

## Councilor Report: ACS National Meeting & Exposition

Abby O'Connor

Trenton ACS councilor, Abby O'Connor, traveled to New Orleans, LA to attend the hybrid ACS National Meeting & Exposition, held from March 17-21. The Councilor attended and participated in the hybrid council meeting on March 20, the in person Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting (MARM) board meeting on March 19, the District III caucus on March 17, the technical sessions, and the closed Committee on Environment and Sustainability (CES) on March 16. In December, Councilor O'Connor was appointed to be a full member of CES. Other local section members on the executive board were at the meeting including Chair Joe Macor, Treasurer Danielle Jacobs, Secretary Levi Ekanger, Alternate Councilor Benny Chan, and Director Rebecca Hunter. At the CES meeting, Councilor O'Connor worked with the educational subcommittee to select recipients of mini-grants and to recommend projects for ChemLuminary awards. Councilor O'Connor will transition to be the chair of the awards and mini grants. Next year, the committee will host strategic planning to develop a new set of initiatives for the group's work on sustainability. The committee also helps to support technical programming at regional and national meetings. Discussions were had with regards to changes to the national meeting footprint, where smaller more topical meetings would happen at the fall meeting and larger more traditional ACS meetings would happen in the spring. This could impact the format of committee meetings in the future. We will also see shrinking of the numbers of consecutive sessions starting next fall. We were also informed that the ACS code of conduct for volunteers was updated. The new changes now apply to all people at ACS events. There are also Mini-grants available to the local section to support events that intersect sustainability. We should consider applying for one.

The theme of the meeting focused on the "Many Flavors of Chemistry". The keynote lectures focused on collaborative research and trailblazing science at the interface of flavor and fragrances and chemistry. Attendees enjoyed technical sessions, social events, and governance activities. There were 14,368 registrations (13,122 in-person & 1246 virtual). The ACS continued to have additional amenities at the meeting to support their members and this included larger networking socials, wellness rooms, cornhole and other games at the convention center, child care resources, and much more. The councilor presented a talk on the Green Chemistry initiatives at TCNJ in light of the new CPT guidelines for Bachelor degree programs. Several TCNJ and Rider students presented posters at the meeting.

At the meeting of the MARM board we reviewed the future MARM meetings including the final recap for MARMs to be hosted in the region over the next 5-10 years. ACS will be changing how they are supporting regional meetings in terms of registration. More information will be shared with regional meeting chairs soon. The inaugural Bill Suits service award will be given out to a student at the next MARM to be held in June 2024 at Penn State. Nominations for several other awards are due April 1, 2024. We discussed the details of the MARM at Penn state which includes a senior chemists lunch, ACS governance social, a performance of Roald Hoffman's play Oxygen, tours of the library and nuclear reactor, a robust technical program (400 abstracts) and several plenary lectures, including one by John Warner. Registration opens next week and a pricing guide will be shared there. There will be another

local section poster session, if the Trenton LS would like to present. The 2025 MARM will be held at Seton Hall. The planning team is meeting monthly to develop the program and the program chair is from Merck. The MARM 2026 will likely be hosted by Lehigh Valley and Susquehanna at Hershey but we are awaiting a bid package. Nominations for chair-elect from the MARM board are also being solicited. MARM 2027 may be hosted by Princeton, and MARM 2028 will be a nanoMARM hosted by the society of Washington DC. Jennifer McCaulley is stepping down from the MARM board and Greg Caputo will take her place. They are looking for volunteers to serve as a leader for maintaining the website and organizing the files on the Google Drive.

Councilor O'Connor attended the Council Meeting on Wednesday, March 20th. The meeting was conducted in a hybrid format. Most councilors were present in person. Election for candidates for President-elect for 2025 occurred. The two nominees receiving the highest votes are Rigoberto Hernandez and Laura Sremaniak. The Committee on Nominations and Elections (N & E) announced the selection of the candidates for the 2025-27 term for director-at-large. They are Chris Bannochie, Natalie LaFranzo and Sergio Nanita. The election will happen in October 2024. The council voted in favor of changing the name of the Division of Biological Chemistry (BIOL) to the Division of Biochemistry and Chemical Biology (BIOL), despite strong disapproval from the MEDI division. The Council approved an amendment to the distribution formula for Division funding to allow for a greater amount of funding to be distributed to Divisions. New international chemical sciences chapters were approved in Egypt and Guangdong China. The council approved a name change for the Auburn Local Section to the East Alabama/West Georgia Section to better represent the membership. Council approved the petition on dues and benefits to change the name of the schedule of membership to the schedule of dues and benefits and the petition also now defines the role of community associates. Several bylaws for local sections, 5 technical divisions, and 2 international chemical sciences chapters were reported to be certified by the committee on constitution and bylaws. At the fall 2024 meeting in Denver SOCED invited students to participate in the discussion session. At this ACS meeting, the YCC held an inaugural younger chemists caucus meeting and intends to continue holding this event.

