Society Committee on Education

Report to the Council

Boston, Massachusetts

Wednesday, August 19, 2015

Madam President and Members of Council:

SOCED voted to approve revisions to the *ACS Guidelines for Chemistry in Two-Year Colleges*. Key changes include the integration of safety throughout the document and guidance applicable to three different types of programs: Transfer, chemistry-based technology, and support. The two-year guidelines are aligned with the four-year guidelines, which were approved by the Committee on Professional Training earlier this year.

The Committee voted to make the pilot program of ACS International Student Chapters a permanent feature of the student chapters program. ACS has chartered 15 International Student Chapters since the pilot launched last year. This is a collaborative effort between SOCED and the International Activities Committee.

SOCED was informed of recent developments related to the new American Association of Chemistry Teachers (AACT), including $50,000 grants from the Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation and the Ford Motor Company. The first Dow Teacher’s Summit, involving 21 teachers and six pre-service teachers, was held in Michigan in July. More than 2,500 individuals, 88 percent of whom are K-12 teachers, are now AACT members.

The Committee provided input on a coordinated strategy to better address the needs of faculty at various stages of their careers at two- and four-year institutions. Approximately 500 faculty members responded to a survey that assessed faculty development needs. Survey respondents expressed interest in networks that would allow them to explore and share teaching ideas and exchange views on mentorship. Interest in resources to improve laboratory safety was also very high.

SOCED received an update from the government affairs staff in the Office of Public Affairs on federal science education policy. Three members of SOCED helped recruit Senator Mark Kirk as a Republican cosponsor to ensure bipartisan passage of the Senate version of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

SOCED also received updates from Education Division staff on the 10th anniversary of ACS ChemClubs, Division strategic planning, and the launch of an Individual Development Plan (IDP) tool for graduate students. The online IDP resource is expected to launch at the end of September.

The U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad team earned one gold and three silver medals at the International Chemistry Olympiad in July in Azerbaijan. The top U.S. student also achieved the highest score on the laboratory practical.

Madam President, this concludes my report.

Diane Krone, Chair