Madam President and Members of Council,

The Committee on Science, ComSci, remains focused on increasing understanding of emerging frontiers in science, developing public policies to advance science in society, and recommending outstanding chemical scientists for prestigious external awards.

At our meeting Saturday, ComSci voted to recommend approval of the draft ACS policy statement on energy. We were pleased to work with other committees on what we consider to be a notably improved statement on this critical economic and environmental issue. We also agreed to form a writing team to update the ACS policy on forensic science, which will involve several other committees, divisions and outside experts. We expect to have a draft by next spring. In addition, the committee was pleased that the Board approved the new ACS policy statement on hydraulic fracturing, on which ComSci played a lead role.

Regarding emerging science frontiers, our emphasis this year is on advanced materials; and in particular how to accelerate innovation through cross-sector R&D collaboration. Our first symposium on this topic in Denver focused on advanced materials for solar energy. We are drafting a paper to capture valuable content from this session.

Consistent with our mission to facilitate collaboration across divisions, our second forum, held yesterday, featured a roundtable discussion with leaders of divisions, journals, and outside experts on moving advanced materials from discovery to application. This forum illuminated key challenges and barriers to enhancing partnerships among industry, academia and government—including lessons learned from recent successes and failures and some best practices for productive collaboration.

Our third forum focusing on advanced materials innovation via public-private collaboration will focus on computational design of advanced materials and will take place next spring.

ComSci is working on additional programming not only to consider materials innovation through the prism of each meeting theme, but also to generate discourse which can inform ACS policy statements or generate new ones when needed.

With respect to awards, ComSci submitted an ACS nomination in April for the Presidential National Medal of Science—the nation’s highest honor for a scientist. Currently we are receiving suggestions from ACS groups and the membership at large on future nominees, following a recent C&EN comment and other outreach. We are also coordinating efforts with the Committee on Patents and Related Matters on the companion National Medal of Technology. ComSci also will recommend nominees for the 2016 French Grand Prix Award and the 2017 Dreyfus Prize in chemistry.

Madam President, this concludes my report.