

Society Committee on Education  
Report to the Council  
Dallas, TX  
Wednesday, March 19, 2014

Mr. President and Members of Council:

SOCED approved a pilot program to form ACS International Student Chapters. This expansion reflects the globalization of the chemistry enterprise and the ACS, and is responsive to requests from students outside the U.S. who have expressed interest in forming student chapters affiliated with ACS. To apply for a charter, each chapter must have a faculty advisor who is a current member in good standing with the ACS, as well as six paid student members of ACS.

The Committee received an overview of and update on the American Association of Chemistry Teachers (AACT), which will serve K-12 teachers of chemistry with resources, networking, and professional development. AACT will launch this summer and will be open to anyone with an interest in K-12 chemistry education.

SOCED voted to establish a new ChemLuminary Award for Outstanding U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad programs. This award will recognize local sections that demonstrate growth and innovation through their ongoing commitment to the Olympiad program. The first award will be given in Boston in 2015 in recognition of accomplishments in 2014.

SOCED received an update from staff in the Office of Public Affairs on activities related to federal and state science education policy. The Committee discussed three expiring policy statements, which address the teaching of evolution, the importance of hands-on laboratory activities, and visa restrictions. SOCED supports continuing the evolution statement without change, subject to Board approval. SOCED appointed working groups to revise the policy statements on hands-on activities and visa restrictions. The policy statement on visa restrictions will be revised in collaboration with the International Activities Committee.

Undergraduate Programs staff highlighted the new College to Career website, which features career options within the five traditional areas of chemistry, 35 chemistry-related career descriptions, and more than 60 career profiles.

Mr. President, this concludes my report.

Charles Baldwin, Vice-Chair