

2005 DIVISION ANNUAL REPORT

Division of: Fluorine Chemistry

Report Completed by: Brian A. O'Brien, in consultation with Gary J. Schrobilgen,
P. V. Ramachandran, and Robert G. Syvret

Division Governance

1. Are all officer positions filled? Yes No
2. If no, list the positions that are vacant
3. Elections conducted according to Bylaws? Yes No
4. Bylaws Reviewed and Up to Date? Yes No
5. Division Procedures Manual Reviewed and Up to Date? Yes No
6. What is the approximate number of currently active volunteers in your Division? (Volunteer is defined as a member who helps plan or organize a meeting or activity, serves on a committee, or is an elected official.)
 fewer than 10 10-20 20-50 50-75 more than 75
7. Current elected officials, councilors, alternate councilors, and committee chairs who
 - A. Have held other ***elected*** positions in the Division?
 0 1-3 4-6 7-9 10-12 more than 12
 - B. Have held other ***appointed*** positions in the Division?
 0 1-3 4-6 7-9 10-12 more than 12
 - C. Are in their first two years of service?
 0 1 2-4 5-7 7-9 10 or more
8. Candidates often run unopposed for office in our Division? Yes No
 - A. Number of candidates who ran unopposed in your last Division election?
 0 1 2 3 4 5 more than 5

9. Please mark all the ways you recognize volunteers.

Certificates Gift Award Letter to volunteer Letter to Volunteer's Supervisor Recognition at an event No formal recognition program at this time

10. Other than the normal succession from chair-elect to chair, how does your Division identify future leaders and get them into the leadership pipeline? Check all that apply.

Self-nominations Solicitation or Advertising Look to Affiliate Committees (e.g. Local YCC, WCC, Technician Affairs, Student Affiliates) Formal Succession Planning Formal Leadership Training Process Outreach to New Members Arm-Twisting Other (please indicate) Ad hoc canvassing by Division Executive Committee

Communication with Members (check all that apply)

11. Newsletter In-Print Electronic On Web
 Division Website Last Updated 02/14/06
 Open Division Meeting Open Division Executive Committee Meeting
Other (please explain)

Programming (check all that apply)

12. How far in advance does your division plan its programming?
 1 year 2 year 3 years 4 years or more

A. Spring National Meeting (check all that apply)

Organized Programming Cosponsored symposia with other ACS Units
 Cosponsored Meeting with Other (non ACS) Organizations Held Workshops
 Held Tutorials Other Activities

In lieu of Spring National Meeting programming, the Division ran the 17th Winter Fluorine Conference, January 9-14, 2005, St. Pete Beach, Florida. The conference drew ca. 500 participants from 16 countries.

B. Fall National Meeting (check all that apply)

Organized Programming Cosponsored symposia with other ACS Units
 Cosponsored Meeting with Other (non ACS) Organizations Held Workshops
 Held Tutorials Other Activities

Sponsored the "Current Frontiers in Fluoroorganic Chemistry" symposium, co-sponsored by MEDI, ORGN and AGRO Divisions.

Co-sponsored the "Recent Advances in Fluorous Chemistry" symposium sponsored by ORGN.

Co-sponsored the "Fluorine-Containing Polymers" symposium sponsored by POLY.

C. Regional Meeting

Name and Date of Regional Meeting

- Organized Programming Cosponsored symposia with other ACS Units
 Cosponsored Meeting with Other (non ACS) Organizations Held Workshops
 Held Tutorials Other Activities

Explanation (*please explain all checked activities*)

D. Regional Meeting

Name and Date of Regional Meeting

- Organized Programming Cosponsored symposia with other ACS Units
 Cosponsored Meeting with Other (non ACS) Organizations Held Workshops
 Held Tutorials Other Activities

Explanation (*please explain all checked activities*)

E. Regional Meeting

Name and Date of Regional Meeting

- Organized Programming Cosponsored symposia with other ACS Units
 Cosponsored Meeting with Other (non ACS) Organizations Held Workshops
 Held Tutorials Other Activities

