



ACS Leaders Meet in Baltimore to Enhance Committee Structure

Fifteen ACS committee leaders and key staff convened in Baltimore, Maryland, July 6-8, 2007, to examine the charges of ACS committees, eliminate undesirable duplication of efforts and, where committees' interests converged, to propose means to link their efforts for more productive outcomes. This "Summit on ACS Committee Structure" arose from a recommendation of the Governance Review Task Force, and was commissioned by the ACS Board of Directors and the Council Policy Committee (CPC). The participants collectively possessed a very broad knowledge of the Society's committee structure. They engaged in detailed consideration of the many aspects of how ACS committees function, and how the committee structure provides an unrivaled opportunity for member participation in governance. They also identified areas where changes would lead to even stronger effectiveness.

The summit arrived at consensus on recommendations that if approved, will be presented to committee chairs, to liaisons between



Summit co-chairs (seated, 2nd from left) James D. Burke, E. Ann Nalley, and Neil D. Jespersen, with other attendees.

committees, to the Committee on Committees (ConC), to the Board of Directors, CPC, and to

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specific other committees.

The summit assessed the charges and activities of all committees, and recommends that ConC and the Board address specific instances where the charges or activities should be refocused. In general, committee charges were seen as appropriate, though there is a tendency to overly spec-

ify committees' charges in the ACS Bylaws. As a consequence, the ability of the governance structure to be most effective in a changing environment is unduly limited.

Improving communication and the relationships between committees was a major focus of the summit. Broad recommendations on the roles of, and best practices for, liaisons between committees were developed. In those cases where greater interaction is called for than individual liaisons can provide, joint subcommittees and coalitions should be formed. Recommenda-

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Committee News is produced by the Committee on Committees and the Office of the Secretary. For additional information contact:

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Women Chemists Committee Turns 80!

Amber Hinkle, Chair



The Women Chemists Committee (WCC) is celebrating its 80th anniversary this year. The committee has planned a number of events to honor and recognize its achievements since 1927. We will continue our celebration at the American Chemical Society's 234th National Meeting in Boston, MA.

Key scientific symposia of interest include:

- “Many Faces of Chemistry: Women at the Forefront,” featuring six of the twelve rising stars identified in 2002.
- “From Peptide Bond Formation Functional Proteins: Symposium in Honor of Ada Yonath,” which will recognize Professor Ada Yonath of the Weizmann Institute for jointly receiving the 2007 Wolf Prize. This highly respected structural biologist will also be

the keynote speaker at the WCC luncheon on August 21st.

Key events of interest include:

- The WCC open meeting on August 18th will be an exciting collaborative effort, co-sponsored by the Northeastern local section, and will include talks on “WCC 80 Years, a Lifetime in Chemistry.”

“The committee has planned a number of events to honor and recognize its achievements since 1927.”

- The WCC is conducting a fabulous workshop on Sunday afternoon, August 19th, called “Build Your Brand – Promote Yourself!”, where participants will learn how to better communicate their own achievements and to speed network for improved career opportunities. This builds on the very successful speed networking event held at the Women in Industry breakfast in Chicago. You can register on-line for the workshop when you register for the national meeting.

- While registering for the ACS Meeting, you can also sign up for the 4th Annual Women Chemists Committee and Northeastern local section Scramble Golf Tournament at Brookline Golf Club, Putterham Meadows, to be held Wednesday afternoon. Sponsorship opportunities are also still available.

Key Awards and Honors will include the following:

- The WCC will again be recognizing several recipients of the WCC/Eli Lilly Travel Awards and the recipient of the Overcoming Challenges Award in Boston.
- New at this meeting, five recipients of the Merck Index Women in Chemistry Award will be recognized at the Women in Industry breakfast on Monday morning.

WCC will also be selling new lapel pins to commemorate this anniversary. Look for these pins with a design that harkens back to the traditional WCC “benzene ring” logo. Other spectacular events and programs are in the works as well.

Committee Summit, Cont'd

(Continued from page 1)

tions for establishing clear, well understood goals, more effective liaison reporting, and liaison activity outside of meetings are presented. In addition, specific areas in the committee structure where communication seemed to be insufficient were identified.