The national ACS meeting will come back to New Orleans in 2030 (Spring) March 10-14 and the location for the Fall 2032 meeting will be in Chicago (August 22-26). The online preference form is now available for ACS members interested in serving on a Committee (see last page for information). The ACS committee structure went through an external review. The key takeaways from this review include exploration of new committees on PRIDE and industry, great engagement of volunteers, and establishing committee clusters.

Respectfully submitted,

Abby O'Connor

These and other Council activities are captured below in the Councilor Talking Points:



**American Chemical Society  
ACS Spring 2024 Meeting  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
March 17 – 21, 2024**

## 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 March 20, and the Board of Directors meetings held on March 15 – 17, 2024.

### **Actions of the Council**

#### Election Results:

#### **Candidates for President-Elect, 2025**

- The Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E) presented to the Council the following *nominees* for selection as *candidates* for President-Elect, 2025: Rigoberto Hernandez, Thomas Holme, Ingrid Montes, and Laura Sremaniak. By electronic ballot, the Council selected **Rigoberto Hernandez and Laura Sremaniak as candidates for 2025 President-Elect**. These two candidates will join **Mukund Chorghade**, a petition candidate, and any additional candidates selected via petitions to stand for election in the fall 2024 national election.

#### **President-Elect 2025<sup>a</sup>**

<b>Nominee</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Round</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Round</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Round</b>
<b>*Rigoberto Hernandez</b>	124	151	188
<b>Thomas Holme</b>	107	124	-
<b>Ingrid Montes</b>	60	-	-
<b>*Laura Sremaniak</b>	124	139	180

<sup>a</sup>415 valid electronic ballots were cast, with 208 being the majority. The results of the first preference vote totals are shown in the 1st round column. No nominee attained a majority. Following the procedures approved by Council, the lowest vote-getter, Ingrid Montes, was dropped and her second-preference votes were distributed in the subsequent round. Those marked with an asterisk (\*) were declared elected as candidates.

**Councilor Talking Points and  
Summary of Governance Issues and Actions**

**Candidates for Districts I, V, and International**

- The Committee on Nominations and Elections announced the results of the election held prior to the Council meeting; to select candidates from the list of nominees for Directors from District I, District V, and the International District on the Board of Directors for the term 2025-2027. By electronic ballot, the Councilors from these districts selected **Katherine L. Lee and Matthew Grandbois as District I candidates; Lisa M. Balbes, Mark C. Cesa, and Silvia S. Jurisson as District V candidates; and David Wu and Hooi-Ling Lee as International District candidates.** Ballots will be distributed to members residing in District I, District V, and the International District around October 1, 2024, for election of a Director from each District.

**DISTRICT I<sup>a</sup>**

Nominee	1 <sup>st</sup> Round	2 <sup>nd</sup> Round
*Katherine L. Lee	26	-
*Matthew Grandbois	12	27
Alyssa C. Thomas	4	6
Barbara R. Hillery	1	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>42</b>

**DISTRICT V<sup>b</sup>**

Nominee	1 <sup>st</sup> Round	2 <sup>nd</sup> round	3 <sup>rd</sup> Round
*Lisa M. Balbes	25	28	-
*Mark C. Cesa	11	12	24
*Silvia S. Jurisson	9	11	24
Joseph A. Heppert	7	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>48</b>

**INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT<sup>c</sup>**

Nominee	1 <sup>st</sup> Round	2 <sup>nd</sup> Round	3 <sup>rd</sup> Round
*David Wu	93	106	140
*Hooi-Ling Lee	84	100	127
Csaba Janaky	54	64	-
Hassan S. Bazzi	39	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>267</b>

<sup>a</sup> The results of the first preference vote totals are shown in the 1<sup>st</sup> round column. 43 valid electronic ballots were cast, with 22 being the majority. Katherine L. Lee attained a majority. Following the procedures approved by Council, the majority vote-getter, Katherine L. Lee, was excluded and her second-preference votes were distributed in one subsequent round. Those marked with an asterisk (\*) were declared elected as candidates.

<sup>b</sup> The results of the first preference vote totals are shown in the 1<sup>st</sup> round column. 52 valid electronic ballots were cast, with 27 being the majority. No nominee attained a majority. Following the procedures approved by Council, the lowest vote-getter, Joseph A. Heppert, was dropped and his second-preference votes were distributed in a subsequent round. Lisa M. Balbes attained a majority, and was excluded from a third round, with her second-preference votes distributed to subsequent candidates. Those marked with an asterisk (\*) were declared elected as candidates.

