



Minutes of the 71st FACS EXCO Meeting
Melbourne, Australia
24 July 2017

Present:- Dave Winkler [Chair], [DW] Jasim Uddim Ahmad, [JA] Reuben Jih-Ru Hwu, [RH]
Soon Ting Kueh, [SK] Ling-Kang Liu, [LKL] Sourav Pal, [SP]
Long Lu, [LL] Supawan Tantayanon, [ST] Roger Stapleford [RS]
No Regional representatives were officially present as no elections have yet occurred

Observers:- Wahab Khan [Bangladesh], Joon Won Park [Korea], Subramaniam Sotheeswaran [Sri Lanka],
Bradley Millar [ACS International Relations], Lori Brown [ACS International Relations], Ellene
Contis [ACS International Relations], Sarah Thomas [RSC International Relations],
Ale Palermo [RSC International Relations], Richard Hartshorn [IUPAC General Secretary]

Points Discussed

1.) Apologies

There were no apologies but it was noted that no regional representatives had yet been appointed.

2.) Welcome

The President welcomed the new EXCO and the observers to the meeting and stated that he expected a very busy following 2 years.

The agenda was modified with RSC/ACS/IUPAC presentations being moved to point 6 to allow them to leave if they so wished.

3.) The past president was asked to say a few words:

JA welcomed DW as the new president. He noted that the Asian contributions to the advancement of Chemical knowledge had increased tremendously over the past years but some Asian nations lagged behind. He believed FACS should take the lead and be responsible to assist these struggling nations to join the main stream.

4.) Approval of the 70th EXCO minutes from the Mohali meeting.

The issue was raised that the custom was that the minutes of the EXCO meeting immediately prior to the GA should be approved at the GA and this was not done.

The consensus was that the GA could not approve the minutes as they were not present however they should endorse any decisions made relating to the General Assembly.

The acceptance of the minutes was proposed by STK and seconded by SP.

5.) Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the 70th EXCO minutes

6.) Interactions with international partners

The President stated one of his goals through the tenure of his presidency was to grow ties with international partners to learn from them, increase the profile of the Asian chemical community in other areas and encourage collaborative actions with them. To this end representatives from the ACS [with whom we have a running agreement], the RSC and IUPAC had been invited to attend to explore possibilities.

6.1.) Sarah Thomas [RSC]

The RSC were very willing to assist in spreading chemical knowledge around the world and had recently began a commonwealth based group. The areas they were looking at were

- Joint Symposiums
- People exchange
- Policy development particularly in the areas of strategy development, public engagement and diversity.

An example of what they were doing was given by SP where the RSC were working in India in the area of outreach and research.

The RSC wished to work closer to FACS and just needed us to tell them what.

The ACS generously allowed their current MOU with FACS to be shared with the RSC.

6.2.) Ellene Contis [ACS]

The following is an excerpt from the ACS constitution.

“The SOCIETY shall cooperate with scientists internationally and shall be concerned with the worldwide application of chemistry to the needs of humanity”

The ACS is serious about addressing this statement and has a very active committee on international activities with the following set of priorities

- Activator of networks and relationships to further global culture of responsible conduct and lab safety.
- Convener and information channeler to the ACS Board to help in visioning: Here’s what we hear from chemists, chemical engineers and chemistry educators with global interests.
- Catalyst to help with converting communities ACS ‘touches’ to become prospective, renewing and loyal members, competitive in their global practice.
- Incubator of programs, services and activities within broader chemistry enterprise.
- Initiator of opportunities to bring a global dimension to ACS private sector / industrial and innovation / entrepreneurship engagement efforts.

The current agreement between the ACS and FACS covers the following:

- Joint work to advance knowledge and awareness on the importance of ethics throughout the region.
- Coordination of efforts to support and develop conferences or roadshows to feature joint contributions of US and Asian chemistry to humankind and global challenges, bringing quality content that is useful to the local community.
- Cooperation and the development of joint programming via webinars
- ACS scientific contribution to and promotion of the FACS Meeting in Bangladesh in 2015 and Melbourne, Australia in 2017.
- Invitations to senior leaders of ACS and FACS leadership to attend and participate in our respective national meetings and congresses where cooperative activities will be evaluated and refined.

This agreement ends on 31/12/2017. The ACS are very willing to renegotiate this.

6.3.) Richard Hartshorn IUPAC

IUPAC is a different organisation to the RSC/ACS being the “peak body” of the chemical sciences and focuses on gaining consensus on items of global importance. Ares currently being dealt with are:-

- Diversity. Increasing the involvement of women in chemistry worldwide.
- Succession planning. Engaging and assisting early career researchers through the IUPAC ranks
- Chemical ethics and chemical weapon elimination- heavily involves educational projects
- Broadening IUPAC membership base
- Cheminformatics – digitised data mining

7.) The way forward.

