

## **Board Chair report**

Mr. President-Elect and Fellow Councilors,

Good morning or afternoon or perhaps evening, depending on where you might be! I will depart from my usual review of all significant Board actions taken during our Executive Session, because we have only completed the first half of the session, the second half being scheduled for this coming Friday.

Most of our focus during the completed session half was on reports and requests from the officers or from our committees. CEO Tom Connelly reviewed for the Board the efforts targeting the ACS Core Values of Safety and Diversity, Inclusion, and Respect. I will leave the salient details of that report to him, but I will note that the efforts taken thus far to ensure the safety of our staff during the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing efforts to address and combat bias, racism, harassment, and microaggression within staff at all levels and at all sites were particularly well received. In the second half of our session, the Board will be devoting considerable time to a strategic issues discussion concerning Diversity, Inclusion, and Respect, focusing on the urgency of “moving the needle” within ACS and the broader chemistry enterprise.

In response to recommendations from the Committee on Professional and Member Relations, the Board approved the ACS nominees for several awards presented by other groups and an adjustment in the selection criteria for the three ACS awards for which the Board serves as the selection committee. The Board also approved revisions to the Code of Conduct Confirmation statement which ACS award nominators see.

The Board was then briefed by the Governing Board for Publishing on the current status and future plans of the ACS Publications Division and CAS, both of which have held up remarkably well given the economic challenges presented by the ongoing pandemic and open access publishing mandates going forward within the European Community. We also received an update from the Committee on Executive Compensation that addressed the results of a recently commissioned salary benchmarking study. The Board continues to monitor executive compensation to ensure that ACS can attract and retain leadership talent across all areas of the Society.

Mr. President-Elect, this concludes my report.

John E. Adams, Chair of the Board