

**John E. Adams**  
**Chair, Board of Directors**  
**Oral Report to Council**  
**March 21, 2018**

Mr. President and Fellow Councilors, good morning!

I am pleased to report on the activities of the ACS Board of Directors at this meeting.

On Sunday, March 18, the Board met in an open session that featured oral reports of officers as well as a much-appreciated presentation on “nontraditional” chemistry employment by Dr. Lisa Balbes and inspiring testimonials by ACS Scholars and Project SEED alumni Brandon Presley and Isa Watson.

The Board met in Executive Session on March 16 and 17, at which time it considered the following key strategic issues and responded with several actions.

The Board was briefed at length by the Executive Director and CEO on issues relating to the Safety and Professionalism core values of the Society as well on Membership, ACS financial performance, Operational Excellence, and upcoming events and activities. He also led a discussion on the strategic direction of the Science History Institute (formerly the Chemical Heritage Foundation) and its ramifications for ACS. His direct reports then engaged in discussions with the Board on the activities, opportunities and challenges of the Education Division, Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS), and the ACS Publications Division.

The Board was updated on the history of the Leadership Advisory Board and the ACS Leadership Program and was presented with key observations and strategic questions regarding the direction of the program in light of future Society and member needs.

The Board also was updated regarding the future state of the Board Committee on Corporation Associates in the context of the landscape for chemical corporations and professional societies.

The co-chair of the Task Force on Governance Design commented briefly on a written interim report of the task force and previewed the planned presentation to the Councilor caucuses focusing on streamlining the Society’s governing documents.

Other actions taken by the Board at this meeting include the following.

After an extensive briefing and subsequent discussions, the Board approved several recommendations from its Committee on Executive Compensation. The compensation of the Society’s executive staff continues to receive regular review from the Board.

On the recommendation of the Joint Board-Council Committee on Publications, the Board voted to approve the reappointments of Editors-in-Chief for several ACS journals. Those appointments will be announced in C&EN once the appointed individuals have been notified and arrangements for their continued service have been made.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Professional and Member Relations, the Board approved a Society nominee for the 2019 King Faisal International Prize for Science, as well as screened lists of nominees for the 2019 Priestley Medal and the ACS Award for Volunteer

Service. The Board will select the recipients of these latter two awards from the screened lists provided.

Finally, the Board approved a resolution recognizing and applauding the United Nations for proclaiming 2019 as the International Year of the Periodic Table, and pledged that the Society will do its utmost to recognize and participate in events celebrating this important scientific milestone and achievement.

Mr. President, this concludes my report.