

Report from the American Chemical Society
255th ACS National Meeting
New Orleans, LA March 18-22, 2018

Actions of the Council

Election results:

For ACS President: By electronic ballot, the Council selected **Luis A. Echegoyen** and **Thomas R. Gilbert** as **candidates for 2019 President-Elect**. These two candidates, along with any candidates selected via petitions, will stand for election in the Fall National Election.

Board of Director candidates for District 1: Katherine L. Lee and Laura E. Pence, for District V, Katherine L. Lee and Laura E. Pence and for Directors-at-Large for 2019-2021 terms: Frank D. Blum, Lee H. Latimer, Ingrid Montes, and Angela W. Peters.

Amendments to the ACS Bylaws

- The Council approved Petition on the Composition of Society Committees [Bylaw III, Sec. 3, e, (3), (4), and (8)], which will change the requirement for Councilors on Society Committees from at least two thirds (2/3) to a majority, and remove the requirement that the Chair and Vice-Chair of a Society Committee must be Councilors.
- The Petition for Election of Committee Chairs [Bylaw III, Sec. 3, c, (1); d, 3, (3), (8); e, (3), (8); g, (3); i (3)], which would allow the voting members of all ACS committees to select their own Chairs, failed to gain the approval of Council.

2019 Member Dues

- The Council voted on the recommendation of the Committee on Budget and Finance to set the member dues for 2019 at the fully escalated rate of \$175. This rate is established pursuant to an inflation-adjustment formula in the ACS Constitution and Bylaws.

Distribution Formula for Division Funding

- The proposed formula for allocating dues funds to divisions, recommended by the Committee on Divisional Activities, was recommitted to the committee.

Continuation of Committees

- The Council approved the recommendation of the Committee on Committees that the Committee on Ethics be continued; and that the committees on Publications and on Younger Chemists be continued contingent on approval by the Board of Directors.

Highlights from some committee reports

Budget and Finance

In 2017, ACS generated a Net from Operations of \$28.6 million, which was \$4.8 million higher than 2016. Total revenues were \$553.1 million, increasing 5.0% or \$26.4 million over 2016. Expenses ended the year at \$524.5 million, which was \$21.6 million or 4.3% higher than prior year. This was attributable to strong performance from the Society's Information Service units (CAS and ACS Publications) and a continued emphasis on expense management across the ACS.

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

The ACS ended 2017 with over 150,000 members. While this means that ACS remains the world's largest scientific society, this number represents a continuing decline in overall membership for the sixth year in a row. The Committee on Membership Affairs is committed to working with Council, the Board of Directors, the Committee on Budget and Finance, ACS staff, and other stakeholders to halt this trend and return ACS to a growing and engaged membership.

New Orleans Meeting Attendance

As of Monday, March 19:

Attendees	8,470
Students	6,432
Exhibitors	877
Expo only	301
Guests	505
Total	16,585

The Executive Director/CEO Report

The Board received an extensive report from the Executive Director and CEO on issues relating to the Safety and Professionalism core values of the Society as well as on Membership, ACS financial performance, Operational Excellence, and upcoming events and activities. He also led a discussion on the strategic direction of the Science History Institute (formerly the Chemical Heritage Foundation) and its ramifications for ACS. His direct reports then engaged in discussions with the Board on the activities, opportunities and challenges of the Education Division, Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS), and the ACS Publications Division.

Other Society Business

As is customary, the Board heard reports from the Presidential Succession on their current and planned activities for 2018. Several presidential symposia and events incorporating and supporting the meeting's theme of Food, Energy and Water were highlighted in those reports.

Board Resolution

Finally, the Board approved a resolution that recognizes and applauds the United Nations for proclaiming 2019 as the International Year of the Periodic Table, and pledged that the Society will do its utmost to recognize and participate in events celebrating this important scientific milestone and achievement.

ACS Officers

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Respectfully reported,

Angela Hoffman



Councilor, Portland Section