Explanation (*please explain all checked activities*)

F. Local Section Meeting

Name and Date of Local Section Meeting

- Organized Programming Cosponsored symposia with other ACS Units
 Cosponsored Meeting with Other (non ACS) Organizations Held Workshops
 Held Tutorials Other Activities

Explanation (*please explain all checked activities*)

G. Local Section Meeting

Name and Date of Local Section Meeting

- Organized Programming Cosponsored symposia with other ACS Units
 Cosponsored Meeting with Other (non ACS) Organizations Held Workshops
 Held Tutorials Other Activities

Explanation (*please explain all checked activities*)

Multidisciplinarity/Thematic Programming

13. What activities is the division doing for to demonstrate multidisciplinary aspects?
(Please describe)

Co-sponsorship of symposia with other Divisions (see question 12B).

The 17th Winter Fluorine Conference, January 9-14, 2005, St. Pete Beach, Florida drew a diverse, international array of presenters and attendees from many disciplines. The disciplinary areas included polymer science, materials science, synthetic organic and inorganic chemistry, medicinal chemistry, and numerous other chemically-related areas. The Winter Fluorine conference is held every other year.

Divisional Planning

14. Does the Division have a Vision and/or Mission Statement? Yes No

15. Describe how the division does short term and long term planning.
These are done at each meeting of the Executive Committee (twice per year) and are supplemented through e-mail and telephone exchanges at other times.

Items such as fund-raising (for meetings and the Moissan Fellowships), decisions as to the timing and topics of symposia and workshops, participation of members in other meetings of interest to fluorine chemists, and hosting of international meetings by the Division are discussed.

Membership

16. What is the division doing to address membership?
All of the members of the Executive Committee are actively engaged in a membership drive.

Membership solicitations are made at major meetings such as the International Symposium on Fluorine Chemistry (July 25-29, 2005, Shanghai, China); Pacifichem (December 15-20, 2005, Honolulu, Hawaii); and the European Symposium on Fluorine Chemistry.

A detailed description of membership benefits, as well as an application form, are available electronically on the Division's website.

Awards

17. Did your Division apply for Innovative Project Funds in 2005? Yes No
<http://membership.acs.org/c/cda/#ipfund>

18. If yes, how much was your grant for \$

19. What awards were given by the Division?

Award for Creative Work in Fluorine Chemistry to Prof. Shlomo Rozen.

Distinguished Service Award to Prof. Suzanne T. Purrington.

Four Moissan Summer Undergraduate Fellowships (\$2,500 each).

Outreach Activities

20. What activities (not associated with Programming) does the division participate in (*check all that apply?*)

Educational Outreach Public Outreach Outreach to Government Officials

National Chemistry Week Other (Specify)

The Division provides up to four Moissan Summer Undergraduate Fellowships (\$2,500 each) each year as its educational outreach.

21. List Activities/Programs that Support the ACS Strategic Thrusts.

Symposia and workshops at the fall ACS national meeting.

Winter Fluorine Conference every two years (the 17th Winter Fluorine Conference was held January 9-14, 2005).

Moissan Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships (four were awarded in 2005, \$2,500 each).

22. What ideas/technical improvements can ACS do to help with the Division's Mission?

The Division, though small, has an unusually broad appeal across many subdisciplines of chemistry, and has a highly international membership. It is hoped that ACS will, during future annual reviews, carefully consider and make apparent to the Division that it recognizes these characteristics.

In addition, it is suggested that another level of review, based on solicitation from the Division's membership or other sources of expertise in fluorine chemistry, be added; such solicitation is frequently done, for instance, in peer review of research proposals or manuscripts submitted for publication.

23. What barriers prevent the Division from Achieving the Division's Mission? What can DAC do to help?

See comments in question 22.

In addition, the Division had extensive problems with ACS's management of the Division's website in 2005 (see comments in question 24 for details).

24. Provide any comments/concerns regarding the Annual Review Process?

The text that follows was submitted in 2005 by Gary J. Schrobilgen (Division Chair, 2005) in response to the Annual Review of the Division for 2005.

