

Councilor's Report – August 2015

250th ACS National Meeting – Boston, MA

Robert H. Hill, Jr. and Frankie Wood-Black

From the Boston Meeting:

Reports of Officers (Highlights)

Immediate Past President Tom J. Barton reported that he has been continuing to advance his initiatives, hosting sessions at regional meetings for industrial chemists, holding meetings with the American Chemistry Council, and developing plans for a joint task force on community colleges.

Note: the joint task force on community colleges is supposed to be focusing on workforce development.

Executive Director & CEO Thomas M. Connelly, Jr. addressed the Council for the first time as Executive Director & CEO. He provided brief biographical background, stating that he feels honored and privileged to have been selected for the position. He has been constantly impressed by the capability of ACS staff and volunteers, and by the scope and scale of their efforts. As a long-time member of ACS, he has observed and admired the many ways in which the Society has made important contributions to chemistry.

Reports of Society Committees and Committee on Science (Highlights)

Budget and Finance (B&F)

In 2014, ACS generated a Net from Operations of \$17.9 million, which was \$4.2 million favorable to budget. Total revenues were \$499.0 million, \$0.7 million or 0.1 percent higher than budget. Expenses ended the year at \$481.1 million, \$3.5 million favorable to the budget. This variance was largely attributable to a continued emphasis on expense management across the Society. Despite favorable operating results, the Society's financial position weakened in 2014, with Unrestricted Net Assets declining \$62.3 million, to \$144.7 million at year-end. This decline was the result of a significant accounting charge related to the Society's two closed postretirement benefit plans.

From the Task Force on National Meeting Financial Targets

In December, the ACS Board of Directors voted to accept the six recommendations and five courses of action proposed by the Task Force on National Meeting Financial Targets (TFNMFT). These recommendations were distributed via the list serve back in March. Listed below are the FAQs that were sent to councilors in late May:

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why can't we charge even more for the Exposition so that we can keep attendee costs lower?
The pricing for the Exposition is reviewed annually by the Council Committee on Meetings and Expositions. At this time the ACS price point is at the high end of the industry standard. Increasing the price for exhibit booths space will impact vendor attendance.
2. Why can't we only choose cities where we know we will have strong attendance?

M&E has altered the site selection process and has focused future meetings on cities that have historically strong attendance. That said, we find little enthusiasm for removing the possibility of scheduling “experimental” sites entirely.

3. Will students and other reduced-rate registrants pay the full \$15/meeting?
No - reduced rate registrants will continue to receive their full discount percentage on registration.
4. What is the typical cost of AV equipment for the technical sessions at a national meeting?
In 2014 the audio visual equipment cost was in excess of \$1.0 million. This is an 86% increase over the 2005 amount.
5. What was the Technical Program revenue for the last ten years?
The Technical Program revenue average for the period 2005-2014 is \$6.6 million/year. Total expenses for the same period averaged \$7.1 million/year.
6. Why not subsidize the National Meeting with dues, CAS, and/or Publications revenues?
After examining the financial results for the previous ten years, all three Task Forces recommended that attendees should support the Technical Program to a break-even position.
7. Why will excess revenue from the Exposition no longer be used to offset technical meeting costs?
It is important to recognize that the exposition business in general is facing increasing reluctance from exhibiting companies and that the positive operating results enjoyed in the past are not guaranteed in the future. It is important that we act now to ensure that the Technical Program reaches a break-even position. It seems reasonable and entirely fair to expect those who attend the Technical Program to cover the expense of putting on the Technical Program.
8. Can the Society purchase the audio equipment we need on-site and bring it from city to city?
The changing technology in the audio visual industry makes it impractical to purchase audio visual components. Audio visual providers invest continually in their technology to enable them to stay at the forefront of available equipment. Additionally, should ACS purchase audio visual equipment there are maintenance, storage, transportation, and labor issues which make a purchase much more costly than the current practice.
9. How will any revenue from the Exposition be used?
Exposition revenue in excess of total expenses will be used to fund programs, products, and service for members.
10. What is causing the Technical Program to have financial results that are less than break even?
 - **For the 5 year period 2010-2014 expenses paid to vendors who provide services at the National Meeting have been reduced by 1% if audio visual costs are excluded**
 - **For the same period, if audio visual costs are included, the increase is almost 16%**
 - **Increased technology demands, better technology, “greening the meeting”, and a general industry wide price increase in technology has resulted in the increased cost**
11. Can't we save money by cutting back on the expenses associated with ACS governance at the national meetings?
Governance expenses are not charged to the national meeting; they are covered separately in the ACS budget.
12. Can expenses at the National Meeting be reduced to offset the proposed increase?

