Society Committee on Education

Report to the Council

Denver, Colorado

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

Madam President and Members of Council:

SOCED received an update on the new American Association of Chemistry Teachers (AACT), which launched in 2014. More than 1,900 individuals, 88 percent of whom are K-12 teachers of chemistry, have joined AACT. In January, The Dow Chemical Company was announced as the Sole Founding Partner of AACT with a gift of $1 million.

The Committee discussed the merits of developing student learning outcomes for college-level general chemistry. SOCED voted to form a task force with the Division of Chemical Education to develop a process for creating performance expectations for general chemistry by Spring 2016.

ACS staff provided an overview of the I-Corps L Individual Development Plan (IDP) project, which was funded by the National Science Foundation. Committee members provided input on the IDP, which is being designed to assist graduate students in the chemical sciences in understanding and achieving their career goals. An online IDP is expected to be available later this year.

SOCED received an update from government affairs staff in the Office of Public Affairs (OPA) on federal and state science education policy, along with the activities of state government affairs committees in Maryland and Tennessee. OPA is actively promoting ACS policy statements related to STEM education at the federal, as well as the state, level.

The Committee provided feedback on presentations related to the ACS environment scan and National Meeting financial goals. The Committee discussed updating the SOCED strategic plan and formed a working group to put together a draft for Boston.

Continuing its ongoing discussions on education-related issues with other committees, SOCED received updates from the Committee on Professional Training, the Committee on Nomenclature, Terminology, and Symbols, the Committee on Chemists with Disabilities, and the Committee on Environmental Improvement.

Madam President, this concludes my report.

Diane Krone, Chair