From the ACS President

Donna J. Nelson, Ph.D.

Dear Councilors,

Thanks so much for helping to ensure a broad range of ideas for our Task Force on Employment in the Chemical Sciences during the last two years. I appreciate your emails and especially your comments during the Council Special Discussion at each of the 2016 ACS National Meetings.

Similarly, please send me your suggestions and ideas for goals and issues to bring to the attention of Trump’s transition team and Science Advisor. Although, at this time, he is largely focused on cabinet appointments, he will want scientific information at a later date.

Finally, best wishes during the holidays and throughout the new year!

From the ACS Immediate Past President

Diane Grob Schmidt, Ph.D.

Dear Councilors,

As both 2016 and my service in the Presidential Succession come to a close, I’d like to take this opportunity to wish you all Happy Holidays and thank you for your profound, sustained support. The three years I have spent in the ACS Presidential Succession have been truly rewarding both personally and professionally. I have been able to meet with thousands of members, travel to many Local Sections, and partner with a significant number of Divisions in our technical programming. So many Councilors provided advice, invited me to their meetings, and provided me with wonderful opportunities to address our strong membership.

Although I am terming out as Immediate Past President, I will continue to serve going forward as the Chair of the Committee on Corporation Associates. Working on behalf of our industry members has always been a committed passion of mine, and I welcome the opportunity to continue to serve all our members and our Society in the years ahead.

With heartfelt thanks, and my warmest best wishes – have a wonderful holiday season with friends and family.

Diane Grob Schmidt
NEW ACS COUNCILORS
See You on Saturday in San Francisco!

The ACS Council Policy Committee will be hosting the 2017 New Councilor Orientation Program and Reception for all newly elected Councilors and Alternate Councilors on Saturday, April 1, in San Francisco, CA starting at 3:30 PM at the Hilton San Francisco Union Square Hotel. A reception with ACS Leaders will follow from 6:00-7:00 PM in the same location. Councilors will have an opportunity to meet with other ACS leaders, learn more about the Society and ACS committees, and establish mentoring relationships. This will be a good time to ask questions regarding your new role. If you are a new Councilor or an Alternate Councilor, please mark your calendars for this event and plan to attend.

More details regarding the orientation program will be posted to the Councilor Group on the ACS Network at: https://communities.acs.org/groups/councilor-group

ATTENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRS
BOARD, COUNCIL, and CPC AGENDA PREPARATION
SAN FRANCISCO, California NATIONAL MEETING, April 2-4, 2017

December 14, 2016
Deadline for receipt of petitions to amend Society’s Constitution and/or Bylaws.

December 16, 2016
Deadline for receipt in Secretary's Office of Society, Council Standing, and Other (including joint Board-Council) Committee agendas for publication in the Preliminary Program of C&EN.

February 1, 2017
Deadline for receipt in Secretary's Office of committee reports and all other material for inclusion in the Council Agenda.

February 8, 2017
Deadline for receipt in Secretary's Office of material for inclusion in the Council Policy Committee Agenda.

February 22, 2017
Mail Council Agenda.

February 24, 2017
Deadline for receipt in Secretary’s Office of committee reports, agenda items, for inclusion in the Board (open and executive session) agendas.

March 1, 2017
Mail Council Policy Committee Agenda.

March 6, 2017
Deadline for receipt of material to place in the Board agenda or mailing.

March 10, 2017
Mail Board (open and executive sessions) and other committee agendas. (Please note this is 3 weeks prior to the Open Board meeting.)

March 13-24, 2017
HOLD for Board Virtual committee mtgs (dates to be determined by the Board).

March 27, 2017
Deadline for receipt in Secretary's Office of requests for Legal Counsel at committee meetings.

April 19, 2017
Deadline for receipt in Secretary’s Office of short reports of Board and Council Committees.
ACS has hired a new manager for Diversity Programs, Benjamin Fiore-Walker. The Committee on Minority Affairs (CMA) welcomed him as its staff liaison on October 17. Dr. Fiore-Walker is a certified Diversity and Inclusion professional with more than 20 years of experience as a diversity subject matter expert and strategic planner. He has a long and accomplished career. Originally from Philadelphia, he received a Ph.D. in neuroscience (psychobiology) from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville and then had a post-doctoral fellowship at Georgetown University. Before coming to ACS, he served as a senior managing director for diversity and inclusion at Teach for America (TFA), based in Washington, D.C. He reported to the Chief Diversity Officer and was responsible for devising and quantifying diversity metrics for TFA for the development of initiatives to diversify staff and corps member populations. Prior to TFA, he spent 19 years at the Georgetown University School of Medicine where he was the Associate Dean for Diversity & Inclusion.

