

Boston, August 2015, Council Report from NTS

Nomenclature, Terminology, and Symbols

As part of its ongoing program to better serve the needs of Society membership, with the cooperation of ACS staff in Research and Market Insights, NTS prepared and distributed a survey to 2400 randomly selected ACS members. The questionnaire was intended to gauge Society familiarity with the NTS committee and its major initiatives. Analysis of survey results revealed that the majority of respondents were not very familiar with NTS. Survey respondents were overwhelmingly positive about the importance of key issues within the NTS realm of responsibilities. Provision was made to allow input for additional topics of interest for potential NTS study and action. This list of topics is under review. NTS is working on ways to further its study of issues related to nomenclature, terminology, symbols, and units, while trying to improve communication of its work to the membership. It is anticipated that more detailed analysis of the survey results will provide insights into potential projects of general interest and relevance to the membership.

Following a presentation to the Committee on Technician Affairs (CTA), NTS was asked for help in identifying a possible alternate term to refer to the members formerly referred to as chemical technicians. Recognition of increased educational training and experience levels for these members has prompted this examination. NTS is studying this issue, and will report its recommendation to CTA in Boston.

In Denver, continuing its outreach program described earlier, NTS delivered PowerPoint presentations, containing details of NTS personnel, programs, and potential areas for collaboration to SOCED and AGFD. Plans for additional outreach activities in San Diego (Spring 2016) and Philadelphia (Fall 2016) are under preparation.

This committee has previously reported on its input to an IUPAC questionnaire on the "Mole and Amount of Substance" issues. A document detailing and explaining the NTS response has been prepared and will be posted on the committee website for examination and comment by the membership.

NTS has maintained its awareness of planned changes to the International System of Units (Système International d'Unités, or SI system). Redefinitions of the mole and kilogram are of particular interest to ACS members as well as the entire chemical enterprise. At the Boston meeting, the NTS sponsored symposium "Chemistry and the International System of Weights and Measures" will be presented by the CCQM, the Consultative Committee for Amount of Substance: Metrology in Chemistry and Biology (formerly known as the Consultative Committee on Amount of Substance). A member of NTS will serve as moderator for the afternoon session. This is the first such symposium presented at an ACS meeting by this international committee.

A final report from IUPAC on the status of the long-term project “A critical review of the proposed definitions of fundamental quantities and their impact on the chemical communities” is due for imminent release. NTS will review and report on this project, and its impact on ACS.

Albert C. Censullo, Chair

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