

Report of Council Meeting Held on March 28, 2012 at the San Diego Marriott Marquis & Marina Hotel in San Diego, CA

The 243rd National Meeting of the ACS was held in San Diego, CA from March 25 – 29, 2012. The theme of this meeting was “Chemistry of Life”. The Chicago Section was fully represented by Cherlyn Bradley, Charles Cannon, David Crumrine, Herb Golinkin, Russell Johnson, Fran Kravitz, Milt Levenberg, Inessa Miller, Barbara Moriarty and Susan Shih.

Finances: The Committee on Budget and Finance reported that, in spite of the sluggish economy, ACS generated strong operating results in 2011. Total revenue was \$472.0 million, up +1.8% over 2010. The Net from Operations was \$20.9 million, or \$7.7 million favorable to budget. While operating results were favorable, Unrestricted Net Assets declined from \$130.5 million to \$102 million. The decline was primarily due to a sizable accounting charge related to the Society’s closed postretirement benefit plans. The Council voted to set dues for 2012 at the fully escalated rate of \$151 using a formula that accounts for inflation.

Governance: The Council selected Thomas J. Barton and Luis A. Echegoyen as candidates for 2013 President-Elect. These two candidates, along with any candidates from petitions, will stand for election in the Fall National Election.

In addition, the Council learned the results of the election to select candidates from the list of nominees to represent District V. Ballots will be mailed on or before October 10 to all members in District V for election of either John E. Adams or Peter K. Dorhout to represent District V on the Board of Directors for the term 2013-2015.

Meetings and Expositions: As of March 28, 2012, the ACS spring national meeting had attracted 16,921 registrants including 8,974 regular attendees and 5,742 students.

Membership: At the close of 2011, Society membership totaled 164,215 members – the highest number in Society history. The Society welcomed 24,249 new members, which included 16,092 Regular Members and 8,157 Undergraduate Members.

Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs: While the overall percentage of unemployed people in the US has gone down in recent months, the unemployment rate for chemists and material scientists has reached 4.6%. The committee continues to work towards meeting the changing employment needs of our members despite the highest unemployment rate for ACS members since 1970. The career fair at the meeting had 943 job seekers. As in Denver, a hybrid of the traditional career fair coupled with a virtual environment enabled participation regardless of geographic location. The number of virtual job seekers was 2673.

The Chemical Professional’s Code of Conduct, which offers guidance for Society members in various professional dealings, was approved.

Petitions: The Council approved two amendments (petitions) to the ACS Constitution and Bylaws. The Petition to Amend Recorded Vote Request Procedure provides that a call for a recorded vote after a clicker vote has commenced will be out of order, as would a call for a recorded vote after the initial clicker voting has taken place. The Petition on Market Data Collection seeks to add a provision to allow for controlled market testing to collect data before the Society changes benefits, dues, or membership categories.

The Council received two petitions for consideration: The Petition on Candidate Comment in C&EN and the Petition on International Chemical Sciences Chapters Funds.

If you have any questions and/or comments about the above actions, please contact me or one of your other councilors. You may contact me by email (bmoriarty@nalco.com).

Barbara Moriarty