<sup>c</sup> The results of the first preference vote totals are shown in the 1<sup>st</sup> round column. 270 valid electronic ballots were cast, with 136 being the majority. No nominee attained a majority. Following the procedures approved by Council, the lowest vote-getters, Csaba Janaky and Hassan S. Bazzi, were dropped and their second-preference votes were distributed in two subsequent rounds. Those marked with an asterisk (\*) were declared elected as candidates.

## Councilor Talking Points and Summary of Governance Issues and Actions

### Candidates for Directors-at-Large

- In November, the Petition to Add International Representation on the Board of Directors was approved and ratified. As a result of its implementation, there is a reduction of the total number of Directors-at-Large (DAL) on the Board of Directors from six to five beginning in 2025. Because of the timing of candidate selection and petition approval processes, N&E opted to select the usual four candidates for the two possible DAL positions in case the petition failed. Since the petition was passed and ratified, in fairness to those selected, N&E planned to run all four candidates for one DAL position; however, one candidate withdrew leaving three candidates. There will be no down-select process and all three will run as candidates. Preferential voting will be used in accordance with Standing Rule IV, Section 4., c.
- The Committee on Nominations and Elections announced the selection of the following **candidates for Director-at-Large** for the 2025-2027 term: **Christopher J. Bannochie, Natalie A. LaFranzo, and Sergio C. Nanita**. The election of one Director-at-Large from among these three candidates and any selected via petition will be conducted in the fall. Ballots will be distributed to the Council around October 1, 2024.
- By electronic ballot, the Council elected **Debbie C. Crans to the Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E)** for an unexpired term of less than one year (2024) and a subsequent full three-year term (2025-2027) in accordance with Standing Rule IV, Section 9., e.

Brian B. Brady

121

\*Debbie C. Crans

156

### Other Council Actions:

#### Highlights from Committee Reports and Key Actions

- On the recommendation of the Council Policy Committee (CPC), Council approved the Petition to Remove Inconsistencies and Add Missing Provisions. The petition clarifies language about membership on the elected committees of Council and adds a provision for filling a vacancy in the position of Director-at-Large. This petition is now presented to the ACS Board of Directors for action.
- On the recommendation of the Committee on Committees (ConC), and with the concurrence of the Council Policy Committee, Council approved the Petition to Amend the Duties of the Committee on Budget and Finance (B&F) to better reflect their charge of making recommendations on the Society's budget for approval by the Board of Directors. The petition also removes an outdated provision to reflect that the funding of the official organ of the Society has been made independent from dues revenue. This petition is now presented to the ACS Board of Directors for action.
- ConC announced that the opening of the online preference form to all ACS members began on March 1 and will run through July 1, Councilors interested in serving on an ACS Committee in 2025 should go to [CMTE.acs.org](https://cmte.acs.org) to complete their preferences.
- On the recommendation of the Committee on Divisional Activities (DAC), Council approved changing the name of the Division of Biological Chemistry (BIOL) to the Division of Biochemistry and Chemical Biology (BIOL). This name change takes effect January 1, 2025.

## Councilor Talking Points and Summary of Governance Issues and Actions

- On the recommendation of DAC, Council approved an amendment to the distribution formula for Division funding. This will allow a greater amount of funding to be distributed to Divisions.
- On the recommendation of the Committee on International Activities (IAC), Council approved the creation of International Chemical Sciences Chapters in Egypt and Guangdong, China, subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors.
- On the recommendation of the Committee on Local Section Activities (LSAC), Council approved changing the name of the Auburn Section to the East Alabama/West Georgia Section. This name change takes effect on January 1, 2025.
- On the recommendation of the Committee on Membership Affairs (MAC) and with the concurrence of the Council Policy Committee, Council approved the Petition on Dues and Benefits to change the name of the Schedule of Membership to the Schedule of Dues and Benefits. The petition also defines the role of Community Associates. This petition is now presented to the ACS Board of Directors for action.
- On the recommendation of MAC and with the concurrence of the Council Policy Committee, Council approved the 2025 Schedule of Dues and Benefits.
- The Committee on Constitution and Bylaws (C&B) reported the certification of bylaws for four Local Sections (Columbus, Permian Basin, University of Arkansas, and Central Pennsylvania), five technical Divisions (Colloid and Surface Chemistry, Biological Chemistry, Analytical Chemistry, Industrial and Engineering Chemistry, and Environmental Chemistry), and two International Chemical Sciences Chapters (Singapore and Switzerland) since the fall 2023 meeting.
- The Committee on Education (SOCED) invited students to participate in a SOCED Discussion Session to be held in conjunction with the ACS Fall 2024 meeting in Denver, and invited Councilors to their upcoming virtual open meeting on April 25.
- The Committee on Younger Chemists (YCC) plans to expand the concept of Local Section Younger Chemists Committees to include International Chemical Sciences Chapters and reported on the inaugural Younger Chemists' Caucus and their plans to continue holding this event.

