

Division of Environmental Chemistry
Long Range Planning Committee

March, 1996

The committee met during the National meeting in New Orleans. The primary topics of concern included:

- ♦ More focused and specific topics for symposia
- ♦ Membership survey regarding Division interests, programming and Preprints,
- ♦ Students to work at the desk during meetings

A committee was set up (Alan Elzerman, Ken Smith, Janet Hering, Victor Turoski, Robert Paddock) to prepare a questionnaire for the members.

Michael Trehy agreed to arrange for students for the Orlando meeting.

August, 1996

Between the National meetings, progress was made on the questionnaire. A rough draft of the survey is available for comment. The *schedule for the survey* has been set up as follows:

- ♦ Fall, 1996: present rough draft of survey. Obtain input from executive committee
- ♦ Winter, 1996: finalize survey, contact ACS regarding survey format and techniques, evaluate preparation and mailing costs.
- ♦ Spring, 1997: Present final survey form to executive committee for approval.
- ♦ After Spring National Meeting: distribute questionnaire.

Between the Spring and Fall National meetings, several additional topics have arisen that might be included in the survey. These include:

- ♦ Preprints on the world wide web: Impact on membership. Percentage of members with access to Internet.
- ♦ Possibly declining membership. Are there issues we need to address or actions to take to retain or bring in members?
- ♦ Involving members in the Division governance and operations in ways that will interest them.

While some of these issues have been incorporated into the rough draft of the survey, additional work needs to be done. In addition, now is the time for executive committee members to bring up any other issues that they believe should be addressed.

Issues beyond the questionnaire: (These topics will be considered at the meeting in Orlando)

Some of the major issues of concern to the executive committee will be included in the survey. In addition, there are concerns that need to be addressed with or without the input from the membership at this time.

The major issues needing to be addressed (some of which involve the Program Planning Committee) are:

- ♦ The overall direction of the programming and the Division: Jurgen has asked us to consider the idea that the Division develop programs with more specific and focused topics and to program complete coverage within these topics. In conjunction with this, we need to consider if we should

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limit which areas of environmental chemistry we will cover and what those areas are. This is a joint venture with the Program Planning committee.

- ◆ Expanding the Division's programming to outside ACS: The opportunity to broaden our exposure, recruit additional members, and eventually generate revenue may come if the Division conducts symposia, short courses, or training sessions outside of ACS.
- ◆ Membership: Our membership seems to be declining. We need to determine if our recruitment or retention rates are decreasing and what actions should be taken to improve our membership. In addition, we need to determine what our ideal membership level is and how much effort is necessary to maintain that level.
- ◆ Involvement at or with the local sections: Can our Division call upon local sections, especially those associated with the cities of National meetings, to help in programming and logistics related to our programming? Are there other opportunities awaiting us if we link up with local sections?
- ◆ Publications: As every organization that publishes information is doing, we must evaluate our use of the world wide web. We need to consider whether or not we can serve the needs of our members better by offering Preprints, the newsletter, and other information on the web.
- ◆ Involving more members in Division operations: Many of the tasks to be done by the Division can be broken down into smaller parts that can be handled by members wanting some but not unbounded involvement in the Division. Their help may also lighten the load of the various executive committee members. Hopefully, some of these members will be interested enough to become even more involved.

The results of the discussions in Orlando will be reported at the executive committee meeting and later summarized in print.