Background and Reasons for the Present Response

A summary reviewer's report concerning the 2004 Division of Fluorine Chemistry Annual Report (dated August 16, 2005) was received by the Division's Executive Committee.

First, we wish to assure the reviewers that we very much appreciate their efforts on behalf of the Division of Fluorine Chemistry and are thankful for the valuable feedback such an exercise can provide. In the present instance, however, several of the reviewer's comments are viewed by the Executive Committee of the Fluorine Division as unwarranted based on the data that is available to the ACS or that has been provided to them by the Division. The following narrative constitutes a rebuttal of several such points contained within the body (under "at risk") and summary of the reviewers' report that have raised concerns among the members of the Executive Committee. We believe, from the general tenor of the summary statements, that the reviewers have not fully appreciated the nature and quality of the Division's membership and programming. The following narrative attempts to clarify the Division and its activities in areas where the majority of misunderstandings have arisen, namely, Programming and Membership. There are other more focused concerns related to the reviewers' misinterpretation of the Financial Report and our Website activities.

Programming

The general tenor of the reviewer comments with respect to the Division's programming does not take into account the actual geographic and subdisciplinary demographics of its membership. Body count and the numbers of symposia alone are not valid indicators or future vectors of a successful Division. We remind the reviewers that the Division, though small, is a very diverse organization drawing its membership internationally from all of the traditional sub-disciplines of chemistry. The international outreach of the Division is also mirrored by the Executive Committee and Executive Committee Members at Large where there has been a regular Canadian presence for many years, and by the recipients of the annual ACS Award for Creative Work in Fluorine Chemistry, where all awardees are members of the Division. There are very few ACS Divisions that can claim both distinctions and we suspect one would be hard-pressed to find a small Division within the ACS that represents these attributes to the extent that the Fluorine Division does. Among the best gauges of our membership diversity and breath of chemical fields are the biannual Winter Fluorine Conferences (last held January 2005) it sponsors which are, de facto, always multi/inter-disciplinary and international in composition. Thus, our Division has a very high visibility internationally. In addition, the Division also caters to the needs of other divisions such as Inorganic, Organic, Polymer, Medicinal, Agro, Analytical and others within the ACS. Our cross-divisional activities are generally well attended. Our overall programming for the past five years had a huge foreign participation from countries such as Japan, France, UK, Germany, Slovenia, Israel, Russia, Canada, China and others. Participation in regional meetings and outreach activities will be pursued more avidly in the future.

The preceding paragraph is an overall performance statement. It has been difficult for the Division Executive to discern whether or not the reviewers are actually looking at overall performance or narrower time frames (e.g., see below relating to membership where there is

distinct confusion on this point). In either case, we believe the diversity within the Division and its inherent multi-disciplinary outlook needs to be borne in mind in order to fully comprehend how the Division functions with respect to bringing about and maintaining the highly successful symposia it organizes and sponsors. In addition, the attached appendix shows the increasing participation of our Division in ACS National Meetings and the symposia organized or co-organized with other divisions from 1992 to 2005 (originally authored by G.B. Hammond (2003) as Vice-Chair Programs and recently updated by G.K.S. Prakash, current Vice-Chair Programs).

Membership and General Health of the Division

It is our impression that the reviewers have fixated on membership numbers and not on member quality as a gauge of the Division's healthiness. In more specific terms, we are surprised by the two divergent view points in the summary statement: "membership is steady" AND "membership has declined steadily over the last 10 years" and a second inconsistency under "at risk", namely, "steady decline over 10 years" AND "steady decrease for 4 years running" followed by yet another inconsistency under "healthy tendencies", membership stable or growing!! Equally surprising in the summary is a further set of divergent pronouncements, the Division's health is "good" AND "is not healthy". The Division was judged to be a healthy small Division in 2003 and preceding years. It appears that the reviewers never got together to discuss their individual evaluations in order to form a consensus of opinions in each of the areas commented upon and, if overall trends were to be taken into account, the past performance of the Division. This is tantamount to and has had the effect of sending the Division contradictory and mixed messages.

