

John E. Adams
Chair, Board of Directors
Oral Report to Council
April 3, 2019

Fellow Councilors, good morning!

The ACS Board of Directors met in Executive Session on March 29 and 30 to consider a variety of issues, some of which routinely come to the Board at the Spring National Meeting and others which reflect unique initiatives or the changing environment within which ACS operates.

Among the actions taken in response to the former items were the approval of several recommendations from the Committee on Executive Compensation regarding compensation of the Society's executive staff, approval of reappointments of Editors-in-Chief for several ACS journals as recommended by the Joint Board-Council Committee on Publications, and approval of screened lists of nominees for the 2020 Priestley Medal and the ACS Award for Volunteer Service as recommended by the Committee on Professional and Member Relations.

As I noted in my written report appearing in the Council agenda, the tenth anniversary of the ACS Leadership Development System seems an appropriate time for reassessing the leadership development needs of our members, their employers, and the Society and asking whether a refreshing or expansion of our overall leadership program is warranted if we are to address the needs of the chemistry professionals of 2030 and beyond. The Next Generation ACS Leadership Program Task Force, which was appointed to examine these issues, updated the Board on its progress to date and summarized future activities. The Task Force is expected to have a framework for professional development that is reflective of the ACS core values ready for preliminary discussion at the Regular Session of the Board in San Diego, during which member input and reactions to the framework will be invited. Please join us in that discussion.

The Board is all too aware of the challenges to the ACS Information Services units, CAS and the ACS Publications Division, stemming from the rapid evolution of the publishing and information aggregation environment within which these units operate. Uncertainties centered around open access mandates, apparently designed to restrain large commercial publishers but discounting collateral damage to the sustainability of nonprofit professional society publishers, continue to demand the attention of the Board. We were briefed on the current status of these challenges at this meeting, and we will devote most of a Board retreat in June to the topic.

Since our last meeting, I also have commissioned a second task force, one which will address the formats of and support for ACS meetings of the future. I am urging this task force, consisting of representatives of the Board and a broad range of Council committees, to step back and take a fresh look at meetings and then to define a structure that will address the needs of our members as together we move into the third decade of the millennium. Expect that the future of meetings will be a topic on which your input will be actively sought in various venues in 2019 and 2020.

Finally, my colleagues and I thank Dr. Susan Butts for the review of the data regarding STEM workforce immigration and its effect on the US economy that she presented during the Open Session of the Board on March 31. Her dispassionate, data-driven approach was a refreshing change from the impassioned polemics that all too often pervade the discourse on this issue.

Madam President, this concludes my report.