

REPORT
235TH NATIONAL MEETING AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY
NEW ORLEANS, LA April 6-10, 2008

New Orleans in early April was mostly sunny, warm, and the business district was prosperous. I arrived 4/4 to attend meetings of the Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs (CEPA) and other ACS governance functions including the Council which will be the subject of this report.

The Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E) presented four candidates for President-elect. The Council voted to present two, Joseph S. Francisco and Josef Michl, to the entire membership for election next October. You will see their biographies and statements both in C&EN and in the ballot mailing.

N&E also announced the winners of the nomination elections for District III and VI to the Board of Directors (mail ballot to Councilors): District III Pat N. Confalone and Alan B. Cooper; District VI Bonnie A. Charpentier and Dennis L. Lichtenberger. Districts III and VI members will get ballots this fall. I believe that our District (I) will come up next year. N&E presented four candidates for Director-at-large: former Pres. William Carroll; Richard Deming; Thomas Gilbert; and Marinda Wu. Wu is an incumbent. The Council will elect two of these by mail ballot in the fall.

There were three petitions up for consideration. The first two were from N&E to 1) simplify the procedure for multi-candidate elections by allowing each of us to indicate 2nd choices; if no candidate received a majority vote, the lowest would be eliminated and his/her 2nd choice votes would be given to the respective remaining candidates which would decide all 3-candidate elections and most 4-candidate elections avoiding the considerable cost of reballoting; 2) to change the number of signatures required for petition candidates from its present absolute number (e.g. 300 for President-elect) to a percentage of the membership (0.5% for President-elect).

Originally, N&E proposed a 1% requirement as part of a combined petition at the Chicago meeting 3/07. I moved to "divide" the question since #1 above seemed fairly non-controversial, whereas #2 was very controversial since it would make it much more difficult to get petition candidates on ballots. Since the early '70s when the petition procedure was introduced, a number of ACS Presidents (most recently Ann Nalley) and Board members have been petition candidates. N&E realized that their petition might be defeated and they revised the percentage downwards with the assurance that electronic signatures would "solve the problem" of the increased number. However, those electronic signatures for petitions are not yet allowed. Petition #1 passed overwhelmingly by voice vote but #2 was very close-by hand vote #2 passed by the required 2/3 (plus about 6 votes); I voted NO.

Rumor has it that the next N&E petition to come in the near future will be to require petition candidates to file earlier than the present mid-July and then to be voted on by Council. This would make getting on a ballot by petition even more difficult and ensure

the power of N&E to determine the leadership of the ACS. This petition will be promoted as shortening the election cycle.

The third petition to change the requirements for membership was carefully promoted over several years by the Membership Affairs Committee. It would make undergraduate students eligible for full voting membership in the Society, but with reduced dues. The Council approved the petition by a recorded vote (see C&EN). But, since it involves changes in the Constitution as well as the Bylaws, the entire membership will vote on the petition in the fall election.

The Council approved the formulaic increase in dues to \$140 based on the increase in the CPI. It may be possible to pay at this rate for multiple years if the Society's computers are programmed as voted by Council last year.

The Committee on Budget and Finance reported a surplus of \$9.6 million over budget with receipts of \$444.2 million and expenses of \$434.6 million.

In the ACS Careers, formerly Chemjobs, program, there were 936 applicants for 807 listed jobs with 104 employers, an increase in available jobs and a decrease in applicants compared to the Boston meeting last August.

The New Orleans meeting had a total of 13,302 registrants including 11,340 regular and students. ACS membership fell, in 2007, by 439 to 160,052; there were 16,533 new members in 2007.

CEPA presented the new edition of the Academic Professional Guidelines to the Council and it was approved; see www.acs.org. CEPA has several such guidelines and they are revised about every five years. The next one, the Professional Employment Guidelines will be presented to Council at the Philadelphia meeting and then approved next March in Salt Lake City.

The new ACS website has been online since last September but is still evolving. It is much easier to navigate and has a great deal of useful material and new features are added regularly. Part of what I'll call webolution is the new networking facility. The ACS has discovered YouTube/Facebook/MySpace and will, by summer's end, give ACS members a similar networking facility. You can provide as much or as little biographical info/scientific interests/etc. and network with your chosen "friends". If you are interested, sign up at www.acs.org/MemberNetwork.

Finally, the Board has approved a set of goals for the ACS titled Strategic Plan 2008 And Beyond. The implementation of those goals received considerable attention in New Orleans and will continue to receive attention for the next year or two. You can examine these goals and supporting materials at www.acs.org/strategicplan.