As manager for Diversity Programs at ACS, Dr. Fiore-Walker has a broad mandate, which includes developing strategies to build out relationships and initiatives from across the society in order to help ACS live its core value of diversity and inclusion. As staff liaison for CMA, Dr. Fiore-Walker will be guiding the committee in a revision of ACS’s diversity and inclusion statement to be reviewed by the ACS Board of Directors in the spring.

“I am very honored and excited to be here at ACS, and I look forward to working with the staff and the CMA on advancing diversity and inclusion at ACS,” said Dr. Fiore-Walker.
Mentoring Program for ACS Leaders — Help New Councilors Get Connected

To enable an enjoyable, effective, and efficient experience for all those elected to Council, the Council Policy Committee established a mentoring program to bring together new Councilors and those from whom they can learn and be inspired. Councilors, regardless of their section’s or division’s size, need access to experienced colleagues like you, to help them effectively navigate and integrate into ACS governance. Many divisions and local sections have systems in place to provide this access. However, for those newly elected Councilors who do not have such access, the new mentoring program could play an important role in making their service to ACS more rewarding.

We ask you to share your experience as an ACS Councilor by helping your newly-elected colleagues as a mentor. Please consider becoming a part of this program and volunteer to mentor at least one new Councilor during 2017. If you are interested in participating, please email secretary@acs.org.

Your colleagues look forward to building these relationships with you and benefiting from your experience. Many thanks to the Councilors who have volunteered to become mentors and have contributed to the success of this program.

Bulletin 5 Updated as of October 1

The Committee on Constitution and Bylaws (C&B) is happy to announce that the ACS Governing Documents (Bulletin 5) have been updated as of October 1, 2016, and are available only online: www.acs.org/bulletin5. You can search for terms (Control-f keys) or copy and paste into a Word document only those sections that you need. The Table of Contents is hyperlinked or you can use the bookmarks. There are several ways to access this information from the main ACS webpage (www.acs.org): click on About ACS, then Governance, then Bylaws & Petitions (left column). We suggest that you save the PDF on your computer for easy access.

NEW and improved options to update your bylaws

C&B, the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws, has made it easier than ever for Divisions and Local Sections to update their bylaws; these options will be available in Q1 2017 for International Chapters. In keeping with ACS’s aim to streamline and simplify its processes and procedures, C&B has created three options for your convenience: 1) use the bylaws Template, which can be overwhelming with all the options; 2) respond to the questions document, which gives default answers; or 3) use the MODEL BYLAWS, which is the template, populated with the default answers from the questions document, although you still can amend optional text as permitted.

The good news is that C&B has completed its successful pilot project and so all these options are now expedited, unless the Local Section or Division makes extensive changes. Explanations about these options are available at www.acs.org/bulletin5 or you can get to the options from the main ACS webpage (www.acs.org): click on About Us, then Governance. Under Unit BYLAWS, click on Options to amend your bylaws. If your current bylaws include any provisions that you would like to include in the new bylaws, let us know and we will check if the current provisions are still in accordance with the ACS Governing Documents. Please contact C&B at bylaws@acs.org if you have any questions or if you’d like us to walk you through the process.
Divisional Activities Committee Update: 2016
Rodney Bennett, Chair

There are a number of matters on which I would like to report. We have had a busy and productive year, and DAC is looking forward to serving our divisions even more actively in 2017. Except regarding the final item in this newsletter, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me (rodbennettdac@gmail.com) or John Katz (jkatz@acs.org).

DAC Updates Its Strategic Plan
A group of DAC members and others met in June to update the committee’s strategic plan. Key outcomes from the planning session appear below:

DAC’s vision: Empowering Technical Divisions to Successfully Advance the Chemical Enterprise.

DAC’s mission: To Provide Guidance, Support, and Resources to the Technical Divisions that Enable Them to Accomplish Their Goals.

The plan focuses on three primary goals that DAC plans to achieve by no later than 2020:

1. Enhance communications with and between divisions.
2. Increase and sustain the number of ACS members who belong to at least one division to 66% by 2020.
3. Enhance collaboration and networking between divisions.