DW quoted a statement made by Andrew Liveris in the Congress welcome plenary that he believes is very relevant to FACS

“An organisation can't stand still in today's fast paced environment it will lose relevance and go backwards compared to those doing something. An organisation has to become very agile to survive.”

A white paper on the way forward had been distributed by the president (DW) and selected points were discussed

7.1.) Finances

The meeting agreed that the membership fee structure should be revisited as there had been no changes for at least a decade. DW had circulated a draft table of new fees based on the World Bank list of developing nations. It was felt that this was a sensitive issue and should be discussed and finalised at an EXCO meeting prior to circulating to the Assembly and the 72nd meeting was targeted to complete this. SK, as treasurer, will prepare a discussion paper and circulate for comment prior to discussions at the next meeting.

ACTION [STK, DW]

A comment was made that possibly we should follow the lead of IUPAC and those paying more should have more voting power.

No decision was made on appropriating FACS funds from the ACC event. This need to be decided well before the next GA to allow members sufficient time to consider the options. These and other mooted changes to FACS operations are interconnected and need to be considered as a whole.

Corporate structure. In the medium to long term FACS has to become a legal identity to maintain control of finances and contracts. This needs to be investigated. It was agreed that the EXCO should investigate which country would be most suitable for incorporation of FACS

ACTION – [RS] to provide a “Wish list of requirements” and send it out to the representatives residing in the most likely countries for investigation

7.2.) Projects

The president believes that the current structure of the projects is outdated and the reasons behind the format now irrelevant. He proposed that the structure be changed to reflect that areas in which modern chemists currently work, some discipline-based, some interdisciplinary, and other addressing specific regional needs. This new system would heavily link the projects and scientific directors' functions.

ACTION [ST, LL and DW] Review the current structure and make recommendations prior to the 72nd EXCO meeting.

7.3.) Statutes

The GA underlined the need to modernise and stream line the statutes and separate them into a constitution and an operations manual. With the current ambiguities and “silences” in the current document leads to many interpretations and a very significant confusion that impacts on the efficiency of operation of FACS, as experienced at the GA.

It must be noted that the GA approved a motion to a change to the current statutes to allow “out of session” decisions to be made via electronic means, rather than waiting 6 months for EXCO decisions and 2 years for GA decisions.

DW noted that the mooted changes to FACS operations are interrelated and the Statute changes need to reflect this new order.

ACTION [RS DW] Establish an expert working group consisting of Tom Spurling (TS), LKL, STK, RS to put together a first draft for 72nd meeting

7.4.) International profile

Contact has been made with a number of international organisations, besides RSC, ACS and IUPAC who were invited to the meeting. Contact with FASC, EuChemS and Arab union of chemists.

It is believed the FACS international profile could be greatly enhanced by changing the branding of the Asian Chemical Congress from ACC to Asiachem to take advantage of the huge popularity of Pacificchem brand. Considering the scientific excellence and population of Asia the target numbers should be a lot higher than they are.

ACC18 have agreed to start to introduce the brand, **ACTION [RH]**

8.) Next meeting

Scheduled for Taiwan possibly after the Chinese new year in the last week of February.

ACTION [LKL] confirm dates

The following meeting has been pencilled in to be at the ACS Fall meeting in Boston, hosted by the CAS International Relations committee

The final meeting in the series could be in the country of the winner of ACC19 bid or Hong Kong.

Results of the various electronic votes called for in the General Assembly – To be ratified @ 72nd EXCO

Addendum 1 :- The vote for the area representatives

East and Pacific Asia. 8 societies were asked 7 responded after several reminders. Prof. Chulbom Lee, Korea, 4 Votes. Prof Penny Brothers, NZ, 3 votes.

Prof. Chulbom Lee will become the area representative.

South East Asia and PNG. There was only one nomination so no voting was required.

Prof. Choon-Hong Tan from Singapore will become the area representative

South and West Asia. 8 societies were asked 6 responded after several reminders. Prof. Dr. Md. Wahab Khan, Bangladesh, 4 Votes. Prof Mustafa Culha, Turkey, 2 votes.

Prof. Dr. Md. Wahab Khan will become the area representative.

Addendum 2 :- The vote for the admission of SPACC has taken place 22 representatives were asked for their vote [all representatives with an active e-mail] after several reminders 5 did not respond. 12 voted no, 6 voted yes. [All attendees at the GA responded]

The No.s carry the vote. SPACC will not become a member of FACS as yet.

Addendum 3 :- The vote for the hosting of ACC19 has taken place 22 representatives were asked for their vote [all representatives with an active e-mail] after several reminders, one abstained. 10 voted for Xi'an, China, 11 voted for Istanbul, Turkey.

The Hosts for 19ACC/21GA in 2021 will be the Turkish Chemical Society