to various governance committees, symposia and programming at the August national meeting in Washington, DC, in addition to operating the ACS Press Center. At the Chair's request a comprehensive list of all activities, times and locations will be sent to Committee members.

**Adjournment:** There being no old or new business, the Committee adjourned at 5:21 PM (ET).

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. John Adams, Chair