

Report on: ACS Spring 2021 National Virtual Meeting – March 24, 2021

[Four ACS Pittsburgh Section Councilors participated in the Virtual Meeting](#)

Actions of the Council

Election Results

Candidates for President-Elect, 2022

- The Committee on Nominations and Elections presented to the Council the following nominees for selection as candidates for President-Elect, 2022: Gerard Baillely, Anne M. Gaffney, Judith C. Giordan, and John C. Warner. By electronic ballot, the Council selected **Judith C. Giordan** and **John C. Warner** as **candidates for 2022 President-Elect**. These two candidates, along with any candidates selected via petitions, will stand for election in the Fall National Election.

Candidates for Directors-at-Large

- The Committee on Nominations and Elections announced the selection of the following **candidates for Directors-at-Large** for 2022-2024 terms: **Rodney M. Bennett, Arlene Garrison, Natalie A. LaFranzo, and Lee H. Latimer**. The election of two Directors-at-Large from among these four candidates and any selected via petition will be conducted in the fall. Ballots will be distributed to all Councilors around October 1, 2021.

Other Council Actions

Committee on Committees Petition

- The Council approved the *Petition to Harmonize Committee Structures, Processes, and Terms*, as amended.
 - This petition places all committees in one category called “Society Committees” – eliminating the several different types of committees.
 - The years of service and the number of committee members on each Society Committee would now be consistent and would match the present terms of the Elected Committees: three-year terms with a two-term maximum for committee members.
 - Certain (6) Society Committees will no longer have the “Councilor only” designation, allowing an individual to join and continue service on a committee regardless of their status as a Councilor.
 - The Committee on Committees amended the petition prior to bringing it to Council, in response to several committees’ concerns, to include the **bolded** phrase:
The terms for a member of a Society Committee shall be three calendar years. A member of a Society Committee shall be eligible to serve two successive three-year terms on the

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same committee, **however, that service could be extended if the appointing officer(s) determines that there is a compelling need for ongoing expertise on the committee.**

- The Petition will become effective immediately upon approval by the Board of Directors, however, existing committee assignments will start a transition to the term limits on January 1, 2022.

Committee on Local Section Activities Petition

- The Council approved the *Petition to Amend the Duties of the Committee on Local Section Activities*.
 - This petition provides the Committee on Local Section Activities with the authority to support Local Sections by taking action on their behalf, including appointing an interim executive committee and/or facilitating a Local Section's election when there is a lapse in the local section's leadership.

2022 Schedule of Membership

- The Council approved the 2022 Schedule of Membership, upon recommendation of the Committee on Membership Affairs:
 - The Schedule reduces the base dues rate to \$160 per year
 - It establishes various dues categories and benefits packages based upon career stages, role in the chemical enterprise, and desired level of interaction by the Member with the Society.

Updates to the ACS Strategic Plan

- The ACS Board of Directors approved extensive changes to the ACS Strategic Plan last December.
 - Equity was added to our Core Values, which now include on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Respect.
 - Our Vision and Mission statements were modified to make clear that these statements include all people.
 - A fifth Strategic Goal: 'To Embrace and to Advance Inclusion in Chemistry', was added to make clear that Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Respect was our commitment at the same level as our long-standing four strategic goals.

Continuation of Committees

- The Council approved the recommendation of the Committee on Committees that the Committee on Ethics be continued.

Committee on Divisional Activities Distribution Formula

- The Council approved the Distribution Formula for Division Allocations upon the recommendation of the Committee on Divisional Activities.
 - ACS Standing Rules state that 9% of the ACS Member Dues Pool be allocated to the technical divisions.
 - The new allocation formula is transparent, immediately implementable, reduces the year-to-year variation in the distribution amount and will work in all current national meeting formats.
 - The new formula increases the base allotment and the per division member allotment portion of the pool to be distributed among the 32 Divisions.

