

# American Chemical Society

## 260th ACS National Meeting Virtual

### August 17-20, 2020

#### **Councilor Talking Points: Summary of Governance Issues and Actions**

The following summary is provided to help Councilors report to their Local Sections and Divisions on key actions of the ACS Council meeting held virtually August 19, 2020, and the Board of Directors meetings held virtually August 13 and 21, 2020.

The Council meeting was held virtually due to the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic that continues to affect our personal lives and our work. Councilors were urged to take into account their own actions and habits to make their own communities safer.

Councilors were advised to use their positions as members of the scientific enterprise to spread helpful messages and encourage the safe practice of mask wearing, physical distancing, and limiting exposure within your communities.

The continuous and ongoing struggle in this country to create a safe and equitable society for all was brought to Council's attention. The ACS encourages inclusivity and opposes discrimination in scientific learning and practice. Councilors were urged to take active roles in dismantling any barriers that may deter or impede their colleagues in their research or careers. Councilors and guests were encouraged to review the ACS statements on diversity and reflect on how to implement these in their local sections and divisions.

#### **Actions of the Council**

#### **Election Results: Elected Committees of Council**

- By electronic ballot, the Council elected Elizabeth M. Howson, Zaida C. Morales-Martinez, Margaret J. Schooler, and Jeanette M. Van Emon for three-year terms (2021-2023), and Mark D. Frishberg for a one-year term (2021) on the Council Policy Committee (CPC).

Gary D. Anderson	97
*Elizabeth M. Howson	244
Brian B. Brady	146
James M. Landis	158
Mitchell R.M. Bruce	170
*Zaida C. Morales-Martinez	278
James C. Carver	148
*Margaret J. Schooler	237
*Mark D. Frishberg	171
*Jeanette M. Van Emon	201

- By electronic ballot, the Council elected Martha G. Hollomon, Diane Krone, Sarah M. Mullins, Andrea B. Twiss-Brooks, and Javier Vela for three-year terms (2021-2023) on the Committee on Committees (ConC).

Catherine E. Costello	149
Michael D. Mosher	170
Debbie M. Decker	76
*Sarah M. Mullins	227
Harry J. Elston	125
Susan J. Olesik	180
*Martha G. Hollomon	226
*Andrea B. Twiss-Brooks	203
*Diane Krone	213
*Javier Vela	208

- By electronic ballot, the Council elected Jetty L. Duffy-Matzner, Kevin J. Edgar, Neil D. Jespersen, Julianne M. D. Smist, and Linette M. Watkins for three-year terms (2021-2023) on the Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E).

Thomas R. Beattie	131
Michael J. Kenney	110
Mark A. Benvenuto	153
R. Daniel Libby	144
*Jetty L. Duffy-Matzner	252
Robert A. Pribush	144
*Kevin J. Edgar	162
*Julianne M. D. Smist	239
*Neil D. Jespersen	195
*Linette M. Watkins	294

## Other Council Actions

### Key Actions:

- On the recommendation of the Committee on Committees, and with the concurrence of the Council Policy Committee, Council approved the Petition to Clarify Amendments to the Standing Rules and disbanded the Joint Board-Council Committee on Chemical Abstracts Service, contingent on approval by the Board of Directors.

### Establishment of an International Chemical Sciences Chapter

- On the recommendation of the Committee on International Activities, and with the concurrence of the Council Policy Committee, Council approved the creation of an ACS International Chemical Sciences Chapter in the Israel, contingent on approval by the Board of Directors.

## Resolutions:

The Council passed resolutions:

- In memory of deceased Councilors;
- Acknowledging Luis Echegoyen's service as ACS President.

## Highlights from Committee Reports

### Nominations and Elections:

The Committee on Nominations and Elections solicits Councilors' input of qualified individuals for President-Elect, Directors, and the three Elected Committees for future consideration. Suggestions can be sent to [nomelect@acs.org](mailto:nomelect@acs.org).

Ballots for the 2020 fall national election will be distributed starting on September 28th, with a voting deadline four weeks later on October 23rd. ACS members eligible to vote and with an email address on file will receive an electronic ballot with the option to request a paper ballot. Those members with no email address on file will be sent a paper ballot with the option to vote electronically. The ACS election vendor, Survey & Ballot Systems, will send three email reminders during the voting period to those who have not voted as of the reminder dates. N&E encouraged all ACS members to vote for President-Elect. Election information may be viewed at [acs.org/elections](http://acs.org/elections).

### Budget and Finance

The Society's 2020 financial performance through July 31st yielded a Net from Operations of \$55.7 million, or \$25 million greater than the same period in 2019. Total revenues are \$354 million, 5% ahead of last year, and total expenses are \$298 million, or 3 percent below last year. Unrestricted Net Assets increased to \$466 million.

The committee approved one program reauthorization request and one new pilot program request for consideration by the Board of Directors.

The most direct revenue impact to the Society related to the COVID pandemic has been to meeting- related revenues with the termination of the in-person Spring National Meeting and termination of the in-person Green Chemistry Conference. Significant effort has been devoted to expense management. The Society expects to meet its budgeted net contribution of \$41.3M.

