Society Committee on Education

Report to the Council

Philadelphia, PA

Wednesday, August 22, 2012

Mister President and Members of Council:

ACS President Bassam Shakhashiri shared pamphlets on the Climate Science Toolkit and the Presidential Commission on Graduate Education in the Chemical Sciences with committee members. The Society Committee on Education (SOCED) formed two working groups to provide feedback on these initiatives.

A member of President-Elect Marinda Wu’s Vision 2025 Task Force met with SOCED to discuss and solicit feedback on the overall objectives of the task force.

SOCED reviewed recommendations from the recently released report *Engage to Excel: Producing One Million Additional College Graduates with Degrees in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics* from the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST), and identified strategies for improving the first two years of college chemistry. The Committee formed a task force to develop a policy statement about evidence-based educational practices and will reach out to the Division of Chemical Education to explore the development of an ACS-supported web portal to house evidence-based approaches to the teaching and learning of chemistry.

SOCED received updates on the U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad (USNCO) and the International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO). This was an outstanding year for the USNCO; over 14,000 students representing 141 local sections took the ACS local exam, and more than 1,300 took the national exam.

The U.S. hosted the 2012 IChO in Washington, DC in July. A record 72 countries involving 283 high school students participated. The Dow Chemical Company was the sole financial sponsor of the event, with a generous gift of $2.5 million. The University of Maryland College Park, the venue for the competition, made significant contributions in facilities and personnel.The U.S. team earned one gold medal and three silver medals.

The Committee approved the formation of an advisory board to serve as a consultative and advisory body to SOCED and the Undergraduate Programs Office regarding activities pertinent to ACS student chapters and student members. It dismissed with thanks the current SOCED Task Force on Undergraduate Programming at National Meetings.

Mister President and members of Council, this concludes my report.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary K. Carroll