

**Councilor's Report**  
**AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY – ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA**  
**MARCH 27-31, 2011**

. By electronic ballot, the Council selected Dennis Chamot and Marinda Li Wu as candidates for 2012 President-Elect. These two candidates, along with any candidates selected via petitions, will stand for election in the Fall National Election.

- The Council VOTED to amend the charter of the Committee on Technician Affairs to change the term “Chemical Technician” to “Applied **Chemical Technology Professional**”; some discussion centered on this all-inclusive terminology which is deemed applicable to all members of the American Chemical Society.
- In spite of the economic challenges faced in 2010, the Society’s operating performance held up remarkably well. Total revenue was \$463.7 million, up +0.8% from 2009, and \$2.4 million (+0.5%) higher than the 2010 budget. The Net from Operations was \$23.8 million, or \$11.9 million favorable to budget. This resulted largely from cost containment initiatives and lower-than-budgeted salaries and fringe benefits.
- The Council VOTED to set the **member dues for 2012** at the fully escalated rate of **\$148**. This rate is established pursuant to an inflation-adjustment formula in the ACS Constitution and Bylaws.
- The Council VOTED to change the name of the Northeast Oklahoma Section to the Northern Oklahoma Section. This name change is due to the recent merger of the North Central Oklahoma Section and its territories into the Northeast Oklahoma Section. The proposed name change more closely reflects the combined territories of the two Sections.
- The Chairman of the Committee on Local Section Activities reminded councilors of the following deadlines for grants from the Committee:
  - **Science Café Grants – Ongoing**
  - **Bridging the Gap: Student Member Grant – December 1**
  - **Bridging the Gap: IYC Grant – June 1**
  - **Innovative Project Grants – June 30**
  - **Joint LSAC/IAC International Interaction Grant – TBA**
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- International Year of Chemistry 2011 (IYC2011) was everywhere evident at the Meeting; we were reminded of the **Global Water Experiment** which is ongoing this year and is open to all around the world to collect data on water in their geographical area to submit to the central data collection website [ <http://water.chemistry2011.org> ] – our KACS teachers were informed of this at the beginning of March ; they were urged to have their students participate and include their data in this water experiment.

Continuing with the IYC2011 overarching theme of water, ACS is sponsoring Pennies for PUR Water by agreeing to partner with Proctor and Gamble’s Children’s Safe Drinking Water (CSDW) program to make a difference in the need for safe drinking water in locations around the world; there was a request made to councilors that they recommend to their **Local Sections to take up donations at various events** so that we can be active participants in this collaboration which aims to provide 1.5 million gallons of potable water – the cost of each packet is about 3.5 cents and each packet safely cleans 2.5 gallons of water. For information on CSDW visit <http://www.csdw.org/csdw/home.shtml>

Also to promote the IYC, members at the Meeting were invited to dance to a rap written and sung by students in the California Section – to see this clip you may go to <http://bit.ly/ChemDance> [ if anyone wants the lyrics, I have a copy; also, after seeing this clip at Council Meeting I was sorry to have declined the invitation to participate ☺]

- Membership recruitment efforts were exceptionally successful in 2010. The official membership number for 2011 stands at 163,111.
- The ACS Spring National meeting attracted 14,047 registrants: Regular attendees, 7,336; Students, 4,682; Exhibitors, 1,097; Exposition only, 599; and Guests, 333.
- The Council VOTED to authorize the formation of the following two new International Chemical Sciences Chapters: the Shanghai International Chemical Sciences Chapter and the Thailand International Chemical Sciences Chapter.

- Lydia E. M. Hines  
April 12, 2011

## ACTIONS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Executive Director/CEO and several of her direct reports updated the Board on the activities of CAS (Chemical Abstracts Service), the ACS Publications Division, and the Society's General Counsel. The General Counsel report included an update on the ACS vs. Leadscope litigation. ACS's appeal, which is supported by several prominent Ohio organizations and the Ohio Attorney General, has been accepted by the Ohio Supreme Court, and is under review by that body. As a follow-up to the Publications report, the Board VOTED to approve three editor reappointments to ACS journals.

The Board received a report from its Committee on Executive Compensation and VOTED to approve several actions relative to compensation for the Society's Executive staff. The compensation of the Society's Executive staff receives regular review from the Board.

The Board received a report from the President-Elect on plans and priorities during his presidential year. [\*\* I have requested this report from President-Elect Bassam Shakhshiri, but have not received it yet] The Board also reviewed and discussed the presidential succession budget - particularly in light of increasing international and domestic travel demands.

