

Executive Committee votes to prepay \$20,000 on headquarters

AOCS 1973 income exceeds expenses by \$40,000

In his report before the regular winter meeting of the Executive Committee, James Lyon, AOCS executive director, announced that AOCS's 1973 income had exceeded expenses by \$40,143.65.

In view of the current cash situation, the Committee voted to prepay ca. \$20,000.00 to the National Council of Teachers of English on the contract for purchasing the AOCS headquarters building in Champaign, Ill.

Lyon also reported that the newly updated edition of *AOCS Official and Tentative Methods* and the first AOCS monograph, *Tumor Lipids: Biochemistry and Metabolism* were off the presses and in inventory.

In discussing the work of the AOCS Examination Board in certifying referee chemists, the Executive Committee voted to provide for distribution of lists of AOCS referees to those firms most likely to use referee services. The list will be published in a brochure describing the referee program and its benefits to the profession.

Discussion of the work and future of several AOCS committees was the topic of considerable discussion at the meeting. The Executive Committee discussed ways in which the Governing Board might provide more help and direction to AOCS committees and to open communication between the Board and committees.

The Committee focused particularly on a few committees with retiring chairmen and on the possibilities of the new Local Section Committee (formerly Communications Committee) as a source of closer cooperation between the Society and its sections. It was agreed that the AOCS president schedule visits to all AOCS sections at least once during his tenure.

The Society's relationship with other professional organizations also was discussed. The Committee was pleased with the cooperative effort with the American Soybean Association to publish proceedings of the World Soy Protein Conference and looked forward to efforts by the Society Improvement Committee to establish contacts with other groups holding common areas of interest with AOCS.

The Executive Committee is composed of the AOCS president, vice-president, treasurer, immediate past-president, director of publications, and the executive director (ex-officio). The Committee meets twice a year between meetings of the entire Governing Board. ■

Foss America introduces automated Kjeldahl process

An automatic high-speed adaptation of the Kjeldahl method of nitrogen determination has been developed by Foss Electric, Hillerod, Denmark, the parent company of Foss America Inc., Fishkill, N.Y.

Working on exactly the same principle as the standard Kjeldahl method, the Kjel-Foss Automatic combines the basic method with a sophisticated automatic control system and can produce the first result within 12 min, followed by a new test result every 3 min.

This major reduction in the time it normally takes for each test is achieved by the acceleration of the digestion, cooling, distillation, and titration process of the sample under carefully controlled conditions resulting in an automatic digital display on the unit's control panel.

Each test stage has a highly sensitive built-in safety device to reduce the hazards of the traditional Kjeldahl method substantially. By keeping the whole process enclosed and by using automatic dispensing systems, the handling of dangerous chemicals is avoided. The entire unit takes up no more space than an office desk and can be housed in any convenient room without special laboratory facilities.

Development of the Kjel-Foss Automatic means that highly skilled personnel are not required to test samples, even at the rate of up to 150/day. The electronic control system ensures a high, consistent level of accuracy. Designed to work with macrosamples, the possibility of sampling errors is reduced even further. ■

• Report from Poland . . .

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In addition, both those centers possess complete, modern equipment which is indispensable for carrying out all kinds of analyses of fats. Further, they can receive assistance from neighboring centers which are located in the same buildings and which provide most apparatus for investigating the structure of organic compounds and their properties. ■

Referee Certificates

Applications
are now being received
for referee certificates.

Send to
AOCS
508 South Sixth Street
Champaign, Illinois 61820