Oral Report for Council, Committee on Minority Affairs

August 23, 2017

Madam President, Councilors, all other ACS members, and staff:

The Committee on Minority Affairs CMA), in conjunction with the Diversity & Inclusion Advisory Board, developed a new ACS statement on Diversity and Inclusion, which was approved by the ACS Board Committee on Professional and Member Relations in June.

In part, the statement says, “We encourage inclusivity and oppose discrimination in scientific learning and practice based on - but not limited to - race, religion, country or ethnic origin, citizenship, language, political opinion, sex, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, age, and economic class in academic, industrial, and government workplaces. The Society believes that an enduring commitment to diversity enables excellence, innovation, and transformative action in current and future generations of chemical professionals.”

CMA and the D&I Advisory Board discussed the tragic events in Charlottesville. We urge the ACS to take a timely, public stand in the future condemning such activities based on the diversity and inclusion statement and ACS’s core values of diversity and inclusion. If we wish to attract and retain a diverse membership in ACS, we need to make clear what our values are and act accordingly when the situation arises.

ACS’s premier diversity program, the ACS Scholars Program, continues to thrive. CMA heard an analysis of the program from 1995-2016 [SLIDE 1] showing that the program has been highly successful in supporting gifted students from under-represented groups to graduate from college in the chemical sciences. 92% of the most recent class of scholars plan to go to graduate school and at this time 280 former scholars have received their Ph.D.s and found employment in academia, industry, and government.

At this meeting, ACS recognized donors, mentors, and ACS Scholars, including 3M as a Visionary Partner with $500,000 in cumulative giving as well as the Chemical Marketing and Economics group of the ACS New York Section, as a National Partner with $100,000 cumulative giving.CMA thanks ACS President-elect Peter Dorhout for including the ACS Scholars Program and its 25th anniversary endowment appeal among his presidential priorities in 2018.

Not to be outdone by the solar eclipse, CMA had its own stellar event on Monday with ACS President Allison Campbell, who spoke at our luncheon of her personal journey and what she has learned.

CMA presented its Chemluminary Award for the Best Overall Local Section Minority Affairs Committee to the Orange County Local Section. This award recognizes consistent promotion and encouragement of the participation and leadership of underrepresented minorities in the chemical sciences.

In closing, CMA invites members to follow us on social media and ask you to join us in making ACS a more diverse and inclusive Society. [Slide 2]

Madam President, this concludes my final report as chair of CMA.

Madeleine Jacobs