

MINUTES
Committee on Public Affairs and Public Relations
June 1, 2018
8:00 – 10:00 AM
Baltimore, Maryland

Attendance

Committee: Laura Pence (Chair), Allison Campbell, Bonnie Charpentier, Teri Quinn Gray Lee Latimer, Barbara Sawrey, Kathleen Schulz, Glenn Ruskin (staff liaison)

Other Board Members: John Adams, Christina Bodurow, Tom Connelly, Rigoberto Hernandez, Paul Jagodzinski, Ingrid Montes

Staff: Brian Bernstein, Ray Garant (phone), LaTrease Garrison, Mary Kirchhoff, Martha Lester, Flint Lewis, Brad Miller, Sue Morrissey (phone), Brandi Neifert (phone), Scott Oliphant, Anthony Pitagno (phone), Lauren Posey (phone), David Smorodin, Marleen Weidner

Guests: Susan Butts, Anne Bonitatibus, Brian Kennedy and Mark Hannum

The Board Standing Committee on Public Affairs and Public Relations (PA&PR) met on June 1, 2018 in Baltimore, Maryland. The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming members, reviewed the agenda, and highlighted two items:

- **Outreach to ACS Policy Committees** – the Chair informed the Committee of her outreach to key ACS policy making committees to update them on the outcome of the Committee’s policy prioritization process conducted in March and how their sponsored policy statements were ranked in the four tiers. As a result of the outreach, policy making committees have a better appreciation for their role in the policy making process, how they connect to sister policy making committees, and how their policies link to one another.
- **ACS Comments on Proposed Federal Rules** – the Chair gave background on ACS providing comments on two proposed federal rules, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Proposal on Data Transparency and the U.S. State Department’s Proposal to Increase Immigrant and Non-Immigrant Visa Information Requirements.

The Chair concluded opening remarks by highlighting several standard items behind Tab 1 of the agenda book.

Approval of Minutes - There being no additions or corrections to the minutes of the March 9, 2018 meeting as distributed, the minutes were APPROVED without objection.

STEM Challenges in an Evolving Environment – the Chair welcomed three officials from the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology who joined the meeting via conference call. The three officials were Dr. Anne Bonitatibus, Principal; Dr. Mark Hannum, Director, Science and Technology Division and Dr. Brian Kennedy chemistry teacher, ACS member and the 2018 ACS James Bryant Conant Award recipient.

The Chair outlined several questions for the three educators who responded by sharing their experiences and views of adapting to the changing and evolving STEM education landscape, challenges and opportunities for the STEM education field including identification and placement of qualified teachers. The Chair asked the educators how ACS might be of assistance to them, and several suggestions were offered, ranging from externships in laboratories to increased access to chemical information resources as well as reduced membership rates. At the conclusion of the discussion, the Chair thanked the educators for taking the time to join the Committee and for their commitment to promoting high quality STEM education.

Preventing the Re-emergence of Chemical Weapons Policy Statement – The Committee discussed a draft policy statement on Preventing the Re-emergence of Chemical Weapons drafted by a working group appointed by the Committee with assistance from the Committee on Science and Corporation Associates. After discussion:

The Committee VOTED to adopt the statement “Preventing the Re-emergence of Chemical Weapons” as an ACS public policy position of the Society for a period of three years.

As is standard for new statements, it will be placed in the Tier 4 priority group for the remainder of the year.

The Chair discharged the working group with thanks for their valuable work in the area of chemical weapons and for helping guide ACS involvement with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons over the use of chlorine in Syria.

Exploring Potential for an ACS Statement on Immigration - The Chair introduced Dr. Susan Butts, who is leading an ACS writing team appointed by the Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs (CEPA) to explore development of an ACS workforce immigration statement. Dr. Butts shared with the Committee data the writing team has been gathering from ACS members and other organizations on their views on the immigration topic. The Committee discussed the information and data provided and agreed that adoption of an appropriately structured policy statement consistent with the needs of the chemistry enterprise would be critical for ACS to become involved on issues associated with immigration and in keeping with the objects of the ACS national charter of incorporation.

The Committee VOTED to encourage the writing team to draft a statement that could be acted upon by the Committee in 2019.

The Committee also accepted the recommendation that when and if a statement is to be considered, it should come before the full Board.

Old/New Business – Under Old Business, the Chair sought input from the Committee regarding the 2018 ACS Legislative Summit that took place in April. Committee members offered helpful suggestions for the conduct of the 2019 Summit, including urging that it be held earlier in the year to have a greater impact on the federal budget and appropriations processes.

Also under Old Business, Committee member Lee Latimer asked for staff to research whether his efforts to encourage local sections and divisions to help nominate National Historic Chemical Landmarks (NHCL) as well as promote existing landmarks within their geographic or topical jurisdictions had yielded any tangible results.

Adjournment

There being no additional business, the Committee adjourned at 10:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Laura Pence, Chair