In the overall perception of the review, the current membership is given as under 600. The Division views its membership numbers this way:

Our membership at its peak was around 800. We have maintained a membership base of around 650-750 at all times. A reviewer comments that the membership numbers have gone down roughly 60-80 for the past four years. Yet, we have maintained our total membership, which means that we have been recruiting new members actively. Our membership is multidisciplinary and a large portion of our membership is international. This is unique for the Division and is one of our main strengths. Unless we have some other division to compare with, we cannot determine whether membership decline is usual. Is this gauge available? If it is, why wasn't the Division compared against other Divisions of comparable size in the reviewer report? The Division's Executive Committee has a subcommittee on membership that is actively engaged in finding ways to recruit and retain a quality membership.

Financial Statement

On the reviewers' report, in section 10, which addresses the Treasurer's report and the proper management of Division funds, the reviewers wrote the following comments:

"They had a deficit, most of which seems to come from awarding an extra fellowship; no narrative to explain? Small budget but budgeted for ~ 18% expenditures over operating income. Spent from investments."

Rebuttal:

1. First, it is true the Division did experience a deficit of \$3,504; however, this deficit did not result from awarding an extra fellowship, but rather from a lower-than-budgeted amount of support from the PRF (budgeted PRF income was \$7,200, actual amount received was \$1,800).

The lower-than-budgeted amount from PRF resulted because two of the budgeted symposia involved foreign industrial participants who were not eligible for PRF support, thus the PRF money was not received for these symposia. This was explained clearly in the one-page Treasurer's narrative that was filed together with the annual report on January 26, 2005. An electronic copy of that narrative is attached hereto.

2. Secondly, although our operating budget is less than \$20,000, size should not matter to the reviewer. The reviewer inaccurately notes that we "budgeted for ~ 18% expenditures over operating income." This is simply not true. Please refer to the Treasurer's report (an electronic copy as filed with the ACS on January 26, 2005 is attached hereto). The Division actually budgeted for a surplus of \$3,508.

3. Finally, the reviewer's comment that we "spent from investments" is, again, totally inaccurate. We spent no funds from our investments. Our net assets grew by 3% during the calendar year 2004 and our investment pool assets grew by 6.6% in the same time period. Support for Division-sponsored symposia, as well as the Moissan Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship awards, come from Division operating funds and not from the Division's investments.

Website Access; an Additional Concern

The reviewers have also listed our website as "at risk" under point 12 at the same time noting under this category that the "up to date newsletter is there", a non sequitur. Also, under "at risk" they comment on the need to establish links to our website. We are establishing links, and one area in which we are doing this is in the area of HF and Fluoride Burn Treatment as well as other initiatives. We have a subcommittee of the Division's Executive Committee that is responsible for soliciting and authoring web content. We regard the overall "at risk" rating as absurd for the following reason:

During 2004, the Division's access to our website was seriously impaired when its Webmaster, Phil Henderson (Air Products, Allentown PA), who generously volunteers his time to the Division, experienced AT LEAST six to seven frustrating months during which he could not gain access to and post web materials on the Division's website. Ironically, the reviewers have also rated our website as one of the "healthy tendencies", and went so far as to rate the "website accessible, useful to members" when it was down for at least half of the year! Obviously, the reviewers have only a snapshot view of our website from which to draw sweeping conclusions. Thus, we hold we were put at risk with respect to posting web materials (including links), but were not the authors of risk in this matter. The following unedited narrative was solicited from Dr. Henderson and is self-explanatory. We offer it as constructive feedback to ACS in the way of improving its division website support and replying to legitimate/urgent user concerns in a timely manner:

The problem is that I could not upload new files; however, I could modify existing files. I believe this started up sometime in July or Aug of 04, but I'm not really sure, since I don't have a record of precisely what happened. At the time it was annoying, but not immediately critical because info could be updated to existing pages and we were between newsletters at the time. A couple of calls to contacts at ACS went unreturned.