The summit also focused on suggested improvements to the training ConC organizes for incoming committee chairs. Well prepared committee chairs are key elements of a successful committee structure, and specific best practices are recommended for inclusion in the training curriculum.

Finally, significant time was spent on consideration of how the committee structure can best support the strategic priorities of the Society. A gap analysis revealed critical issues where

no committee or group of committees currently has taken sufficient interest. Areas such as multidisciplinary, addressing global scientific challenges, graduate education, and online collaboration among chemical scientists will be recommended to specific committees for greater focus and attention. The summit recommends that the Planning Committee, ConC, the Board, and CPC regularly monitor the alignment of the committee structure with the ACS strategic plan, and make assignments and adjustments as necessary to respond to key issues.

A full report will be presented to the Board, ConC, and CPC at the fall national meeting in Boston. Committee chairs can expect more detail on the summit recommendations in future issues of *Committee News*.



ACS
COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday
August 22, 2007

8:00 a.m.

Sheraton Boston Hotel
Grand Ballroom



Committee Profile: Committee on Nominations and Elections

Barbara A. Sawrey, Chair

The Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E) has primary responsibility for all Society elections. One of the main activities of the committee is to develop panels of proposed nominees for the national offices of ACS including President-Elect, District Director and Director-at-Large. Subcommittees appointed by the N&E Chair generally start their work in the spring to develop a list of potential nominees. The subcommittees each consider all input received from councilors and other members, discuss a proposed panel via e-mail and conference calls, and then submit a confidential list to the entire committee. At the fall meeting, the committee has in-depth discussions about the potential nominees and their match for the existing job descriptions of the positions. Once the lists have been finalized and ordered, a designated N&E member (usually the subcommittee chair) contacts potential nominees to determine their interest in running for office. While people

view it as an honor to be asked to run for ACS office, they often have reasons why they cannot run for office at the time. Therefore, the committee must have a much longer list of potential nominees than there are openings on the ballot. The national positions have become much

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more demanding and time-consuming in recent years. It requires a major commitment from people if they are elected.

At each Spring National Meeting, N&E develops panels of potential candidates for the other two elected committees: the Committee on Committees (ConC) and the Council Policy Committee (CPC). The procedures for developing these panels are very similar to those followed for the Director and President-Elect positions,

though the job descriptions are significantly different. (The Council Policy Committee has responsibility for developing a slate of potential candidates for N&E.)

ACS is a large organization with many qualified people. N&E always asks for assistance from members of the Society, especially members of Council, to suggest people they believe should be considered for various offices. The committee needs assistance from all members to make sure that everyone who is interested is considered for the different positions. Look for the blank nomination form in every Council agenda, or send an e-mail to the N&E committee chair, bsawrey@ucsd.edu or staff liaison, f_lewis@acs.org.

Other activities in which N&E engages include conducting elections in Council, preparing election guidelines and serving as an elections appeal board for all local section and division elections. The committee constantly strives to make sure that elections are fair and that members have the opportunity to elect people who will best serve the Society.

ACS Committee on Nominations and Elections—Current Membership

Chair

Barbara A. Sawrey

Members

Frank D. Blum	Peter C. Jurs
Michael P. Doyle	Roger A. Parker
Carol A. Duane	Sara J. Risch
Merle I. Eiss	Kathleen M. Schulz
Steven A. Fleming	Sharon P. Shoemaker
Michelle M. Francl	Herbert B. Silber
Ruth A. Hathaway	Ellen B. Stechel

Staff Liaison - Flint H. Lewis

The Role of Virtual Labs in Chemistry Education

Bryan Balazs, Chair, Society Committee on Education

With the increasing availability, sophistication and power of web-based tools and computer simulations, more and more academic programs are offering “virtual” chemistry laboratory courses. This trend is particularly true in rural high schools and community colleges, in home-schooling, and in other areas around the world where access to a traditional chemistry lab is limited. These lab courses, by their very nature of being conducted in virtual space, do not involve contact with chemicals or lab equipment and are often created to reduce costs, eliminate hazardous waste and potential safety issues, and to facilitate students’ access to chemistry programs. These are all laudable goals, but this begs the question of whether a virtual lab can truly inspire inquisition and creativity, provide all of the insight, and foster the same level of intellectual satisfaction that a traditional hands-on laboratory experience can offer.

