

Councilor Bulletin

Volume 11 Number 1 March 2012

www.acs.org

ACS COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday,
March 28, 2012
8:00 a.m.

San Diego
Marriott Marquis
& Marina
Marriott Hall

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From the ACS President

Bassam Z. Shakhshiri



Peter Catts Photography

We, the Councilors of the American Chemical Society, are the heart of a great organization. ACS relies on our judgment to define and address various issues facing our chemical enterprise. When we rise to the occasion our impact can be profound. And we must always rise, otherwise we fail in our duties as stewards of the world's largest scientific society. Our strength is not only in sheer numbers—it is both in the validity of our ideas and in our commitment to live and achieve the deep meaning of every word in our mission statement: *“to advance the broader chemistry enterprise and its practitioners for the benefit of Earth and its people.”*

At Council meetings we spend considerable time discussing procedural items related to governance. These matters require our careful due attention. However, it is my belief that the collective talent of the Council must always have the greatest influence possible on policy matters affecting ACS and its appropriate role in the chemical enterprise. That is why I have asked the Council Policy Committee (CPC) to study carefully how the Council agenda, our performance, and effectiveness can be more

strengthened to successfully deal with significant policy matters related to our role in the chemical enterprise. The Council discussion on safety at

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our Denver meeting is an excellent example of addressing highly important matters of policy and practices. I express thanks to President Nancy Jackson for leading that discussion.

At the San Diego meeting, the special discussion topic will be the ACS Climate Science Toolkit, which is being developed by the ACS Presidential Working Group on Climate Science. I gave the Working Group two tasks. One is to develop a toolkit that deals with the science of climate change that can be used by every ACS member. The initial use of this Climate Science Toolkit is self-education. It will be designed to equip ACS members with the information and other resources necessary to develop a robust intellectual structure that can be the basis for their discussions with others. What is a greenhouse gas? How does the

heating mechanism work? How does the vibrational energy from molecules change into translational kinetic energy? These are just a few examples of the questions whose answers must be understood before we try to share the science of our climate with the public. The second task for the Working Group is to articulate strategies for our members to use the toolkit in disseminating climate science information to school teachers, college and university faculty, industrial scientists and business leaders, civic and religious groups, professional science and educational organizations, and elected public officials at all levels and in all branches of government. These strategies should be aimed to enrich and expand on the ACS position statement on climate change and related ACS programs and activities.

The Council agenda book includes a two-page description of the ACS Climate Science Toolkit and the question for Council discussion: *What is your reaction to the proposed topics for the ACS Climate Science Toolkit? As with all Council discussions, the ground rules are: a short presentation by me on the subject, a live display of the web-based toolkit and 30 minutes of open discussion providing one minute for each speaker. The Council discussion will focus solely on identifying the*

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President, Cont'd

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scope and issues to be included in the Toolkit.

Please look carefully at the entire agenda book to help assure a smooth and productive Council meeting. I would have much preferred to be asking you to look at the electronic version of the Council agenda, but alas only 111 out of 905 Councilors, Alternate Councilors and Ex Officio Councilors have opted for this version which is available at www.acs.org/councilors.

Would you please consider joining me in relying on elec-

tronic distribution means for the Philadelphia meeting? This would be in keeping with our efforts to support the sustainability initiative of the Society.

The San Diego meeting program is rich in content as befits our learned society. There are over 950 half-day oral sessions, representing more than 11,000 papers, and numerous special professional and social events. All are a tribute to our successful efforts in serving our members, the chemical enterprise, and society at large.

See you San Diego!