Reviewing Two Requests for New Probationary Divisions
DAC is in the process of facilitating a request for the Division of Space Chemistry. All divisions have been contacted to obtain their views on this would-be probationary division, and DAC is now in the process of evaluating the responses we received. We plan to bring this to Council for action in San Francisco at the upcoming national meeting.

In addition, DAC has received a request to form a Materials Chemistry Division. Divisions will be contacted in February 2017 to obtain their views on this new division. Depending on feedback received, this proposal may be brought to Council for action at the Washington, D.C. national meeting.

New Allocation Formula
DAC has contacted divisions this fall to obtain feedback on whether to revise the formula it uses to allocate dues pool funds to the divisions. ACS bylaws require that Council review the allocation formula no less often than every three years, which means DAC will present a formula for Council action at the 2017 San Francisco National Meeting in April. Currently, DAC is reviewing the feedback we have received, and will be discussing over the next month or two whether to change the current formula, and if so, how to change it. The committee will be contacting divisions with our plans well before the San Francisco national meeting so you have time to review the formula in advance of the Council action.

Update on Programming at National Meetings
During the planning period for the last several National Meetings, there has been an increased demand for exemptions from the Even Programming Rules. In most cases the request was to eliminate Thursday afternoon programming but in some cases also to eliminate Thursday morning sessions. Initial discussions between a small group of DAC and M&E members led to a decision that it was time to review the programming rules.

This decision led to the formation of the Study Group on Programming at National Meetings (SGP). Members of SGP include Rodney Bennett (Chair, DAC), John Pochan (Chair, M&E), Kevin Edgar (Member, M&E), and Julie Smist (Member, DAC).

During the Philadelphia National Meeting, we held two Program Chair Town Hall Meetings. The meetings were held to obtain feedback from divisions on many issues, some of which appear below:

1. Possible elimination of Thursday programming.
2. Adjusting the national meeting planning timeline (e.g., extend or shorten the abstract submission period)?
3. Adjusting the timeline during which changes to the program can be made.
4. Increasing cross-divisional cooperation with regard to the technical program.

DAC and M&E are discussing this matter, and an interim report will be sent to divisions in April.

Preparing Your Chair to Successfully Lead Your Division
If your division hasn’t already made arrangements for a representative to attend the Division Track of the upcoming ACS Leadership Institute, please consider doing so. The 2017 version of this event, which will occur January 27-29 in Dallas, is intended to train division leaders who will be serving as chairs in 2018. However, if that person proves to be unavailable, we strongly encourage your division to send another person currently serving in a leadership position, or one likely to be.

The goal of the Division Track is to provide division chairs with the information and contacts they need to execute their leadership duties successfully and efficiently. Training will include presentations/discussions on higher-level strategy matters, as well as resources and suggestions for managing matters such as e-Rosters, FORMS, ChemLuminary nominations, Innovative Project Grants, annual division allocations, member recruitment and retention, and much more.

You will also have plenty of opportunities to interact and exchange ideas with other local section and division officers, ACS Governance, and staff. These contacts will likely benefit your division’s representative many times over during his/her tenure.

In addition to the Division Track, the Leadership Institute also includes distinct tracks for local section leaders, new committee chairs, and younger chemist leaders. This is why this event is so valuable in terms of networking -- you can meet peers and upcoming leaders from across the Society.

The registration deadline is Friday, January 6, 2017. For additional information, please contact Debbie Fillinich at d_fillinich@acs.org.

Best wishes from DAC to all for a healthy, happy and prosperous 2017!
A Fresh Approach to Laboratory Safety Education
Committee on Chemical Safety

The Committee on Chemical Safety (CCS) is pleased to release two documents that will be useful in building or strengthening chemical laboratory safety efforts.

- Guidelines for Chemical Laboratory Safety in Academic Institutions
- Guidelines from Chemical Laboratory Safety in Secondary Schools

To produce this guidance, the CCS formed and charged the Task Force for Safety Education Guidelines (TFSEG) to develop guidelines for laboratory safety education for secondary, undergraduate, and graduate education. The TFSEG team consisted of representatives from the following ACS committees, divisions, and boards: CCS, CHAS, CPT, SOCED, CHED, Ethics, CA, Graduate Education Advisory Board, Two-Year College Advisory Board, along with representation from the AACT and university and high school faculty.