Not without impacting the “attendee experience” or foregoing the progress we have made on “Greening” the meeting. The contractual commitments for the National Meeting are continually reviewed and negotiated to provide the best value possible for the attendees.

13. Is it financially practical to offer individuals who cannot attend the National Meeting “real time” on-line opportunities to attend technical sessions?

With over 6,000 technical program speakers at a National Meeting it is impossible to make an all-inclusive on-line real time offer to those who cannot attend a meeting. Should we decide to do a subset of the technical program presentations, it would require the electronics/audio visual package be set in each meeting room that is selection for presentations. At 500 presentations, the estimated cost is \$350,000 per meeting.

14. Without WiFi available in the technical program session rooms, how do I best use the mobile app?

Simply download the mobile app to your mobile device before you arrive at the technical session. Once the download is complete, WiFi is not required to access all of the components of the app. For example, you will be able to access all data within the app except for any links that point you outside the app (i.e., an exhibitor’s website). In addition, you will be able to continue adding events to your schedule without WiFi. When you return back to an area where you have connectivity, the app will install any updates that may have been made while you were in a dead zone as well as sync your calendar with events that you may have added.

15. How do I make a suggestion about the National Meetings?

Please email NationalMeetings@acs.org.

Note: The Advance Early Member Registration rate in 2014 was \$380. Actual revenue per attendee in 2014 was \$271. The variance between these amounts was due to the numerous discounted registration fees available to members who attend the meeting, i.e. Undergraduate Student, Graduate Student, Emeritus Member, etc.

There is a Presentation if anyone is particularly interested.

At this Meeting: The Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 19, 2015 at 8 AM in the Sheraton Boston Hotel, Grand Ballroom.

Items which will come up for action (vote) by Councilors:

- Elections of candidates for members of:
 - Committee on Committees (Pat Redden is running for ConC)
 - Committee to Council Policy Committee
 - Committee on Nominations and Elections
- Ballot Counts , Previous Elections
 - 2016 President-Elect – Individuals nominated
 - G. Bryan Balazs
 - Allison A. Campbell

- Director, District I
 - Thomas R. Gilbert
 - Laura E. Pence
- Director, District V
 - John E. Adams
 - Kenneth P. Fivizzani
- Recognition of Service
 - Pat Redden – 30 years on Council
 - Wayne C. Wolsey – 30 years on Council
 - David Crumrine – 15 years on Council
- Council Action from Committee on Nominations and Elections for Changes
 - Balloting and Preferential Voting Procedures for Elections of President-Elect, District Directors, and Directors-At-Large
 - Changes to now include Director-at-Large (Present process already includes President-Elect and District Directors – in place for 20 yrs)
 - Seeks to use Preferential voting where there are > 2 candidates
 - Voters rank candidates; after vote if candidate has majority (>50%) then wins; if none have majority, lowest candidate eliminated and that candidates 2nd preference votes redistributed to other candidates so a majority is determined
 - Council votes on 1) Procedures; 2) Petition for Changes to By-laws
- Council Action from Committee on Membership Affairs for Changes
 - Procedure for Expulsion of a Member
 - Present method is cumbersome, lengthy, and unfair to the Society and to the member charged, last amended in 1983.
 - Seeks to streamline process
 - Council votes on 1) Procedures; 2) Petition for Changes to By-laws
- Council Notification from Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs to revise
 - *Academic Professional Guidelines*
 - Send suggestions for further edits by September 30, 2015
- Committee on Meetings and Expositions announced
 - Denver meeting attendance – 13,964
 - Recommended Washington, DC for August 2025 & August 2018 National meetings
 - Recommended 2011 National meeting be relocated from Boston, MA to Atlanta, GA; Also recommends Atlanta, GA for Spring 2026

- Council Action from Committee on International Activities for Petitions to Charter International Chemical Sciences Chapter for
 - United Arab Emirates, Peru, Nigeria, Brazil, Australia

Respectfully submitted by

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