

Report of Council Meeting Held on March 24, 2010 at the San Francisco Marriott Marquis in San Francisco, CA

The 239th National Meeting of the ACS was held in San Francisco, CA from March 21 – 25, 2010. The theme of this meeting was "Chemistry for a Sustainable World." The Chicago Section was represented by twelve councilors. The councilors who attended for the Section were: Cherlyn Bradley, Charles Cannon, Mark Cesa, David Crumrine, Ken Fivizzani, Inessa (Gorelik) Miller, Herb Golinkin, Russell Johnson, Fran Kravitz, Milt Levenberg, Barbara Moriarty and Susan Shih.

Finances: The Committee on Budget and Finance reported that, in spite of the economic challenges faced in 2009, the Society's operating performance held up well. The Society's total 2009 revenue (\$460 million) was up +1% from 2008, but fell short of the 2009 approved budget by \$19.5 million or 4.1%. Fortunately, the revenue shortfall was fully anticipated in early 2009. Contingency planning actions and cost containment initiatives were implemented across the Society, resulting in expense savings totaling \$22.5 million. Significant reductions were realized in salaries and fringe benefits, and in discretionary accounts such as travel, training, and professional services. As a result, the Society's Net Return from Operations was \$13.7 million, or \$3.0 million greater than anticipated in the 2009 Approved Budget. The financial outlook for 2010 is better, and ACS management expects the Society to meet the 2010 approved budget.

The Council voted to set dues for 2009 at the fully escalated rate of \$146, using a formula that accounts for inflation.

Governance: The Council selected Luis A. Echegoyen and Bassam Z. Shakhashiri as candidates for 2011 President-Elect. These two candidates will stand for election in the Fall National Election.

Meetings and Expositions: As of March 24, 2010, the ACS spring national meeting had attracted 18,076 registrants as follows: Regular attendees 9,715; Students 5,705; Exhibitors 1,219; Exposition only 923; and Guests 514. This meeting's attendance was one of the top five for ACS meetings.

Membership: At the close of 2009, Society membership totaled 161,783, a 5% increase over the end of 2008. This increase includes the transition of 6,658 former Student Affiliates to the new student member category in June 2009 and the recruitment of 6,341 new student member undergraduates.

Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs: The career fair at the meeting had 1018 job seekers, 40 employers and 116 jobs posted.

Petitions: The Council voted to approve the Petition on Admissions Committee, which removes the Admission Committee from the Bylaws and transfers its functions to the Council Committee on Membership Affairs.

A petition to amend the Constitution to emphasize that candidates selected by the petition process will have no further screening was not approved by the Council. In addition, a petition to shorten certain national ACS election timelines was also not approved by Council.

If you have any questions and/or comments about the above actions, please contact me or one of your other councilors. You may contact me by email (bmoriarty@nalco.com).

Barbara Moriarty