American Chemical Society
ACS Fall 2023 Meeting
San Francisco, California
August 13-17, 2023

Councilor Talking Points: Summary of Governance Issues and Actions

The following summary is provided to help Councilors report to their Local Sections and Divisions on key actions of the ACS Council meeting, held on August 16, and the Board of Directors meetings, held on August 11-13, 2023.

Actions of the Council

Election Results: Elected Committees of Council (*elected)

- By electronic ballot, the Council elected Martha G. Hollomon, Elizabeth M. Howson, Jeanette M. Van Emon, and Lydia E. M. Hines for a three-year term (2024-2026) on the Council Policy Committee (CPC). James C. Carver was elected for a one-year term from 2024-2025 to fill the unexpired term of Will E. Lynch, who was elected to the ACS Board of Directors.

Christopher J. Bannochie	201	*Lydia E. M. Hines	212
Mitchell R. M. Bruce	154	*Martha G. Hollomon	239
Eric A. Bruton	109	*Elizabeth M. Howson	234
*James C. Carver	207	Graham F. Peaslee	102
Barbara R. Hillery	157	*Jeanette M. Van Emon	234

- By electronic ballot, the Council elected Anna G. Cavinato, Andrea B. Twiss-Brooks, Thomas R. Gilbert, Jeanne R. Berk, and W. Matthew Reichert for a three-year term (2024-2026) on the Committee on Committees (ConC).

*Jeanne R. Berk	198	Lucian A. Lucia	158
*Anna G. Cavinato	257	Cecilia E. Marzabadi	176
Kirby B. Drake	140	*W. Matthew Reichert	177
*Thomas R. Gilbert	229	David J. Roush	118
William J. Greenlee	158	*Andrea B. Twiss-Brooks	236

- By electronic ballot, the Council elected Linette M. Watkins, Arlene A. Garrison, Zaida C. Morales Martinez, Amber F. Charlebois, and Jetty L. Duffy-Matzner for a three-year term (2024-2026) on the Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E). Kevin J. Edgar was elected for a one-year term from 2024-2025 to fill Silvia Ronco's vacancy.

Brian B. Brady	159	Gregory M. Ferrence	141
*Amber F. Charlebois	206	*Arlene A. Garrison	238
Debbie C. Crans	155	James M. Landis	139
*Jetty L. Duffy-Matzner	198	*Zaida C. Morales Martinez	237
*Kevin J. Edgar	166	Martha D. Morton	107
Harry J. Elston	127	*Linette M. Watkins	257

Highlights from Reports and Key Actions

- Chief Executive Officer Albert Horvath honored the memory of our newly-appointed Editor-in-Chief of C&EN, Mohammed Yahia, who passed away on the way to the San Francisco meeting. Our thoughts go out to his wife Ola and their two young children.

- Horvath also shared ACS's efforts to engage more members while recruiting and retaining talented staff as we continue to adapt to the post-pandemic workplace. He shared an update on the ACS Strategic Initiatives and the Society's continued strong financial performance.

- On the recommendation of the Council Policy Committee, Council approved the Petition to Amend the Council Executive Function. This amendment codifies the current practice in the Standing Rules, removing the oral reporting requirement for non-elected Society Committees. CPC welcomes oral reports from all Society Committees including those without action before Council.

- CPC voted to discontinue the Councilor Travel Expense Program, effective December 31, 2023, and replace it with the Councilor Attendance Incentive Allotment, effective January 1, 2024. This new approach will provide a single payment of $2,000 per Councilor, per meeting, directly to Local Sections and Divisions that opt in to the program.

- CPC also voted to move oversight for the Non-Councilor Reimbursement Program to the Committee on Committees with the recommendation that it be renamed the "Volunteer Committee Reimbursement Program."

- On the recommendation of the Committee on Committees, and with the concurrence of the Council Policy Committee, Council approved the Petition to Amend the Duties of the Committee on International Activities (IAC), providing the committee with the same authority permitted to its unit counterparts to assist International Chemical Sciences Chapters with issues arising from officer turnover and other administrative difficulties.

- On the recommendation of the Committee on Nominations and Elections, and with the concurrence of the Council Policy Committee, Council approved the Petition to Add International Representation to the Board of Directors, decreasing the total number of

Directors-at-Large from six to five and creating an International District Director. Following approval by the Board of Directors, the amendment to the ACS Constitution will require the support of two-thirds (2/3) majority of voting members.

- On the recommendation of the Committee on International Activities, Council approved the creation of the Singapore International Chemical Sciences Chapter.

- The Committee on Constitution and Bylaws (C&B) reported the certification of bylaws for six Local Sections in 2023: Cornell, East Tennessee, Idaho, Puerto Rico, Tennessee-Virginia Highlands, and Wooster.

Council Special Discussion

ACS President Judith Giordan introduced and led a special discussion on "ACS Council: Equitable Governance for the Future." She sought Councilor input on ideas to improve representation, broadly defined, on Council and across ACS governance.

Three specific prompts were posed to Councilors for their input and suggestions:

1. Ideally, for ACS Council to *equitably represent all members* we would...
2. The key areas where we need to ensure *greater equity and inclusion in Council* are…
3. I wish ACS Council would/could… ...to engender greater equity and inclusion.

Councilors provided their ideas and thoughts, and relevant Society units will receive this input within the next several weeks. Please share further input with secretary@acs.org.

Resolutions

The Council passed several resolutions:

- In memory of deceased Past President Ned D. Heindel
- In memory of deceased Past President Paul H.L. Walter
- In memory of deceased Councilors
- In appreciation of the California and Silicon Valley Sections, host Sections for the fall 2023 ACS meeting, the Divisional program chairs, symposium organizers, and ACS staff for the planning and execution of the meeting
- In appreciation of the outgoing Chair of Council, Judith C. Giordan

The fall 2023 meeting was held from August 13-17. As of August 16, there were 15,019 registrations (13,363 in-person and 1,656 online).

Actions of the Board of Directors - Executive Session

The ACS Board of Directors met in Executive Session on August 11-12, 2023, in San Francisco, California, considered several key strategic issues, and responded with numerous actions. They opened the session with a reflection on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Respect (DEIR).

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Chief Executive Officer Albert Horvath reported on issues relating to ACS strategic activities; enterprise risk management (ERM); environmental, social, and governance (ESG); an Orlando 2028 meeting update; and ACS's web presence.

Board Committees and Working Groups

The Board of Directors received and discussed reports from the Governing Board for Publishing, the Board Committee on Professional and Member Relations, the Society Committee on Publications, the Committee on Budget & Finance, the Committee on Committees, the Board Working Group on Structure and Representation, and the Council Policy Committee Future Council Representation Task Force. Some of these committees requested and obtained Board action on one or more items, as follows:

- Upon recommendation of the Society Committee on Publications, the Board voted to approve the reappointment of six ACS journal editors. The reappointments will be announced once the individuals have been notified and appropriate arrangements for their continued service have been made.

- Upon recommendation of the Editor Search Committees, the Board voted to approve the appointment of three ACS Journal editors. The appointments will also be announced once the individuals have been notified and appropriate arrangements for their continued service have been made.

- Upon recommendation of the Committee on Professional and Member Relations, the Board approved the ACS Prism Award to recognize a public figure or prominent leader in their field who has a background in chemistry but is working in a different field or is not a practicing chemist.

- Upon recommendation of the Committee on Professional and Member Relations, the Board approved an ACS nominee for the 2024 Perkin Medal, an award given annually by the Society of Chemical Industry to a scientist residing in the United States for an "innovation in applied chemistry resulting in outstanding commercial development."

- The Board Working Group on Structure and Representation provided an update on their efforts to add an International District Director to the Board of Directors in the form of the Petition to Add International Representation on the Board of Directors. The Board unanimously supported the petition, which would amend the ACS Constitution and Standing Rules.

Other Society Business

There were two additional discussions; one focused on raising items of strategic concern from members of the Board, and the second was dedicated to sharing feedback so Board members can hear from ACS members, elevating their voices to all Board members.

Finally, the Board adopted a resolution in memory of ACS Past President Ned D. Heindel.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FOR COUNCILORS

The following is a list of URLs and email addresses for supplemental information offered in oral reports at the Council meeting.

Officers

Judith C. Giordan, President	j.giordan@acs.org
Mary K. Carroll, President-Elect	marycarroll-acs@union.edu
Angela K. Wilson, Immediate Past President	a.wilson@acs.org

ACS Offices

Office of the Secretary & General Counsel	secretary@acs.org

Resources for Councilors

Nominations for President, Director, and Elected Committees	nominations.acs.org
ACS Governing Documents	www.acs.org/govdocs
Yellow Book	www.yellowbook.acs.org