Society Committee on Education

Report to the Council

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Wednesday, August 24, 2016

Madam President and Members of Council:

The Society Committee on Education (SOCED) received an update from government affairs staff in the Office of Public Affairs on federal science education policy. The Committee voted to continue the current Science Education Policy Statement. Four policy statements related to the work of the Committee expire next year. SOCED identified two teams to work on the Hands-On Laboratory Science and Evolution statements. It also identified representatives to work with other ACS committees on the Visa Restrictions and Science and Technology Funding Statements.

The Committee was informed of recent activities related to the American Association of Chemistry Teachers, AACT. More than 3,900 individuals, 88 percent of whom are K-12 teachers, are now AACT members. This represents a 20 percent increase in membership since the San Diego National Meeting.

The Committee discussed possible changes to the composition requirements of Society committees and the requirement for Chairs and Vice-Chairs to be Councilors. Members expressed a variety of opinions and were encouraged to provide further feedback to the Committee on Committees liaison.

SOCED discussed the process of Society Program Portfolio Management (SPPM) and passed a resolution that recognizes the value of regular review along with its concern that reporting requirements may be diverting staff time from education programs. SOCED recommends a careful review of the time needed for the SPPM process.

SOCED discussed the National Academies 2016 report “Barriers and Opportunities in Completing 2-Year and 4-Year STEM Degrees: Systematic Change to Support Students’ Diverse Pathways”. The Committee did not recommend action but suggested that programming at meetings could explore the recommendations further.

SOCED received an overview of the new online tool *Hazard Assessment in Research Laboratories*, a collaboration between the ACS Committee on Chemical Safety and ACS staff in Education and Web Strategy and Operations. The website is based on *Identifying and Evaluating Hazards in Research Laboratories,* a guide created in response to a recommendation by the U.S. Chemical Safety Board.

The U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad team earned one gold medal, two silver medals, and one bronze medal at the International Chemistry Olympiad held in Tbilisi, Georgia, last month. The top U.S. student achieved the 8th highest score overall.

Madam President, this concludes my report.

Diane Krone, Chair