

**Donna J. Nelson**  
**President-Elect**  
**Council Oral Report**  
**March 25, 2015**

Today, I'm supposed to report to you on the activities that I've done so far, and today is my 84<sup>th</sup> day as President-Elect!

But I do have activities that I can report to you. They'll fall in two categories. One is the work that I did based on the surveys that I did while I was running for President-Elect, and the second is my establishment of a task force on the jobs for chemists.

So, first, you'll remember that while I was running for President, I sent out e-mails to the entire ACS membership four times. And each time I asked for your ideas, comments, criticisms, etcetera, and I got about 1,500 responses. I was really thrilled with those. I wasn't able to answer them all but I did read every single one of them and I categorized them into groups. And it helped me to really characterize the problems and to know exactly what our membership is thinking.

So, I was happy that I sent these to all of the members and not just a sample. However, I have to say that one e-mail in particular did surprise me. This was sent to me on December 1<sup>st</sup> and the person said, well, November 17<sup>th</sup>, it was announced that you won the election and I'd like to know what you've done about jobs so far? So, I've realized that this issue of jobs is really urgent.

Here are the topics that were identified by members, not all of them but the vast majority of concerns fell into these. And among these five, by far the greatest concern was about jobs. And so, the mismatch between the numbers of jobs versus job seekers, and I received a lot of e-mails about those. And so, it turns out that this area, it really is complex. I can completely understand why so many people have worked on it for so long and not have solved this problem, and it's probably going to take quite a while to solve this problem.

But here are just some of the areas of concern inside the jobs issue. And so, what I've done is I've assembled a task force. Here are the 11 people so far, it will probably stay at 11 but there might be room for one or two more people. If any of you are extremely concerned and feel like you just have to belong to this task force, let me know. So, these are the 11 people, and we are going to collect information. I've already been collecting a lot of information. I've talked to a lot of members, talked to people who have been working on this problem already, talked to the committees in Congress, et cetera, and I'm going to do a lot more talking to people. And we are going to simply see where all this goes and then try to actually get something done.

But you know, I won't be able to do this I think without your help. And so, I appeal to you once again to please continue to send me your ideas, concerns, thoughts, et cetera. I would really appreciate receiving these.

Madame President, that concludes my report.

American Chemical Society



# 2015 ACS President-Elect Report

Dr. Donna J. Nelson  
President-Elect  
American Chemical Society  
March 25, 2015

## Methodology

The most critical issue facing chemistry is the mismatch between jobs and job seekers.

During the election I surveyed the entire membership for opinions and ideas.

I emailed all ACS members 4 times, which produced about 1500 responses containing suggestions and comments.

Grouping these suggestions and comments by topic characterized the problems well, enabling some to be solved easily.

## Issues Identified by ACS Members

Mismatch between numbers of jobs vs job seekers

Many overseas members felt isolated

Co-sponsor another organization's meeting nominally

Update ACS safety video

ACS journal access cost

## Some Contributors to Jobs Problem (task force starting point)

- A. Scientists / jobs imbalance
- B. Demographic concerns
- C. Public attitudes toward science
- D. STEM salaries, funding, & conditions
- E. STEM disciplines differ in jobs problems

# Jobs and Careers Task Force Members



Susan Butts  
Debbie Crans  
Peter Dorhout  
Brian Engel  
Rick Ewing

Paul Jagodzinski  
Wayne Jones  
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# Feel free to contact me -



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Ideas, concerns, thoughts,  
comments, requests, proposals,  
complaints, etc.