Gregory M. Ferrence

Report to Council

Chair, ACS Council Committee on Ethics

Mr President and Members of Council:

Focused on our vision for ethics to permeate the culture of chemistry, the ACS Committee on Ethics continues to promote and support high standards of ethical conduct and integrity in the community of chemistry and related disciplines for the benefit of science and society. You may find information about the Committee at the link shown on the screen. [Slide 1]

The Committee’s written report in the Council agenda book summarizes our activities over the past 18 months.

Of particular significance is our strengthening relationship with the National Center for Professional & Research Ethics (NCPRE). In addition to participation in the NCPRE hosted “Connecting Silos Ethics Curriculum Conference,” by the end of this month, a Committee on Ethics member will be in residence at NCPRE for a 2014-2015 academic year sabbatical.

The focus of the sabbatical at NCPRE ties to the Education and Materials sub-committee’s action plan to develop ethics education materials. The Divisional Activities Committee granted a Technical Division Innovative Project Grant titled “Developing Short Video Ethics Scenarios for Ethics Education in Chemistry” to the Division of Professional Relations to support part of this collaboration.

At our open executive meeting this past Sunday, the Education and Materials subcommittee looked at educating students with respect to patents and industry protocols that differ from academia. The subcommittee is working to develop materials to address ethics education at all levels of training.

The Communications and Awareness subcommittee has committed to producing a twice-yearly newsletter to concisely showcase current Committee on Ethics endeavors. Each single page newsletter will be e-mailed to ACS local section, committee, division, and national leaders and will be made available to all ACS members via the ACS Ethics website. The subcommittee is actively developing a facilitated workshop on ethics issues to be offered to local sections. The Committee on Ethics is seeking collaboration with local sections and divisions on projects to promote ethics awareness.

The Programming and Screening sub-committee is seeking to co-sponsor or help to embed ethics related content and/or dialog into presentations and symposia. To this end we need the help of organizers and presenters to identify ethics concepts in their papers. For example, if you have a panel discussion, consider including a person who could provide an ethics perspective on the panel. We can help identify individuals for this role. The Committee currently offers limited ability to provide interactive ethics presentations or workshops at regional meetings.

Collaborating with the Committee on Ethics is an excellent way to deliver crosscutting outcomes impacting a wide range of ACS Local Sections, Divisions, and Committees. We are here to facilitate. Please contact us with opportunities.

Mr President, this concludes my report.