



COUNCIL REPORT FROM NEW ORLEANS

D. Richard Cobb – Councilor

235th NATIONAL ACS MEETING NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

The Council of the American Chemical Society convened in New Orleans on Wednesday, April 9, 2008.

Here are the Actions of the Council, coming from that meeting, that I felt are important to TECH and its members:

1. ELECTION INFORMATION:

- The Committee on Nominations and Elections presented to the Council the following nominees for selection as candidates for President-Elect, 2009: Thomas J. Barton, R. Stephen Berry, Joseph S. Francisco, and Josef Michl. By written ballot, the Council selected Joseph S. Francisco and Josef Michl as candidates for 2009 President-Elect. These two candidates will stand for election in the Fall National Election.
- The Committee on Nominations and Elections announced the selection of the following candidates for Directors-at-Large for a 2009-2011 term: William F. Carroll, Jr., Richard L. Deming, Thomas R. Gilbert, and Marinda Li Wu. The election of two Directors-at-Large will be conducted in the fall. Ballots will be mailed to the Council on or before October 10.

2. PETITIONS (For Action):

- The Council received three amendments to the ACS Bylaws (Petitions) for action: the Petition on Election Procedures for President-Elect and District Director, the Petition on Election Procedures 2006, Part 2, and the Petition on Membership Categories and Requirements.
 - The Council VOTED to approve the Petition on Election Procedures for President Elect and District Director. This petition seeks to make the balloting procedure more uniform through the use of a "Preference Voting" method so as to avoid the complications and expense of run-off elections.
 - The Council engaged in a lively debate on the Petition on Election Procedures 2006, Part 2, and entertained two motions: a motion to recommit and a motion for a recorded voted. Both motions failed. The Council ultimately VOTED by a show of hands to approve the Petition on Election Procedures 2006, Part 2. This petition standardizes election processes for President-Elect and all Director positions based on percentages of voting members, and increases the number of required signatures.

Petitions for Action (continued):

- **The Council also debated the merits of the Petition on Membership Categories and Requirements and ultimately VOTED to approve this petition via a recorded vote. This petition broadens qualifications for membership and creates a new category of student membership. The Board of Directors will vote within 90 days on whether to ratify the approved petitions. The Petition on Membership Categories and Requirements contains changes to the ACS Constitution, and not just the Bylaws. Therefore, these changes must be approved by ACS members in the fall to be valid.**

3. PETITIONS (For Consideration):

- **The Council received one petition for consideration: the Petition on Society Affiliate Dues. This petition sets Society Affiliate dues equal to the (full) membership dues, and not subject to any of the discounts otherwise applicable to membership dues. Action is expected on the petition at the fall national meeting.**

4. PETITIONS (Withdrawn):

- **The Petition on Local Section and Division Election Procedures was withdrawn. This petition offers resolutions for handling tie votes in Councilor or Alternate Councilor elections in a local section or division.**

5. 2009 MEMBER DUES:

- **The Council VOTED to set the member dues for 2009 at the fully escalated rate of \$140. This rate is established pursuant to an inflation-adjustment formula in the ACS Constitution and Bylaws.**

6. SOCIETY FINANCES:

- **The Society ended 2007 with a net from operations of \$9.6 million, which was \$2.2 million favorable to the approved budget. This was based on total revenues of \$444.2 million and total expenses of \$434.6 million. The Society ended the year in full compliance with the Board established financial guidelines.**

7. NATIONAL MEETING ATTENANCE REPORT:

- **As of April 9, 2008, the ACS spring national meeting had attracted 13,302 registrants as follows: Regular attendees 6,681; Students 4,659; Exhibitors 1,156; Exposition only 374 and Guests 432.**

8. REVISION OF THE DIVISION FUNDING FORMULA:

- **After considerable discussion, the Council VOTED to recommit the revised division funding formula, as presented by the Divisional Activities Committee, to the committee for further action at the fall national meeting.**

9. YEAR-END 2007 MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS:

- **At the close of 2007, Society membership totaled 160,052, despite a net loss of 439 members at the end of the year. Also, 2007 recorded the second highest number of new applications – 16,533.**

10. ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL GUIDELINES:

- **The Council VOTED to approve the Academic Professional Guidelines as submitted by the Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs. These guidelines apply to those members of the academic community whose job function impacts directly or indirectly on scientists practicing the profession of chemistry.**

11. NATIONAL MEETING CHANGES:

- **There have been two changes to scheduled National Meetings due to construction plans or other problems. One change also moves the meeting up one month. Those changes are as follows:**
 - **The 2011 fall meeting of the Society will be moved from Chicago to Denver, and**
 - **The 2012 fall meeting of the Society will be moved from New York City to Philadelphia and the dates will change from September 9th – 13th to August 19th – 23rd.**



**D. Richard Cobb, Councilor
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