



Councilors' Report from 242nd ACS National Meeting

Denver, Colorado August 31, 2011

Lucy Eubanks and George Heard, Councilors

Council met at 8:00am in the Centennial Ballroom A-E on the second floor of the Hyatt Regency Convention Center Hotel. The meeting room was clearly chosen because of its lack of proximity to bathrooms. Your intrepid Councilors were comfortably seated in the center, three rows from the front.

A resolution was read honoring deceased Councilors, and the minutes of the Anaheim Council were approved.

Elections

The first order of business was to conduct some elections. Slates of nominees had been presented to Council, and your councilors had conferred to narrow them further. The following were elected to three-year terms on the appropriate committees

Committee on Committees (CoC):

- Rigoberto Hernandez (Georgia Section)
- Helen (Bonnie) A. Lawlor (Division of Chemical Information)
- Zaida C. Morales-Martinez (South Florida Section)
- Howard M. Peters (Santa Clara Valley Section)
- Sara J. Risch (Division of Agricultural and Food Chemistry)

Council Policy Committee (CPC)

- Lawrence Barton (St. Louis Section)
- Peter C. Jurs (Division of Computers in Chemistry)
- Mamie W. Moy (Greater Houston)
- Eleanor D. Siebert (Southern California Section)

Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E)

- William H. (Jack) Breazeale, Jr. (South Carolina Section)
- Catherine C. Fenselau (Division of Analytical Chemistry)
- Lydia E. M. Hines (Kalamazoo Section)
- Anne T. O'Brien (New York Section)
- Andrea B. Twiss-Brooks (Chicago Section)

There are two upcoming elections of interest to members of the Western Carolinas Section. The first election, in which every ACS member will have the opportunity to vote, is for President-elect. An email asking if you prefer paper or electronic ballots will be sent before September 30, and the election period will be from September 30 – November 15, 2011.

- Dr. Dennis Chamot, Associate Executive Director, Division of Engineering and Physical Sciences, National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences, Washington, DC
- Dr. Marinda Li Wu, Founder and President, *Science is Fun!*, Orinda, CA

The second election is for two director-at-large positions. These will be elected by your Councilors, so if you have any opinions about the four candidates, please let us know.

- Dr. Ken B. Anderson, Professor of Geochemistry, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, IL and CEO, Thermaquatica Inc., Carbondale, IL
- Dr. William F. Carroll, Jr., Vice President, Industry Issues, Occidental Chemical Corporation, Dallas, TX
- Dr. Charles E. Kolb, President/CEO Aerodyne Research, Inc. Billerica, MA
- Dr. Barbara A. Sawrey, Associate Vice Chancellor, Undergraduate Education, University of California, San Diego, CA

Action taken by Council:

A petition was presented on position statements, essentially stating that the ACS Board of Directors has sole authority in issuing position statements that establish policy for the full Society. Society bodies other than the Board may issue statements on issues that fall solely in their jurisdiction so long as they do not impair other Society bodies' ability to do the same. The petition was passed almost unanimously and The Board of Directors will vote within 90 days on whether to ratify the approved petition.

There was a lively discussion on the petition to dissolve the Division of Petroleum Chemistry and merge this division with the Division of Fuel Chemistry to a new **Division of Energy and Fuels**. The discussion centered largely on the new name containing the term "Energy", rather than the proposed merger itself. Other Divisions, whose scope would encompass some part of the production of energy, made arguments that the proposed name of the new Division represented too broad of a scope. The vote was taken using the clicker system, and passed 53% - 47%.

Bylaws and full Division status were approved for the Division of Catalysis Science and Technology.

Two petitions were presented for consideration – one granting the Committee on Membership Affairs the ability to do market testing of Society memberships, benefits and services; and one to amend Council Procedures to only allow a recorded vote before any clicker votes have been taken.

Discussion Item

30 minutes was given over to discussing the ACS's role in promoting chemical safety in the undergraduate curriculum. Many suggestions were heard, from requiring courses, to partnering with industry, running safety audits of campuses and expanding the range of visual materials available to schools. Two things were apparent:

- There is a disconnect between safety practices in academia and safety practices in industry.
- There will need to be a change in the academic culture to improve safety.

President Nancy Jackson led this discussion and invites further comment at safety@acs.org

Useful information gathered from reports to Council

- Did you know that your membership gets you 25 free downloads a year from the pubs.acs.org website?
- If you were unable to attend the Denver meeting due to the weather, deferrals and refunds are available. As of September 1, 2011, there were 10,076 registrants.
- Next year is the 25th anniversary of the NSF-REU program, and there is a hunt on for successful NSF-REU scholars to share their stories in a video presentation in San Diego.
- A lot of discussion at this National Meeting was about the job market. ACS ran a virtual job fair in conjunction with the meeting Employment Expo. The report of a task force into job creation, “Innovation, Chemistry and Jobs”, was released at this meeting, and is available at <http://www.acs.org/creatingjobs>.
- For more details, all Council reports given at the Denver meeting will be available (after Sept 12) at www.acs.org/councilreports.

Resolutions were issued to thank Nancy Jackson for her work as ACS President, and to the Colorado Local Section for hosting the meeting.

Council was adjourned at 11:54 am. There was no coffee left.