### Fall 2020 Virtual Meeting Attendance

The theme of the 260th ACS National Meeting was "Moving Chemistry from Bench to Market." As of August 19th, registration for the Meeting, broken down by Category was:

Member	3,494
Student Member	1,638
Unemployed Member	25
Non-Member	945

Student Non-Member	375
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,477</b>

### **Virtual Presentation Uploads**

All Inclusive (SciMtgs)	1,735
Virtual Platform Only	1,655
Temporary Access Option	640
Presentation Uploads	4,067

### **Petitions to Amend the Constitution and Bylaws**

New petitions to amend the Constitution or Bylaws must be received by the Chief Executive Officer no later than December 2, 2020 to be included in the Council agenda for consideration at the spring 2021 meeting in San Antonio. Contact the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws with any questions or requests for information at [bylaws@acs.org](mailto:bylaws@acs.org)

### **Actions of the Board of Directors**

#### **The Board's Executive Session**

The ACS Board of Directors met in Executive Session on August 13 and 21, 2002, and focused on a number of key strategic issues and took several related actions.

#### **The Board's Committees**

The Board received and discussed reports from its committees on Budget and Finance, Executive Compensation, Publications, Pensions and Investments, Professional and Member Relations, and its Governing Board for Publishing, which included the activities, opportunities, and challenges of the Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) and the ACS Publications Division.

- On the recommendation of the Committee on Professional and Member Relations, the Board voted to approve the Society's nominees for the 2021 National Science Board Public Service Award and the 2021 Perkin Medal. The Board also approved changes in the selection criteria for the Priestley Medal, the Charles Lathrop Parsons Award, and the Award for Volunteer Service to the ACS, as well as revisions to the National Awards Code of Conduct Confirmation statement.
- The Board approved an amendment to the Board Regulations on the duties of the Committee on Professional and Member Relations to include "monitoring, assessing, and facilitating the Society's progress on Diversity, Inclusion, and Respect."
- On recommendations of the Committee on Publications, the Board voted to approve the appointments and the reappointments of several editors-in-chief for ACS journals The

appointments will be announced in C&EN once the individuals have been notified and appropriate arrangements for their service have been made.

- The Board received a briefing and approved recommendations from its Committee on Executive Compensation stemming from a recent executive salary benchmarking study. The compensation of the Society's executive staff continues to be reviewed regularly by the Board.
- On the recommendation of the Committee on Budget and Finance, the Board voted to approve or reauthorize two program funding requests.

### **Chief Executive Officer's Report**

The Board received an extensive report from the CEO on issues relating to Safety and Diversity, Inclusion, and Respect as core values of the Society, as well as on the continued response of the Society to the COVID-19 pandemic, ACS membership, ACS financial performance, and upcoming events and activities.

### **Other Society Business**

- The Board heard reports from the three members of the Presidential Succession on their current activities, as well as those planned for 2020-21, particularly the presidential symposia and endorsed symposia for Fall 2020 Virtual National Meeting.
- The Board held a strategic discussion on ways to turn the ACS Core Value of Diversity, Inclusion, and Respect, one of the most important strategic issues facing the Society today, into a prioritized action plan for the coming years. The development of such a plan would be undertaken in collaboration with the Advisory Board on Diversity, Inclusion and Respect and would promote the coordination of committee activities so as to emphasize the urgency of "moving the needle" both within ACS and in the broader chemistry enterprise.
- The Board received an update on the development of a re-envisioned Professional and Leadership Development Portfolio. The portfolio will position ACS to cultivate strategic partnerships with colleges and universities, corporations, and government agencies. There will be a continued focus on members/potential members as well, one adhering to the goal of developing Highly Effective Professionals, which is the center point of the project framework developed by the NextGen Task Force on Leadership Development in December 2019.
- The Board received an initial debrief, led by the Chief Executive Officer, of the first-ever virtual ACS National Meeting and Exposition. There will be a complete review and assessment of the event from multiple perspectives in the weeks to come.
- The debrief noted above provided a lead-in to and context for a status update from the Task Force on the Future of Meetings. This task force has been charged with performing a "deep dive" on the current portfolio of ACS meetings and conferences, identifying current offerings, evaluating governance and staff support structures,

- revenue streams, financial targets, and business models, and recommending actions that will ensure the sustainability and future relevance of that portfolio.
- The Board offered a resolution in memory of Nina I. McClelland, a member of the ACS Board of Directors (1996-2004) who also served as its Chair (2001-2003).

### **Board Approval of Council Action**

- The Board of Directors voted to confirm the amendments to Bylaw XI, per the Petition to Clarify Amendments to the Standing Rules approved by Council on August 19.
- The Board of Directors voted to confirm the disbanding of the Joint Board-Council Committee on Chemical Abstracts Service in accordance with Council action on August 19.
- The Board of Directors voted to authorize the formation of the Israel International Chemical Sciences Chapter in accordance with Council action on August 19.

### **SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FOR COUNCILORS**

The following is a list of URLs and email addresses for supplemental information presented in reports at the Council meeting.

#### **Council reports**

Reports of all Officers and Committee Chairs of the Fall 2020 Virtual Council <https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/about/governance/councilors/committee-reports-to-council-at-national-meetings.html>

#### **Officers**

Luis Echegoyen, President [l.echegoyen@acs.org](mailto:l.echegoyen@acs.org)

H.N. Cheng, President-Elect [h.cheng@acs.org](mailto:h.cheng@acs.org)

Bonnie A. Charpentier, Immediate-Past-President [b.charpentier@acs.org](mailto:b.charpentier@acs.org)

#### **ACS Offices**

Office of Secretary & General Counsel

[secretary@acs.org](mailto:secretary@acs.org)