

**ACS Committee on Chemistry & Public Affairs**  
**Saturday, March 13, 2021**  
**1:00 – 3:00 pm (EST)**  
**Formerly San Antonio, TX [VIRTUAL]**

**CCPA Members in Attendance:** Kevin Kuhn (Chair), Luke Achenie, Judith Benham, Susan Butts, Eun-Woo Chang, Bonnie Charpentier, Deborah Cook, Louise Criscenti, Michael Hurrey, Zafra Lerman, Emily Lewis, Michael Meador, James Moran, Mary Jo Ondrechen, Laura Pence, Peter Rusch, Joseph Sabol, Robert Sindelar, Jozef Stec, Vollmer-Snarr, Jonathan Wilker, Matthew Windsor, Donald Wink.

**CCPA Visitors:** Diane Krone (ConC Liaison), Lee Latimer (Chair, ACS Board Committee on Public Affairs & Public Relations), Darlene Slattery (Committee on Membership Affairs).

**CCPA Staff Liaisons:** Caroline Trupp Gil, Leila Duman, Will Hartwig, Karen Garcia, Anthony Pitagno.

**Absent:** Stephen Benn, Jay Dias, Barbara Moriarty, Amy Ripka, Hessa Taft.

**Chair's Welcome & Introductions**

- The CCPA meeting was called to order over Zoom at 1:05 pm EST. Kevin Kuhn provided introductory and organizing remarks.
- Meeting agenda was approved unanimously
- The minutes from CCPA meeting in the fall of 2020 in San Francisco, CA and held virtually on August 15, 2021 were tabled for approval until the next official CCPA meeting to be held in August.
- The CCPA Chair thanked committee members for individual phone calls taking place in December of 2020.
- Summary of virtual, monthly CCPA meetings was provided by the Chair.
- DEIR Moment – topic: “Understanding biases and barriers” – Kevin Kuhn opened the discussion.
- Working Groups Report:
  - a) Public Policy Fellowship (Laura Pence, Emily Lewis O'Brien) – pool of 59 candidates was reviewed, 12 candidates were called, and 6 of them were interviewed (3 male, 3 female, and 2 candidates of color). Two candidates accepted the offers: Leila Duman and Josh Melko
  - b) ACS Fellows Nominations (Mick Hurrey) – Kristen Kulinowski has been nominated and her nomination package is being finalized.
  - c) Policy ChemLuminary Award Pilot Project (Kevin Kuhn) – this is a new idea to investigate and implement in order to spark attention of local sections and promote sustainability.
  - d) AACP Programming (Joe Sabol) – notable speakers have been arranged to talk about climate change.

**Staff Reports**

Caroline Trupp Gil gave the Federal Relations report.

- An internal ACS reorganization means “External Affairs & Communications” team has been separated. ACS government affairs staff now report directly to ACS Secretary Flint Lewis in the Office of the Secretary & General Counsel.
- The new U.S. Administration and its first executive orders and memoranda were outlined. Building back and strengthening relationships between the new Administration and the ACS was also discussed. Dr. Tom Connelly has met with the NSF New Director, Dr. Sethuraman Panchanathan. ACS continues promoting its priorities (e.g. webinar on the 2030 NSB’s Vision Report; comment on the EPA Recycling Strategy, meeting with agency transition teams.) New ACS ideas and directions have been outlined – more informal comments and communications with various agencies and entities.

Will Hartwig updated the committee on appropriations and other legislative efforts.

- FY2021 Appropriations were outlined – no big changes were noticed between FY2020 and FY2021. The new Administration is working on the FY2022 budget.
- 117<sup>th</sup> Congress – very thin margin is observed between the two major parties.
- The ACS advocacy agenda is very broad in order to respond to various challenges (including funding). ACS is actively promoting the Research Investment to Spark the Economy (RISE) Act, as well as continuing efforts to promote sustainability and diverse STEM education.
- ACS staff is reflecting and evaluating the “virtual” advocacy approach utilized in the past year.
- The Chemistry Caucus now includes 64 members: 50 Representatives and 14 Senators from 25 States. New Co-Chair Cheri Bustos replaced Rep. Dan Lipinski. ACS is closely working with the Caucus – in the future virtual events will be held.

Karen Garcia shared the Member Engagement and Outreach Report:

- ACS Chemistry Advocacy Workshop (virtual) launched last year – 766 individuals enrolled and 84 completed.
- Act4Chemistry Alerts – 534 letters/e-mails were sent with this respect last year.
- Act4Chemistry Quarterly Newsletter – about 11,000 ACS members are signed up for this newsletter.
- Local Section Engagement – Dr. Lee Latimer held an event with local section chairs and leaders to share best practices in advocacy and engagement.
- Virtual Workshop for Chemistry Advocacy was held for Younger Chemists – 26 signed up and 19 completed the workshop.
- “[Scientist in Government](#)” event will be held on 4/05/21 and will be hosted by the 2020 ACS President Dr. Luis Echegoyen.

### **Guest Speakers**

- Dr. Lee Latimer, Chair of the ACS Board Committee on Public Affairs & Public Relations (PAPR), discussed his priorities for PAPR: restart the summer legislative summit, develop engagement in Local Section advocacy, review the policy portfolio, support and approve the work of National Historic Chemistry Landmark (NHCL) Subcommittee, and explore potential for collaboration with CCPA.

- ACS Committee on Membership Affairs member Dr. Darlene Slattery discussed the benefits of the “regular” membership as well as new, possible future options for ACS membership in order to increase the general ACS membership.
- Committee on Committees (ConC) Liaison Diane Krone shared that online committee preference form will be sent out by the ACS Secretary in the near future to all CCPA Consultants, Associate Members, and Standing members whose term finishes in 2021. The preference forms will open on April 1<sup>st</sup>. ConC put together a plan to harmonize the ACS committee structures, processes, and terms. The ConC Sub-Committee on Committee System and Structure delivered its findings and recommendations on creating “healthy committees” in terms of committee categories, terms, size, composition, and reporting. Proviso and benefits of new committee terms has been presented. ACS Council will vote on the proposed new committee terms at the March 2021 Council meeting.

**Motion was made and seconded to support the presented petition. The petition was approved (with two abstentions).**

**Working Group Discussion:** re-directed into e-mail modality after the meeting.

#### **Meeting Evaluation & Concluding Remarks**

- Future conference call plans – next virtual CCPA meeting will be on 4/27/21 at 7:00 pm EST. CCPA working groups will be asked to meet and operate before that meeting.
- Future meeting agenda topics – tabled.

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 pm and some of the participants moved to virtual happy hour.