

Councilors report

The ACS Fall 2026 meeting was held from August 23 to 27 with over 13,000 attendees from 84 countries. At the Council Meeting held on Wednesday August 26, the following actions were taken:

- By electronic ballot, the Council elected to the Council Policy Committee (CPC): **Rodney Bennett, Martha Hollomon, Veronica Jaramillo, and Sheila Murphy** for a three-year term (2027 – 2029).
- By electronic ballot, the Council elected to the Committee on Committees (ConC): **Jeanne Berk, Anna Cavinato, Thomas Gilbert, Michelle Rogers, and Laura Sessions** for a three-year term (2027 – 2029); **Janet Asper** for a two-year term (2027 – 2028); and **Mary Ann Meador and W. Matthew Reichert** for a one-year term filling vacancies.
- By electronic ballot, the Council elected to the Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E): **Amber Charlebois, Milagros Delgado, Arlene Garrison, Patrick Gordon and Jennifer MacLachlan** for three-year terms (2027 – 2029); **Jingbo Louise Liu** for a two-year term beginning immediately (2026 – 2027); and **Erin Dotlich** for a one-year term (2027) filling a vacancy.

The Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E), reminded Councilors of the Fall Elections for President-Elect, Directors-at-Large, District 3, and District 6. The ballot will open on September 14 and close on October 9.

The Membership Affairs Committee (MAC), reported on the launch of an ACS Lifetime Membership pilot, priced at \$2,000 and with limited availability during the pilot phase. A reciprocal membership discount program was announced with the German Chemical Society (GDCh). Through this three-year pilot program, eligible ACS members in the United States and GDCh members in Germany can receive a 30% discount on membership in the reciprocal organization. MAC is supporting an ACS Graduate Student mentorship program; undergraduate and industry programs will launch in 2027.

The Divisional Activities Committee (DAC), reported on a new Division Liaison program to increase interconnection between DAC and Divisions. DAC is evaluating updates to the Division Allocation formula for potential consideration by Council in 2027. DAC will host information and feedback sessions with division leaders in the coming months to gather input and help shape the final proposal.

The Committee on Chemistry and Public Affairs (CCPA), highlighted the increase to 10 public policy fellow positions. Councilors are encouraged to connect members to Act4Chemistry and the Government Affairs webpage; identify rapid-response chemistry experts across divisions and Local Sections; and bring forth local stories to district directors and the Government Affairs team to help ACS communicate to legislators how federal policy affects members, research programs, students, institutions, companies and regional economies.

Sam Brunclik, Chair of the Committee on the Advancement of LGBTQ+ Chemists (CALC), reported on their new strategic plan with goals to: develop resources for LGBTQ+ chemists and allies; build ties within the Society and the greater scientific community; and establish awards and funds to help recognize and embrace LGBTQ+ scientists.

At the ACS Board of Directors meeting, the Board endorsed \$1 million in funding for ACS Graduate Student Success Grants supporting Masters and Ph.D. students within one year of degree completion and facing unforeseen circumstances. Applications will be accepted between September 15 and October 2, with one application permitted per institution. Submissions will be reviewed in the order they are received, and funding decisions will be communicated later in October. All awards will be distributed by December 31, 2026.