

# Meeting of the Committee on Technician Affairs and Division of Chemical Technicians Executive Boards

Philadelphia, PA  
Hilton Garden Inn, Salon A/B  
Sunday, 17 August 2008

## Minutes

**CTA representatives:** Michelle Blanken (Education Subcommittee Chair), John Barrett (Acting Advocacy and Public Relations Subcommittee Chair), John Engelman (Consultant), Kirk Hunter (Member), Mike Mautino (Chair), Gordon McCarty (Consultant), Mary Moore (Technician Subcommittee Chair)

**TECH representatives:** Debbie Bailey (Vice-Chair), Richard Cobb (Councilor), John Engelman (Alternate Councilor), Kristin Hayslip (Program Chair), Kirk Hunter (Past Chair), Mary Moore (Chair), Ann Sullivan (Secretary)

**Guests:** Barb Moriarty (Division Activities Committee liaison to TECH)

**Staff:** Kathleen Thompson (Department of Division Advancement), Jill Treby (Department for Division Advancement), Jodi Wesemann (interim staff liaison for CTA)

Mary Moore and Mike Mautino welcomed participants to the second joint meeting between the Executive Boards of CTA and TECH. The first joint meeting, held in conjunction with the Spring 2008 National Meeting in New Orleans and facilitated by Jon Hockman, fostered productive and candid discussion about the roles and activities of both groups.

The idea to hold the Applied Chemical Technology Professionals summit as a co-sponsored event was developed at the first joint meeting. Given the compressed time frame for planning, the summit was the primary item on the agenda for this joint meeting.

Planning for the summit has emphasized the need for communication among key leaders and staff across the Society. The Department of Division Advancement has played a major role and will continue to do so.

### *Identifying Needs and Barriers*

To help inform the summit discussions and foster "outside-the-box" thinking, information is being gathered from the industrial community. A cohesive and professional message was crafted to send with the following requests:

- Survey regarding needs and activities of individual applied chemical technology professionals, supervisors, and colleagues
- Questionnaire regarding activities of companies

At the end of September, Jeff Allum, Research Manager in the ACS Department of Member Research and Technology, will review the survey data, identifying key results to consider as the summit structure is being put in place.

Efforts will also be made to obtain statistics on age, gender, companies of technicians.

### **Action Items:**

Send survey results to Jeff Allum (Treby)

Send results from the TECH survey conducted as part of the strategic planning in Oct 2007 (Treby)

Get number of technicians involved in TECH (Mautino)

Get number of technicians involved in other divisions (Treby)

### ***Framing the Summit***

The summit agenda and outcomes were discussed. To be successful, the summit must help answer the question about what organizational structure within ACS will best meet the needs of applied chemical technology professionals in today's world. Much has changed since CTA and TECH were established. As the summit plans are framed and carried out, the challenges and opportunities must be honestly discussed. Both historical perspectives and fresh ideas must be considered.

The schedule for the summit spans Friday evening through Sunday morning. Various strategies for initiating the summit and fostering conversations were discussed. Mautino noted the importance of having down time for participants to reflect, based on the experiences during a similar meeting in 2000.

#### **Action item:**

Request recommendations from the facilitator regarding the schedule (Treby)

The summit is intended to clarify the path forward. How can ACS best address the needs of the applied chemical technology professionals and incorporate them into the Society?

Ultimately, the summit will lead to three things:

- 1) Action plan – to be developed by members of the community, once future directions are determined
- 2) Report – to be sent to committees and divisions that can help implement the plan
- 3) Proposal – to be sent to the Board, highlighting opportunities and recommendations for pursuing them

The information and ideas from the summit will be very rich, given the different perspectives of participants. Time will be needed to distill information, consider ideas, and prepare the action plan, report, and proposal.

Plans should be aligned with the ACS Strategic Plan, particularly goals 1 and 2. If proposed activities do not fit within the context of ACS priorities, they must be carefully considered.

Several hurdles will need to be overcome. Changing the status quo is not easy. ACS needs to know what is needed. Applied chemical technology professionals need to know that ACS exists and is a professional home for them. Operational structures may also need to be changed. Given the roles that they have played, it is difficult to envision ACS without TECH or CTA. If one or both of these groups is not needed, changes will need to be considered.

Whether or not organizational changes are recommended, it is important to set priorities and strategically pursue them. Two rounds of prioritization were incorporated into the Critical Issues and Effective Practices in Chemistry-Based Technology Education Conference held in 2004. Other organizations that have positioned themselves during times of transition, gaining visibility and resources, can serve as role models.

Opportunities to raise awareness about the summit were discussed. Although Mautino, as chair of CTA, could submit a C&EN comment prior to the summit, explaining the purpose of the summit and asking people to complete the survey and submit input, the group decided to consider other vehicles that are less formal, using a C&EN comment after the summit to share the recommendations and resulting plans.

**Action item:**

Prepare a C&EN comment following the summit (Mautino)

The next meeting of the planning group is scheduled for September 10. During that meeting, Moore and Treby will provide an update on the summit timeline. Treby will also report on who has accepted invitations to attend.

***Financing the Summit***

Treby announced that TECH received an Innovation Programming Grant for \$7500. TECH also received a \$500 mini-grant from the Equipping the 2015 Chemical Technology Workforce initiative. Corporate Associates is giving \$10,000. TECH has set aside an additional funds, if needed.

***Fostering Involvement with Divisions***

Given the value of presenting, TECH would like to see other divisions encourage presentations by applied chemical technology professionals.

**Action Item:**

Talk to program chairs about presentation opportunities at the Program Chair Planning Conference (P<sub>2</sub>C<sub>2</sub>) summit – Engelman, Hayslip, Moore

***Looking Forward***

TECH and CTA have a valuable opportunity to engage others in conversations about future directions. Given the challenge of finding people to fill offices for TECH, generating increased interest is critical.

**Action Item:**

Ask Blake Aronson to request a room for another joint CTA/TECH meeting in Salt Lake City (Wesemann)

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm.