

Councilor's Report

D Paul Rillema [paul.rillema@wichita.edu]

The following summary is my report as Councilor to the Wichita Section of actions taken by the Council at the 248th ACS National ACS Meeting in San Francisco, CA, August 10, 2014

Actions of the Council

Candidates for President-Elect, 2015

- **Peter K. Dorhout**, Dean of Arts & Sciences and Professor of Chemistry, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS
- **William A. Lester, Jr.**, Professor of the Graduate School, Department of Chemistry, University of California, Berkeley, CA
- **Donna J. Nelson**, Professor, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK

Candidates for Directors-at-Large, 2015-2017

- **Dawn A. Brooks**, Sr. Director, Lilly Research Laboratories, Eli Lilly and Company, Indianapolis, IN
- **William F. Carroll, Jr.**, Vice-President, Occidental Chemical Corporation, Dallas, TX
- **Barbara A. Sawrey**, Associate Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs, and Dean of Undergraduate Education, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, CA
- **Ellen B. Stechel**, Deputy Director, ASU-LightWorks, Tempe, AZ, Arizona State University

Reports of Society Committees and Committee on Science (Highlights)

Budget and Finance (B&F)

B&F reviewed the Society's 2014 probable year-end financial projection which calls for a Net Contribution from operations of \$14.4 million, or \$752,000 higher than the Approved Budget. Total revenues are projected at \$497.2 million. This is \$1.1 million or 0.2% unfavorable to the Approved Budget. The projected shortfall is primarily driven by lower-than-budgeted Electronic Services, Registration Fees, and Advertising revenues. Total expenses are projected at \$482.8 million, which is \$1.9 million or 0.4% favorable to the Approved Budget.

Education (SOCED)

SOCED received an update on the new American Association of Chemistry Teachers (AACT), which is now accepting members and will officially launch September 2, 2014. AACT member benefits include access to curricular resources, such as lesson plans and multimedia; professional development opportunities; a subscription to *ChemMatters*; and an online member network. SOCED voted to approve revisions to the current policy statements on hands-on laboratory science, science and technology funding, and visa restrictions. The statements will go to the Board of Directors for approval at its December meeting.

Reports of Standing Committees (Highlights)

Economic and Professional Affairs (CEPA)

CEPA announced that the unemployment rate for all ACS chemists has dropped from 3.5% in March 2013 to 2.9% as of March 2014. However, the unemployment rate for new chemistry graduates as of August 2013 is considered to be an all-time high of 14.6%. *The number is higher when we isolate bachelor's level graduates, for whom the rate is 15.8%.*

Committee on Meetings and Expositions (M&E)

M&E reported that 11,847 papers were accepted for the 248th National Meeting in San Francisco. As of August 13, total attendance was **15,761**. The Exposition had 432 booths with 285 exhibiting companies. The Committee voted to recommend to the Board of Directors the following sites for National Meetings:

- Boston – Fall 2024, 2029, 2031
- San Diego – Spring 2025, 2031, and Fall 2027
- New Orleans – Spring 2027, 2032
- Chicago – Fall 2022

The Committee heard an update on the Meeting Abstracts Programming System (MAPS). The new system will launch August 25 in preparation for the Denver National Meeting. Regional Meetings and specialty conferences will use MAPS starting in January 2015.

Divisional Activities (DAC)

The Multidisciplinary Program Planning Group is proposing the following 2018-2019 national meeting themes to the divisions for their consideration:

2018

- Spring – Energy Solutions and the Environment
- Fall – Chemistry – from Bench to Market

2019

- Spring – Chemistry for New Frontiers

Committee on Local Section Activities (LSAC)

LSAC will offer IPG grants during the fall to assist local sections with hosting a strategic planning retreat; a Leadership Development System course in their section, and to assist with travel to the 2015 ACS Leadership Institute. National Chemistry Week will be held October 19-25 with the theme, “The Sweet Side of Chemistry: Candy”.

Membership Affairs (MAC)

MAC reported that as of June 30, the total ACS membership was **158,869**, a net increase of 512 since May of this year.

Reports of Other Committees (Highlights)

Professional Training (CPT)

At this meeting, CPT evaluated 42 periodic reports from currently approved programs, two from programs on probationary status, and one site visit report from a school applying for ACS approval. Four new programs were approved, and one institution was removed from the approved list. The Committee concluded discussion of the guidelines revision and voted provisional approval of the draft document. The draft will be distributed to department chairs of chemistry programs this fall. CPT also approved the final report of a survey on chemical information resources that will be published in the Committee newsletter and website.

Project SEED

This year, the Committee awarded 28 Project SEED College Scholarships to 17 female and 11 male alumni from 16 states and Puerto Rico. The Committee also reviewed key issues that impact Project SEED: issues pertaining to project selection, college scholarship applications, and geographic distribution of the program. To address these impacts, the Committee proposed modifications to the current selection process for research projects, reviewed and approved changes to the Scholarship application, and established a Geographic Expansion Subcommittee. The Committee also established an Ethics Task Force and discussed the implementation of ethics guidelines for Project SEED students as a requirement for all programs.

Younger Chemists (YCC)

YCC continues to identify new opportunities for leveraging their social media following (Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Vine). The Committee has developed partnerships with the ACS Office of Public Affairs to help promote the #ChemChamps program and the highly successful joint effort “Program in a Box” with ACS Webinars. YCC has secured funding for two “Program in a Box” events for 2015. At this meeting, YCC sponsored the symposium “Advances in Small Molecule Approaches to HIV.”

Actions of the Board of Directors

- On the recommendation of the Committee on Grants and Awards, the Board **VOTED** to approve Society nominations for the 2015 Perkin Medal and the 2015 nominee for the National Science Board Public Service Award.
- On the recommendation of the Committee on Budget and Finance, the Board **VOTED** to approve an advance member registration fee of **\$390** for national meetings held in 2015.