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- The portion of the pool devoted to Innovative Project and Strategic Planning Grants will increase from 10 to 15%. The intent is to support division strategic planning, expand the scope of innovative projects grants, and fund shortfalls due to the capping of year-to-year losses.
- A 7.5% cap on the year-to-year distribution gain/loss by a division is intended to increase stability and give divisions a chance to adjust to the new formula.
- This formula is considered transitional and will be reviewed by the Committee on Divisional Activities yearly.

Resolutions

- The Council passed the following resolutions:
 - in Memory of Deceased Councilors;
 - to Members of the American Chemical Society Recognizing the COVID Pandemic.

Highlights from Committee Reports

Budget and Finance

In 2020, ACS generated a net from operations of \$61 million, which was almost \$20 million higher than the budget. Total revenues were \$618.4 million, increasing 3.9% or \$23.1 million over 2019. Expenses for the year were \$557.4 million, virtually even with the prior year and almost 5 percent below budget. This result was attributable to strong revenue performance from the Society's Information Services units (i.e., CAS and ACS Publications) and a combination of COVID-19 related impacts on, and careful management of, expenses across the ACS.

The Society's 2020 Net from Operations totaled \$130.5 million and included Information Services and Investments. The Society's financial position strengthened considerably in 2020, with Unrestricted Net Assets, or reserves, increasing by 35 percent to \$553 million at December 31. The increase was primarily the result of the \$61 million net from operations, and growth of the Society's investments totaling \$66 million.

Nominations and Elections

The Committee on Nominations and Elections solicits Councilors' input regarding qualified individuals for President-Elect and/or Directors for future consideration. Suggestions may be sent to nomelect@acs.org.

Meetings & Expositions

The Spring 2021 Meeting will be held virtually, with the live portion from April 5-16, followed by 2-weeks of on-demand access. There will be 120 scientific sessions held live per day, with live Q&A to follow, and visibility of other attendees in the room. The price for registration has been significantly reduced to \$99 for ACS Members and \$29 for students. To date, 8,724 abstracts have been accepted.

Actions of the Board of Directors - Executive Session

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The ACS Board of Directors met virtually in Executive Session on March 19 and March 26, 2021 and considered a number of key strategic issues and responded with numerous actions. The Board opened its session with a reflection on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Respect (DEIR), led by Dorothy Phillips.

The Board's Committees

The Board received and discussed reports from its committees on Executive Compensation and on Professional and Member Relations, the Joint Board-Council Committee on Publications, the Highly Effective Professionals Team, and the Task Force on Future Meetings. Some of these committees requested and obtained Board action on one or more items, as follows.

- The Board received an extensive briefing and approved several recommendations from its Committee on Executive Compensation. The compensation of the Society's executive staff continues to be reviewed regularly by the Board.
- On recommendations of the Joint Board-Council Committee on Publications, the Board voted to approve the reappointments of Editors-in-Chief for several ACS journals. Those appointments will be announced in C&EN once the individuals have been notified and appropriate arrangements for their continued service have been made.
- On recommendations of the Committee on Professional and Member Relations, the Board approved a Society nominee for the 2022 Othmer Gold Medal, as well as the Committee's screened lists of five nominees each for the 2022 Priestley Medal and the 2022 Award for Volunteer Service to the ACS. The Board will select the recipients of these latter two awards from the screened lists provided.

Confirmation of Council Actions

As proscribed in the Standing Rules, the Board confirmed the Council's approval of the Petition to Harmonize Committee Structures, Processes and Terms and the Petition to Amend the Duties of the Committee on Local Section Activities.

Board-sponsored Keynote at ACS Spring 2021

On April 14, the Board will sponsor a keynote session on the "Future of Science in the U.S.: National Science Board's Vision 2030" at the ACS Spring 2021 virtual meeting. This will be a moderated session with speakers from the National Science Board, as they discuss the NSB report, "Vision 2030", and explore needed changes to ensure U.S. pre-eminence in science. More information will be posted soon on the ACS Meetings and Exposition [Keynote Events page](#)

Respectfully Submitted,

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