Madam President and Members of Council,

At the March 2016 meeting, the Committee on Professional Training (CPT) evaluated 46 periodic reports from currently approved programs and held conferences with nine departments beginning the process of applying for ACS approval.  CPT also evaluated site visit reports from six programs seeking approval, one update on an application, and two reports from approved programs on probation. CPT approved four new programs and withdrew approval of one program. There are currently 681 colleges and universities offering ACS-approved bachelor’s degree programs in chemistry.

The Committee approved a new supplement that provides guidance on how departments might satisfy the new requirement for coverage of two of the following systems: synthetic polymers, biological macromolecules, supramolecular aggregates, and meso- or nanoscale materials. The new supplement will be available on the CPT web page shortly after this meeting. In addition to the supplement, the Committee has organized a symposium on this requirement that will be held at the Biennial Conference on Chemical Education this summer.

A short survey on international experiences taken by undergraduate chemistry majors was developed and approved for inclusion in the 2015-16 annual report. The Committee also approved a new self-study questionnaire that is used by programs applying for initial ACS approval. A subcommittee was appointed to draft a questionnaire to solicit information on the use of online courses and virtual laboratory experiences in undergraduate chemistry programs. The Committee continued discussion of the resources and modifications to the existing approval program that might be needed if ACS were to pursue the development of a recognition process for undergraduate chemistry programs located outside of the United States and its territories.

A breakfast meeting was held with the Visiting Associates, volunteers who make site visits to programs that are seeking initial approval by ACS. The Committee reviewed the expectations for site visitors and answered questions from the participants. The Committee also met with representatives from 41 (20%) of PhD-granting institutions. The results of the recently published report on a survey of PhD recipients and the new requirement to teach macromolecular-related topics were reviewed. The new ACS Chemistry Individual Development Plan (ChemIDP) was also highlighted, and participants discussed how this new tool might fit with their existing career development activities for graduate students.

Madam President, this concludes my report.

Thomas J. Wenzel, Chair