Given this trend, the Society Committee on Education (SOCED) has been working on a position paper to address the role of virtual laboratories in the chemistry curriculum. The committee recognizes that computer simulations and online tools are use-

ful as a *supplement* to laboratory instruction, but should not be considered an acceptable replacement for the entire hands-on laboratory experience. Hands-on laboratories are essential in teaching techniques, developing the independent thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills needed in laboratory environments, fostering an understanding of principles, and providing a “real” science experience.

“The Society Committee on Education will continue to discuss this issue over the course of the summer and at the Fall National Meeting.”

This position is aligned with that of other organizations, which acknowledge that virtual laboratories should complement, not replace, hands-on laboratories. The National Science Teachers Association notes that, “For science to be taught properly and effectively, labs must be an integral part of the science curriculum.”

The College Board has been discussing whether high schools can apply the AP designation to online science courses, and is using criteria derived from the National Research Council’s

America’s Lab Report: Investigations in High School Science to evaluate the AP laboratory experience. The College Board notes that some colleges and universities “will only grant credit for AP science courses that include a hands-on lab.”

The ACS reinforces the importance of the laboratory experience through existing policies. The Society’s statement *Science Education Policies for Sustainable Reform* supports nationwide efforts to “ensure that the resources are available within schools, colleges, and universities to encourage and support excellence in laboratory-based courses.” Through its guidelines developed by the Committee on Professional Training, the ACS requires that undergraduate students complete 500 laboratory contact hours for an approved program, thereby reflecting the centrality of the laboratory experience to the preparation of professional chemists.

The Society Committee on Education will continue to discuss this issue over the course of the summer and at the Fall National Meeting. In order to insure that we understand all the complexities of this issue and have adequately captured them in our position paper, we welcome your feedback. Feedback may be provided by e-mail to education@acs.org.

Committee on Committees to Thank Departing Chairs in Boston

The Committee on Committees (ConC) will be hosting its Chairs Appreciation Luncheon on Monday, August 20, for those committee chairs who have served the statutory limit on the committee that they chair. (See box, right).

ConC’s purpose in hosting this invitational luncheon is simply to say “thanks.” In addition, the committee wants to assure these chairs that their efforts have not gone unrecognized, and that the Society deeply appreciates their commitment.

Council Committee Chairs who have reached the statutory limit on the committee they chair:

Will E. Lynch
Joseph R. Peterson
Alan A. Hazari
James K. Rice
Charles E. Hauff, Jr.
Grace Baysinger
Neil D. Jespersen

Local Section Activities
Membership Affairs
Chemical Safety
Chemistry and Public Affairs
Patents and Related Matters
Publications
Committees

2008 Council Standing Committee Chairs Appointed

President-Elect Bruce E. Bursten began the 2008 committee appointment process in July with the announcement of the chairs of the Council Standing Committees for 2008. (See box, right). Their terms will commence January 1.

The Committee on Committees (ConC) will provide President-Elect Bursten with recommendations for chairs and other members of remaining Council and Joint-Board committees after its meeting in Boston.

Those appointments will be made in December following the election of the 2008 Board chair.

All new committee chairs will be invited to participate in ConC's new chair training session January 25-27, 2008, held in conjunction with the larger ACS Leaders Conference in Dallas, Texas.

Reappointments

Ray A. Dickie
Constitution and Bylaws

Kevin J. Edgar
Divisional Activities

Martin L. Gorbaty
Economic and Professional Affairs

Willem R. Leenstra
Meetings and Expositions

New appointments

D. Richard Cobb
Membership Affairs

Wayne E. Jones
Local Section Activities

ACS Board and Staff Drafts Focused Strategic Plan for the Society

In June, the ACS Board of Directors, along with senior management staff, participated in a highly productive Strategic Planning workshop. The intent of this workshop was to focus the "Strategic Directions 2007 and Beyond" into a practical strategic plan that will aid in priority-setting, strategic management of operations and more effective allocation of ACS resources.

