

**Proposal to Change the Bylaws  
Cincinnati Section of the American Chemical Society  
Fall, 2013**

The Board of Directors of the Cincinnati Section of the ACS proposes to make several changes to the currently approved Bylaws of the Section. Three areas of change are proposed:

1. Change the official operating and fiscal year of the Section from the current “July 1 to June 30” year, to a “January 1 to December 31” year and adjust pertinent timelines (e.g. elections) to conform to the new operating year.
2. Change the membership section of the Bylaws to eliminate the categories of Associate Members and Section Affiliates to conform to the Bylaws of the national ACS.
3. Loosen the restrictions on when Section meetings can occur to allow for the possibility of summer meetings and to conform to current practice.

The rationale for each change is given below:

1. Currently, over 80% of local sections in the ACS operating on a January 1 year, including local sections near Cincinnati (e.g. Dayton with whom we do some joint programming). Consequently, much of the organization of the ACS at the national level is done on a January 1 basis. For example, the annual leadership conference for chair-elects organized by ACS national is held in late January each year and is keyed to a January 1 start date for new chair-elects of sections. This gives those chair-elects who took office on January 1<sup>st</sup> eleven months to plan for their year as Chair. However, currently the Chair-elect of the Cincinnati is elected and takes office seven months earlier on July 1, and has only five months left to plan after attending the leadership conference. This often makes it challenging to be fully ready to run the Section by July 1. In addition, the annual report for the Section is due to national on Feb. 15 each year and *must* cover the preceding calendar year (January 1 to December 31). Thus our annual report is split each year between two different chairs of the Section, and the financial report is often split between two different treasurers. This makes reporting a cumbersome process, as every former Chair and former treasurer will attest. There are additional lesser benefits as well. Other than shifting the election timeline from Spring to Fall, the change will not be noticeable to most members of the Section. At the same time, the change will be very helpful to the leadership of the Section.
2. ACS national has changed their membership rules to eliminate the categories of Associate Members and Section Affiliates. The Bylaws of the Cincinnati Section are required to be in compliance with the Bylaws of ACS national and thus we need to remove these categories of membership.
3. Current Bylaws formally restrict Section meetings to the second Wednesday of each month, but allow the Chair to change the date for cause. This happens often due to scheduling of speakers, availability of facilities and related issues. The Board proposes

to remove the formal restriction. Also, the current Bylaws do not permit June, July or August meetings of the Section. While the current leadership does not necessarily anticipate such meetings, we propose that this restriction be removed to provide the Chair with the possibility of a summer meeting.

The current approved Bylaws of the Section state that, "Adoption of amendments to these bylaws shall require an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present at any regular meeting of the Section." The Board intends to present this proposal for change at the October, 2013 meeting of the Section, post this document and the proposed changes to the Bylaws on the Section website, email the changes to all Section members for whom we have email addresses and send notices to those for whom we only have postal mailing addresses. Then, the Board intends to call for discussion and vote at the December, 2013 meeting of the Section. For full details, see: <http://www.acscincinnati.org/main/>

Prepared by Bruce S. Ault, for the Board of Directors  
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