The Safety Education Guidelines are organized much differently from most current chemical safety instructional materials. Rather than being organized around specific topics, e.g., flammables, corrosives, etc., they are organized around the concept of R.A.M.P.—an acronym for the Four Principles of Safety:

Recognize the hazard, Assess the risk of the hazard, Minimize the risk of the hazard, and Prepare for emergencies.

Thinking about chemical safety in this manner helps both the instructor and the student focus on the underlying chemical principles of a potential hazard and take appropriate actions to either avoid or minimize the risks from that hazard. This also helps build critical thinking and problem-solving skills by applying chemical theories and principles to actual laboratory activities and experiences. As a student’s chemical knowledge increases, more complex topics, such as reaction kinetics and thermodynamics, can be incorporated. This is safety education.

Another item just released by the CCS is the Hazard Assessment in Research Laboratories website, an extension of the document "Identifying and Evaluating Hazards in Research Laboratories". This website will continue to help build critical thinking and problem-solving skills and can be used in any research laboratory.

All three new resources are available at no cost from the ACS Committee on Chemical Safety. They may be accessed at the following links:

- Guidelines, documents: www.acs.org/safety
- Job Hazard Assessment Tool can be found at: www.acs.org/hazardassessment

To request hard copies of the Guidelines, please send a message to safety@acs.org

The Job Hazard Assessment Tool is only available as a download.

During the upcoming San Francisco National Meeting, the Committee on Chemical Safety will host a lunch for the academic community to discuss the new resources and committee’s involvement in strengthening academic safety culture. Please mark your calendars for Monday, April 3, 2017 from noon – 2 p.m.

Problem Solving

In a facilitated discussion, the Board discussed the ramifications of safety as a core value and how best to renew and strengthen our focus on this topic, extending to the Society as a whole. Although there is still a great deal to be worked out, it is very clear that there is still a great deal to be worked out, it is very clear that there is still a great deal to be worked out, it is very clear that there is still a great deal to be worked out, it is very clear that there is still a great deal to be worked out, it is very clear that there is still a great deal to be worked out, it is very clear that there is still a great deal to be worked out, it is very clear that

Science & the Congress Briefing:
Nanotechnology and Lightweighting
Dr. Diane Grob Schmidt - Immediate Past President, 2016 and Chair, Board Committee on Corporation Associates

On September 27, 2016, the ACS Science & the Congress Project (www.acs.org/scicon) hosted a briefing on Capitol Hill on methods of “lightweighting” in the aerospace and automotive sectors including materials methods such as nanotechnology. Panelists included Michael Meador of the National Nanotechnology Coordination Office, Travis Earles of the Lockheed Martin Corporation, Stefan Pastine of Connora Technologies (which he founded), and Sandra McCleland of Solvay Specialty Polymers; the briefing was moderated by ACS Immediate Past President Diane Grob Schmidt and current Board Committee on Corporation Associates Chair. After each panelist provided a brief presentation, a lively Q&A followed. The audience numbered 67 attendees with 51% being staffers from either Congressional or Executive branch offices. The briefing’s video is posted to: https://vimeo.com/album/4162320.

Lab Safety
Dr. Diane Grob Schmidt, Immediate Past-President

At its December Board meeting, the ACS Board of Directors took action on several items relating to safety. The Board approved a 2017 strategic plan that now includes safety as part of the core values for the Society. In addition, the Board devoted the largest time slot on its agenda to the strategies encompassing safety.

In a facilitated discussion, the Board discussed the ramifications of safety as a core value and how best to renew and strengthen our focus on this topic, extending to the Society as a whole. Although there is still a great deal to be worked out, it is very clear that

ACS Board looks forward to working with ACS entities to further address the potential and challenges of elevating this critical topic to an enhanced level of importance. The ACS Strategic Plan for 2017 and Beyond will be posted at http://strategy.acs.org/


Do you have something to say?

