Society Committee on Education

Report to the Council

Denver, Colorado

Wednesday, August 31, 2011

Madame President and Members of Council:

ACS President-Elect Bassam Shakhashiripresented his four presidential initiatives to the Society Committee on Education (SOCED), and engaged the Committee in a broad discussion of the role of ACS in science education. He also solicited SOCED’s input on two recently-released national reports, “Successful K-12 STEM Education: Identifying Effective Approaches in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics” and “Vision and Change in Undergraduate Biology Education”.

The Committee reviewed the report of an NSF-funded invitational workshop and strongly encouraged the ACS Education Division to prepare and submit a proposal to the NSF for support of a Chemistry Teacher Education Coalition (CTEC) initiative, which is designed to engage chemistry departments in preparing future chemistry teachers. SOCED will provide a letter of support indicating that the Committee will serve as a resource for the emerging CTEC initiatives described in the proposal.

SOCED reviewed three policy statements addressing evolution, computer simulations, and visas, which will expire at the end of 2011. SOCED voted to renew the evolution and computer simulations statements with minor edits, and approved changes to the statement on visas.

The Committee voted to expand the ACS Student Chapter Community Interaction Grant to include projects targeting economically disadvantaged students in schools with U.S. Department of Education Title 1 status.

SOCED received an update on the joint SOCED-Committee on Professional Training Task Force that is examining the report *Scientific Foundations for Future Physicians*, produced by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI). Task Force members have established contact with AAMC and HHMI, identified several innovative approaches designed to better meet the needs of pre-professional students in chemistry, and recommended mechanisms for disseminating information on the proposed changes to the pre-med curriculum to the chemistry community.

The Chair of the Chemistry Olympiad Subcommittee reported that the U.S. team earned two gold and two silver medals at the International Chemistry Olympiad in Ankara, Turkey. Preparations are well underway for the U.S.-hosted Olympiad at the University of Maryland in 2012.

SOCED received updates on the Program Review Advisory Group (PRAG) report, the Education Goal Working Group, the joint Division of Chemical Education/SOCED Task Force on a Chemistry Teacher Association, and safety in academic laboratories.

Madam President, this concludes my report.

Mary K. Carroll