The American Chemical Society and the Federation of Asian Chemical Societies (a federation of 28 chemical societies of countries and territories in the Asia Pacific) agreed to a three-year collaboration alliance characterized by mutual benefits, impact, and commitment to cooperation in service to chemical scientists, engineers and professionals represented by the respective organizations. The signing of this memorandum of understanding took place during a special ceremony at the Board's regular session.

The Board also received reports from several international guests representing the following scientific societies: the Chemical Society for Canada, the Latin American Federation of Chemical Associations, the German Chemical Society, the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC), the Mexican Chemical Society, the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC), and the Federation of Asian Chemical Societies.

The Board received a thorough **report from the Presidential Task Force on Innovation in the Chemical Enterprise: New Technologies for the Society, New Jobs for Chemists**. They reached consensus in support of the next steps outlined by the task force. **The report** and recommendations appear **below**:

### **BUILDING A ROBUST WORKFORCE IN THE U.S.**

From the beginning of Joseph Francisco's presidential succession, he has focused on one overarching theme—ensuring that aspiring chemists and seasoned professionals in the U.S. have the skill sets, resources, and external environment to build and sustain a robust workforce in the U.S. Given the historic job losses in our enterprise in the past few years, he felt that this was by far his most important priority.

Last year at the ACS spring meeting, a Presidential symposium explored the skills needed by industry in a global environment and what universities could do to provide those skills. Also last year, President Francisco appointed two presidential task forces, both of which have now come to fruition. One task force completed its work late last year and developed the concept of an ACS international center, which would be the first place a U.S. chemist would come to learn about

international education, research, and employment opportunities abroad and a non U.S. chemist would come to learn about those same opportunities in the U.S.

The second task force was charged with ensuring that the U.S. remains the most innovative and entrepreneurial country in the world. This task force was headed by Harvard University professor and entrepreneur George Whitesides and comprised eminent members of the chemical enterprise from industry, academia, and government, all with experience in entrepreneurship. They outlined the current landscape of innovation in chemistry, broadly defined; defined barriers and opportunities for stimulating innovation; and recommended specific programs that ACS could implement to help chemists become innovators and entrepreneurs and thus create new, high-paying sustainable jobs in the U.S. and stem further job losses

The Task Force had many recommendations, which fall into four major categories.

First, the task force recommended that ACS should **develop a single organizational unit—a kind of “technological farmers’ market”—offering affordable (or free) help to entrepreneurs.** This unit is envisioned as supporting entrepreneurs by facilitating more affordable access to resources that should foster the creation of small companies from startups. Relevant resources might include information, management expertise, key services, and mentors. The unit could also support entrepreneurs in making introductions to much-needed capital and fostering partnerships with large companies. ACS staff and several ACS governance units are already exploring how this one-stop portal can be implemented.

Second, the task force recommended that ACS should **increase its advocacy of policies at the federal and state level to improve the business environment** for entrepreneurs and startup companies. The task force suggested that ACS should urge reforms within the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to assure more accurate patents and faster issuance. The USPTO has a backlog of 700,000 patents, and the slow pace of issuance is a deterrent to keeping the U.S. competitive. ACS needs to lobby for legislative reforms, but in addition, ACS has talented unemployed members who could be of assistance to patent examiners. ACS has written to the head of the USPTO and have already heard back that they are interested in exploring a number of ideas. The task force also outlined a number of financial policies that if enacted could encourage large companies to partner with small ones to promote entrepreneurship. These include preferential tax treatment for repatriated income invested in U.S.-based developers of technology and making the R&D tax credit more simplified, permanent, and transferable. And there was a host of other ideas.

The third recommendation urged ACS to **partner more vigorously with academic institutions and other relevant organizations to promote awareness of career pathways and educational opportunities** that involve or include entrepreneurship. The task force had several interesting suggestions that will be pursued by various staff and governance units.

And finally, the task force felt that ACS should **increase public awareness of the value of early-stage entrepreneurship** in the chemical enterprise with focused media coverage and information targeted to federal agencies that support chemistry. In addition, ACS should provide ways to recognize entrepreneurs publicly, to increase their visibility and enhance their opportunities for success.

The American Chemical Society is positioned to help stimulate entrepreneurial activities across the chemical enterprise to help spark the creativity and imagination of our country’s chemists and thereby create quality jobs in the U.S.