Share it with Councilors and Committee members. The deadline for articles for the March 2017 issue of Councilor News/Committee Alerts is March 3, 2017. Send your contributions to r_wade@acs.org. Thanks!
PRESIDENTIAL SYMPOSIA AND EVENTS

MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2017

8:30 AM - NOON
Science for a Sustainable Energy Future: Energy Storage
(Cosponsored by BIOL, BIOT, BMGT, CARB, CATL, CEI, CELL, COLL, ENFL, ENVK, GEIC, I&EC, MEDI, ORGN PROF & SCHB, the Chemical Sciences Roundtable [CSR], and the Society for Science at User Research Facilities [SSURF])

9:00 AM - 6:00 PM
LGBT Graduate and Postdoctoral Student Chemistry Research Symposium
(Sponsored by PROF and Cosponsored by PRES, ANYL, BIOL, CHED, CMA, COLL, COMP, CWD, ENVK, INOR, MEDI, MPPS, ORCN, PHYS, PMSE, POLY & WCC)

1:30 PM - 4:30 PM
Science for a Sustainable Energy Future: Chemical & Biological Approaches to Energy Conversion
(Cosponsored by BIOL, BIOT, BMGT, CARB, CATL, CEI, CELL, COLL, ENFL, ENVK, GEIC, I&EC, MEDI, ORGN PROF & SCHB, the Chemical Sciences Roundtable [CSR], and the Society for Science at User Research Facilities [SSURF])

SYMPOSIA RECOMMENDED BY THE ACS PRESIDENT

SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2017

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Presidential Outreach Event
Cosponsored by CCA

SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2017

9:00 AM - 5:40 PM
LGBT Graduate and Postdoctoral Student Chemistry Research Symposium
(Sponsored by PROF and Cosponsored by PRES, ANYL, BIOL, CHED, CMA, COLL, COMP, CWD, ENVK, INOR, MEDI, MPPS, ORCN, PHYS, PMSE, POLY & WCC)

1:20 PM - 4:00 PM
Holy Grails in Chemistry: Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Accounts of Chemical Research Journal
(Cosponsored by BIOL, BMGT, CARB, CATL, COLL, ENFL, HIST, I&EC, MEDI, ORGN & PROF)

Best Practices in Selecting & Presenting Safety Training Content
(Sponsored by CHAS and Cosponsored by PRES & CCS)

Celebrating 90 years of the WCC: Reflections of Past Chairs
(Sponsored by WCC and Cosponsored by PRES & PROF)

Chemical Forensics: International Technical Working Group
(Sponsored by ANYL and Cosponsored by PRES & CHAL)

Communicating Science in the Twenty-First Century to Diversified Audiences
(Sponsored by CHED and Cosponsored by PRES & CWD)

Current Best Practices for Chemistry REU Programs
(Sponsored by CHED and Cosponsored by PRES)

Excellence in Graduate Polymer Research
(Sponsored by POLY and Cosponsored by PRES, PROF, SDCEIC & YCC)

GSSPC: Water Sustainability: Chemists in Pursuit of Clean Water
(Sponsored by CHED and Cosponsored by PRES & CEI)

PHYS Division Awards Symposium:
Symposium in Honor of Barbara Finlayson-Pitts, Recipient of the Francis P. Garvan - John M. Olin Medal
(Sponsored by PHYS and Cosponsored by PRES)

Rising Star Award Symposium
(Sponsored by WCC and Cosponsored by PRES & BIOL)

Teaching, Researching and Community Building in the Global Chemical Enterprise
(Sponsored by AC and Cosponsored by PRES, BMGT, ENVK, I&EC & PROF)

What Have We Learned & Where Are We Going: Post-Settlement in the University of California
(Sponsored by CHAS and Cosponsored by PRES & CCS)
ACS COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, August 23, 2017
8:30 AM - 12 Noon
ACS Fall National Meeting
Washington, DC

GET INVOLVED!
ACS Committee Preference Submission
DUE June 2017

ACS COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, April 5, 2017
8:00 AM - 12 Noon
ACS Spring National Meeting
San Francisco, CA

ACS NEW COUNCILOR ORIENTATION
Saturday, April 1, 2017
3:30 - 6:00 PM
ACS Spring National Meeting
San Francisco, CA

ACS NEW COUNCILOR WEBINAR
Thursday, February 2, 2017
3:00 - 4:00 PM
National Meeting Planning

TOWN HALL MEETING – Sunday, April 2 from 4:30-5:30
ACS Caucus Meetings for Councilors
Sunday, April 2 @ 6:00 PM - District I, II - District III - District IV - District V - District VI
Tuesday, April 4 @ 4:00 PM - Divisional Officers / Councilors