## Resolutions

The Council passed several resolutions:

- In memory of deceased Councilors.
- In recognition of ACS Secretary, Flint Lewis, on the occasion of his retirement after 28 years.
- In sincere appreciation of the Louisiana Section, host Section for the ACS Spring 2024 meeting, the Divisional program chairs, symposium organizers, and ACS staff for the planning and execution of the meeting.

## **Councilor Talking Points and Summary of Governance Issues and Actions**

The ACS Spring 2024 meeting was held from March 17 – 21. As of March 19, there were 14,368 registrations (13,122 in-person and 1,246 online). The ACS Fall 2024 meeting will be held in Denver, CO from August 18 – 22, 2024.

---

### **Actions of the Board of Directors - Executive Session**

The ACS Board of Directors met in Executive Session on March 15-16, 2024, in New Orleans, LA. They considered several key strategic issues and responded with numerous actions. The meeting was opened with a reflection on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Respect (DEIR).

#### **Chief Executive Officer's Report**

The CEO and his staff reported on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ACS, the ACS DEIR Maturity Model, the future of ACS meetings, the ACS brand, financials, and other ACS activities. This was followed by a strategic discussion on sustainability. The CEO also introduced the new ACS General Counsel, Tokë Vandervoort, who joined ACS on March 4.

#### **Board Committees**

The Board received and discussed reports from the Governing Board for Publishing as well as its Committees on Professional and Member Relations, Executive Compensation, Audits & Risk Management, and Pensions and Investments. Several of these committees requested and obtained Board action on one or more items, as follows:

- Upon the recommendation of the Editor Search Committee, the Board voted to approve the appointment of an Editor-in-Chief of the ACS journal Electrochemistry. The appointment will be announced after the individual has been notified and appropriate arrangements for their service has been made.
- Upon recommendation of the Society Committee on Publications, the Board voted to approve the reappointment of several ACS journal editors. The reappointments will be announced after the individuals have been notified and appropriate arrangements for their continued service have been made.
- The Board voted to approve the reappointment of two members of the Governing Board for Publishing. The reappointments will be announced after 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 (P&MR), the Board approved recommendations for establishing the Dong Qin ACS Award in Nanochemistry, the 2025 Othmer Gold Medal nominee, and the screened lists of five nominees each for the 2025 Priestley Medal and the 2025 Award for Volunteer Service to the ACS.
- The Board received an extensive briefing and approved several recommendations from the Committee on Executive Compensation. The compensation of the Society's executive staff continues to be reviewed regularly by the Board.

## Councilor Talking Points and Summary of Governance Issues and Actions

- Items related to ACS benefits and budgets were reviewed and approved.

### Other Society Business

By consent, the Board took multiple actions including recommendations from the Committee on Meetings and Expositions to change the date of the ACS Spring 2030 meeting in New Orleans from March 17-21 to March 10-14, and the ACS Fall 2032 meeting date and location to August 22-26, 2032, in Chicago, IL were approved, and several interim actions were ratified.

As is customary, the Board heard reports from the Presidential Succession on their current and planned activities for 2024 and 2025. They received an update on the status of the search for the new Secretary of the Society. There were also discussions on how to further improve the ongoing process of raising items of strategic concern expressed by members to the Board and to improve Board efficiency.

Finally, the Board adopted a resolution in honor of retiring ACS Secretary and General Counsel, Flint H. Lewis.

---

## 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

Mary K. Carroll, President	<a href="mailto:marycarroll-ac@union.edu">marycarroll-ac@union.edu</a>
Dorothy J. Phillips, President-Elect	<a href="mailto:d.phillips@acs.org">d.phillips@acs.org</a>
Judith C. Giordan, Immediate Past President	<a href="mailto:j.giordan@acs.org">j.giordan@acs.org</a>

### ACS Offices

Office of the Secretary	<a href="mailto:secretary@acs.org">secretary@acs.org</a>
-------------------------	--

### Resources on the Web

Committee Preference Form	<a href="http://www.cmte.acs.org">www.cmte.acs.org</a>
Nominations for President, Directors, and Elected Committees	<a href="http://nominations.acs.org">nominations.acs.org</a>
ACS Governing Documents	<a href="http://www.acs.org/govdocs">www.acs.org/govdocs</a>