Member comments from the "Join the Discussion" component of the interactive Strategic Directions website, coupled with committee responses to requests for input, proved to be valuable resources in creating the foundation for the strategic planning workshop discussions and the resulting

draft plan "for 2008 and Beyond."

At the beginning of the workshop, participants identified ACS core values. At the end of that exercise, they completed an environmental scan that identified the external trends and

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mega issues that are affecting the chemical enterprise and ACS as well. Our vision of "improving people's lives through the transforming power of chemistry," the ACS mission, core values and scan were then used to identify the strategic goals that ACS should adopt for the future. Milestones were drafted and strategies

were set to accomplish each of the goals.

In July, the plan will be refined and, before the Fall National Meeting, it will be made available to councilors and committees. The plan is scheduled for full Board consideration and approval in Boston in August. The Board of Directors will answer questions about the strategic plan during its open meeting on Sunday, August 19 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in Room 210C of the Boston Convention & Exposition Center. Also during the Fall National Meeting, the plan will be discussed with committees, councilors, and members to solicit further input and to begin its implementation. Refinement and improvement of the plan will take place annually to ensure that ACS strategic thinking continues to evolve along with the rapidly changing chemistry enterprise itself.

Reminder! Committee Short Reports for *C&EN*

ACS Committees that will meet at the
Fall National Meeting in Boston
should submit their committee report
for *C&EN* by September 5 to the Office of the Secretary



Committee News
American Chemical Society
1155 Sixteenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036

**Announcing the
Next Issue!**

**The next issue of
Committee News
will be distributed
October 2007.**

**The deadline
for submissions is
September 10.**

**ACS Board of Directors
Open Meeting and Forum**

The ACS Board of Directors meeting, open to members who wish to observe, will be held in the Boston Convention & Exposition Center, 210C, from 9 a.m. to noon Sunday, August 19. ACS members will hear from the Society's officers and its international guests. Central to this meeting will be an open forum at approximately 11:15 a.m., at which ACS members can offer their comments and observations on issues of concern. The newly developed ACS Strategic Plan is one suggestion for discussion. We solicit advance questions which may be submitted to secretary@acs.org on topics of interest. Refreshments will be available.

Funds Available for Collaborative Career Development Activities

Proposals are being sought for Equipping the 2015 Chemical Technology Workforce mini-grants. Up to \$500 will be awarded to collaborative activities that support technician education and career development.

Recognizing a need to support chemical technicians in the rapidly evolving chemical enterprise, the Committee on Technician Affairs (CTA) joined with several other ACS units in 2006 to start Equipping the 2015 Chemical Technology Workforce. The initiative kicked off at the 232nd ACS National Meeting with a Presidential Event highlighting its goals:

- 1) Raise awareness of the changing needs of chemical technicians
- 2) Highlight opportunities for industry, academia, professional societies, and the community to collaborate on meeting those needs
- 3) Increase involvement of technicians in the American Chemical Society

The winners of the first round of mini-grants, awarded in Spring 2007, are collaborating with industry, academia, and ACS local sections on such activities as chemical technology career fairs for high school students, discussion panels on employability skills for technicians, and technical programming at regional and national meetings on the vital role technicians play in the chemical enterprise.

Equally compelling proposals are being sought for a second round of mini-grants to be awarded in October 2007.

To qualify for a mini-grant, activities must involve one or more sectors of the chemical enterprise (industry, academia, etc.) and be completed by the summer of 2008. Activities must also support one or more of the goals of Equipping the 2015 Chemical Technology Workforce. Proposals must be received by September 26, 2007.

To learn more about Equipping the 2015 Chemical Technology Workforce mini-grants, to get ideas for activities, or to gather information about the chemical technology profession in today's marketplace, please visit either the CTA website, or www.ChemTechLinks.org, and click on "Equipping the 2015 Chemical Technology Workforce," or e-mail chemtechlinks@acs.org.