

Councilor's Report

Tracy P. Hamilton

Alabama Section

The 253rd ACS National Meeting was held April 2-6, 2017. I arrived the early in order to attend the Local Sections Activities Committee (LSAC) executive committee meeting on Friday. Weather was gorgeous the whole time, minimal fog, and no rain until I departed. I used Uber for the first time at a meeting, found it very convenient.

I am now in my fifth year of being an official member of LSAC. I will term out of LSAC (6 years total as a member is the maximum allowed) when my current term as councilor ends. I am the chair of the subcommittee called Operations and Support (O&S). O&S discussed the sections which were unable to get their reports in by the Feb 15 deadline, and some other sections which have challenges. We were unable to review the effectiveness of the Getting Your Section Back On Track Workshop at the 2017 Leadership Institute because survey information was not back yet. The petition from South Jersey section to annex Ocean County (a county that had a local section which was dissolved) was approved and will be on the Fall 2017 council agenda. Finally.

Saturday evening I attended the Dutch Treat dinner for LSAC at Puccini and Pinetti. Sunday morning was LSAC subcommittee reports. Sunday evening I attended the District IV councilor caucus. I learned that the District IV director (Rigoberto Hernandez) is currently at Johns Hopkins, used to be at Georgia Tech.

I was unable to attend the open joint LSAC/CCA committee on Tuesday afternoon. My vice-chair Louise Lawter (Princeton section) made the presentation in my stead.

Results from Council Meeting on Wednesday: *(my comments in italics)*

Election Results

Candidates for President-Elect, 2018

- By electronic ballot, the Council selected **Bonnie A. Charpentier** and **Willie E. May** as **candidates for 2018 President-Elect**. These two candidates, along with any candidates selected via petitions, will stand for election in the Fall National Election.

President-Elect, 2018^a

Nominee	1 st Round	2 nd Round	3 rd Round
*Bonnie A. Charpentier	200	210	242
Mark D. Frishberg	73	80	-
Anne M. Gaffney	26	-	-
*Willie E. May	132	141	158

I actually thought all four candidates were good, but the winners were the two I voted for. Willie May was Secretary of Commerce, coming up from NIST.

Other Council Actions

Amendments to the ACS Bylaws

- A recommendation by the Council Policy Committee to approve the Petition for the Removal of Officers and Councilors (Bylaw III, Sec. 1, i; Bylaw VII, Sec. 1, c; Bylaw VIII, Sec. 4, d) failed.

This was a squeaker (sort of)! The procedures were voted on first (not a bylaw change) and barely passed 50-50. The Bylaw change required a 2/3 vote, which was also 50-50 (who could have guessed?), thereby mooting the procedure approval.

- The Council approved the Petition on the Rights of Affiliates (Bylaw II, Sec. 1, a, 2, a, 3, b, (3) and (4)).

Unanimous.

2018 Member Dues

- The Council voted on the recommendation of the Committee on Budget and Finance to set the member dues for 2018 at the fully escalated rate of \$171. This rate is established pursuant to an inflation-adjustment formula in the ACS Constitution and Bylaws.

In a rare move, rounding down from \$171.06 to \$171. Got the usual few nays.

Distribution Formula for Division Funding

- On the recommendation of the Committee on Divisional Activities, the Council approved a formula for allocating dues funds to divisions, effective with allocations for 2017 division performance.

Same formula as before. Don't fix what ain't broken.

Extension of Market Data Collection Test: International Chemical Sciences Chapters

- On the recommendation of the Committee on Membership Affairs, the Council voted to extend the provision of \$15 commissions to International Chemical Sciences Chapters which recruit new members.

Continuation of Committees

- The Council approved the recommendation of the Committee on Committees that the Committee on Project SEED be continued; and that the committees on Chemists with Disabilities, on Public Relations and Communications, and on Women Chemists be continued contingent on approval of the Board of Directors.

Change in Local Section Name

- On the recommendation of the Committee on Local Section Activities, the Council approved a petition from the Santa Clara Valley Local Section in California to change the name of the section to the Silicon Valley Local Section.

Unanimous.

Resolutions

- The Council passed resolutions in memory of deceased Councilors; in gratitude for the officers and members of the California and Santa Clara Local Sections, hosts for the 253rd National Meeting; the divisional program chairs, symposium organizers, and ACS staff, for the planning and execution of the meeting.

Special Discussion

The Council conducted a special discussion, “ACS Yesterday and Today: Paving the Way to Tomorrow,” to gather input for the Joint Board-CPC Task Force on Governance Design. Forty Councilors approached the floor microphones to share observations, comments, and suggestions to assist the task force in identifying opportunities and issues for governance improvement. The task force offered three questions to guide the discussion: What should the Society and its governance do differently to achieve its objects? If you could change one thing about ACS governance, what would it be? What should the task force leave “as is”? A poll conducted at the conclusion of the discussion revealed that 57% (222) of the Councilors disagreed that the current governance structure, processes and procedures are already optimal to achieving the objects of ACS in the 21st century, 16% (54) agreed, and 27% (104) needed more information. Three-hundred and six (84%) said they would be willing to provide additional input and feedback to the task force. They will be contacted by the task force in the coming weeks.

Highlights from Committee Reports

Budget and Finance

In 2016, ACS generated a Net from Operations of \$23.8 million, which was \$7.2 million higher than 2015. Total revenues were \$526.8 million, increasing 2.9% or \$15 million over 2015. Expenses ended the year at \$503 million, which was \$7.8 million or 1.6% higher than prior year. This was attributable to a continued emphasis on expense management across the organization. The Society’s financial position strengthened in 2016, with Unrestricted Net Assets, or reserves, increasing from \$163.3 million at December 31, 2015 to \$206.5 million at year-end 2016.

Additional information can be found at www.acs.org. At bottom, click ‘About ACS’, then ‘ACS Financial Information’. There you will find several years of the Society’s audited financial statements and IRS 990 filings.

Membership

As of December 31, 2016, the ACS membership was 156,129, which is 0.5% less than on the same date in 2015. The number of new members who joined in 2016 is 23,700. The Society's overall retention rate is 83.5%. The Committee on Membership Affairs also reported that the number of international members has increased to 27,388, exceeding the committee's target by 5%. Retention of graduate students increased by 2% to 76.2%.

San Francisco Meeting Attendance

As of Tuesday, April 4:

Attendees	9,797
Students	6,914
Exhibitors	1,198
Expo only	475
Guest	466
Total	18,850

Record attendance for San Francisco.

During the Council meeting Wayne Jones asked how many councilors served on committees. Almost everybody raised their hand.

Actions of the Board of Directors

The Board is developing a statement based on the Society's Core Value of diversity and inclusion in response to the repeal of the North Carolina law known as House Bill 2 ('bathroom bill') and similar proposed legislation in Texas, and is assembling a representative group of stakeholders to advise it on actions relating to the location of Society meetings.

This may endanger a SWRM meeting in San Antonio.

Board Resolution

The Board passed a resolution expressing appreciation to Denise L. Creech for her 27 years of service in the Membership and Scientific Advancement Division, which she led as director for nearly 14 years.

Well deserved. ACS will miss her.

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