This really became a problem when putting together the 17th WFC [17th Winter Fluorine Conference, Jan. 2005] site in Sept 04. Fortunately, the files for the 16th WFC web site were still stored, so I could get most of the site up and running by simply modifying those files and fixing the links; however, when I really needed to upload a file (Rozen's picture, I think), that is when I

sent an email on 25 Sept to Michele Gandy (who was coordinating the WFC [17th Winter Fluorine Conference, Jan. 2005] for the ACS) fully describing the problem with error codes and asking if someone could help me through this problem, since I couldn't get any response from ACS.

At first they were thinking that there was something "wrong" with the Rozen [2005 recipient of the ACS Award for Creative Work in Fluorine Chemistry] photo file, so there were a few back and forth emails with different file types. All the time Michele was busy working on the conference and sending more content changes. I do have an 18 November 04 email from me to Michele saying that I still can't upload files. A few times I tried to surf the ACS web site or call their general number to find a contact for help, but their customer service and web site is not set up to handle this kind of issue, so that tactic generally went nowhere, except I got to talk to a lot of ACS employees that didn't know anything about maintenance of the ACS web site.

I brought this to Bob's [Robert G. Syvret, Air Products; Division Treasurer] attention on 22 December when I reported that I couldn't add the Division Fall 04 newsletter plus other files to the site because of this issue. There were several more unreturned phone calls and emails to ACS for support. Around late December (I think) I put a notice up on the Div homepage notifying visitors that we were having problem with site updating.

I'm not sure how this finally got resolved, my memory is fuzzy on this but it was a phone contact. I think I finally caught someone live who knew whom to call for help. Anyway, this didn't get fully resolved until 8 Feb 05 with a time period when I couldn't log on at all between late Jan and early Feb after the first active attempt to "fix" the problem on the ACS end.

So...

1. Disruption was from late summer 04 to Feb 05
2. ACS did not notify me of any changes to their system in the summer of 04 when the problem started.
3. ACS didn't block my access on purpose; that was a mistake as far as I know- when the system was restructured, I was given the wrong user privileges - I was allowed to modify existing files, but not create files.

Overall Rating of the Division; i.e. Healthy or Not Healthy?

If one does only the "math", a comparison of the marks received from the reviewing committee for 2003 (attached) [totals: 27(+), 16(0), 0(-)] with those received in 2004 [totals: 32(+), 25(0), 3(-)]; normalized to the 2003 scores, totals: 23(+), 18(0), 2(-)] shows that in nearly all categories except the Treasurer Report and membership, the mark distributions are similar. The mark distribution for point 10 needs to be adjusted because the reviewer scores and comments for this point in 2004 are clearly based on erroneous interpretations of the Treasurer Report and Financial Statement (see below). If this were to be done, the normalized scores would be even closer and likely not to be statistically significantly different. Thus, it is not possible to reconcile the significantly more negative stance and proclamation of "not healthy" with the healthy Division ratings we have received last year and in years prior to that.

Putting the numbers aside, this is how the Division of Fluorine Chemistry views itself:

Although our Division's membership is small (ca. 650), it encompasses a high-quality membership with a strong interdisciplinary component. Its dynamic programming activities and undergraduate scholarships consistently reflect its membership composition and outreach, and

concomitantly appeal to a broad range of interests. The field our Division represents is ubiquitous and one cannot think of applied or fundamental aspects of modern chemistry (e.g., agrochemistry, medicinal chemistry, materials chemistry, petrochemicals, nuclear power generation, environmental chemistry, computational chemistry, modern theories of bonding and structure, ...) without finding that fluorine chemistry has impacted in several significant ways. Furthermore, the Division is financially sound, its fund-raising is effective, and it is a fiscally responsible entity.

Should further details/clarification relating to the above responses be required, we ask that you contact the Chair of the Division at your earliest convenience, but not later than November 30, 2005.

Submitted on behalf of the ACS Division of Fluorine Chemistry Executive Committee by:

Gary J. Schrobilgen, FRS (Canada)
Professor of Chemistry (McMaster University)
Chair (2005), ACS Division of Fluorine Chemistry

Dated: September 27, 2005