

Report 239th ACS National Meeting, San Francisco, CA, March 21-25,2010

The 239th meeting in San Francisco had beautiful weather, temperatures in the 60s, and all the usual events occurred. There were 15,420 ACS registrants, including students, 2,142 Exposition attendees, and nearly 1000 'guests' accompanying attendees, mostly to tour Frisco. The Society Committees all met, Presidential candidates were introduced, the Council and Board both met, and nearly 10,000 papers and posters were presented.

Normally, at the Spring meeting, the Council votes to select two candidates for President-elect from four candidates presented by the Committee on Nominations & Elections. However, an unnamed candidate withdrew just before the meeting, so the Council voted from among only three: Luis Echegoyen (National Science Foundation Head, Univ. of South Carolina) and Bassam Shakhashiri (Univ. of Wisconsin) were nominated; we will select one of them or any petition candidate(s) who complete their petitions by mid-July in the Fall. Nominations & Elections also presented four candidates, each for District Director from Districts II and IV; Councilors from those districts nominated two candidates whom the District members will vote on in the Fall. Two At-large Board members are also up for election by the Council this Fall: the candidates are Janan Hayes; Robert Lichter; Kathleen Schultz; and Kent Voorhees.

The Council considered two petitions to amend the Bylaws and one to amend the Constitution. The first Bylaw amendment abolished the old Admissions Committee transferring its power to the Membership Affairs Committee; this was the final action making undergraduate chemistry majors members of the Society with specified limitations. The next order of business was the constitutional amendment to make petition candidate procedures part of the basic makeup of the Society. Petition candidacy has been in the Bylaws for 40 years but the process keeps getting challenged by Nomination & Elections through Bylaw amendments. The second Bylaw amendment was originally that type but was revised since the Washington meeting where the Constitutional amendment received about 45% of the Council vote for 'emergency' consideration. The debate was long and hard with the proponents (including your Councilor) arguing for an end to these frequent attempts to emasculate petition candidacy and opponents arguing that an amendment (which would have to be passed by the entire ACS membership) was really unnecessary since N&E had decided that petition candidacy was well established and shouldn't be changed. The vote in favor of the amendment was approx. 48% and so it failed. The N&E Bylaw amendment, originally to have Council vet all nominees at the Fall meeting, now changed only to shorten the President-elect campaign by 2 weeks was also defeated.

The Council voted to follow the long established formula to increase 2011 dues to \$146, and to continue the allotment formula for local sections.

ACS revenue was up 1% for 2010 but was still 4.1% (\$19.5 million) below the approved budget. Contingency plans were instituted in 2008 and by staff reductions, changes in the staff retirement plan, and by reducing virtually all ACS activities, savings of \$22.5 million was achieved so the Society came out \$3 million ahead of the proposed budget.. During 2009, unrestricted net assets doubled to \$124 million with 4 of 5 financial guidelines met; the last, adequacy of unrestricted net assets, was not met but, with improving economic conditions, it is expected to be met in 2010.

The ACS as of 1/1/2010 has 161,783 members an increase of approx. 8000 over 2008, mostly new student members.

On the employment front, the Career Fair in San Francisco attracted: 40 employers; 63 employer reps; 712 ACS members seeking jobs; 112 positions available; and 295 interviews. The following Table summarizes the Spring Career Fair over the past five years:

Year	Candidates/interviews
2006	1.05
2007	1.28
2008	0.72
2009	1.57
2010	2.41

These data were disconcerting to say the least to this long-term member of the Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs. It would appear that, as far as the chemistry profession is concerned, the economic corner has yet to be turned.

Finally, those of you under 70, please complete your ChemCensus questionnaire if you haven't already done so.

David Straus