Madam President and fellow Councilors:

The Council Policy Committee (CPC) Long-Range Planning Subcommittee met on Monday. The subcommittee is preparing for new Councilor orientation activities in 2018 and is considering hosting a Strategy Café event for all ACS Councilors at the spring national meeting in New Orleans. The Future Council Representation Working Group also met during the subcommittee meeting. The group includes representatives from the committees on Local Section Activities, International Activities and Divisional Activities as well as CPC members of the Subcommittee, and continues to work in tandem with the Task Force on Governance Design.

The Subcommittee on Petitions, Constitution and Bylaws met on Monday to discuss the three petitions on the Council agenda (two for action, one for consideration), and the failed petition from the spring national meeting. The subcommittee recommended, and CPC approved, the endorsement of the Petition on International Chemical Sciences Chapters.

On the recommendations of a CPC working group and the Committee on Committees (ConC), CPC approved two amendments to the Committee Travel Expense Reimbursement Policy for Non-Councilors. The new policies permit non-Councilors to carry over unused funds from the spring to the fall meeting under certain conditions, and to offer reimbursement of an additional night’s expenses in excess of the limit set for that national meeting for all non-Councilors with multiple committee appointments that necessitate additional days of travel.

The Joint Board-CPC Task Force on Governance Design met on Tuesday evening. The Task Force is charged with engaging stakeholders in identifying opportunities and issues for governance improvement, designing a next-generation governance model enabling ACS to advance its Objects, developing the case for a new model, communicating with stakeholders, and incorporating their feedback, and providing the model and an implementation roadmap to Board and Council. I extend gratitude on behalf of the Task Force for the thoughtful and constructive feedback received from Councilors during and after the Spring 2017 National Meeting in San Francisco. Your input has informed and enhanced our discussions of national governance models.

The Task Force is developing a framework, a roadmap and a timeline. Recent discussions have focused on clearly defining national governance roles that will enable us to efficiently achieve the Objects and Strategic Goals of the Society. The Task Force anticipates presenting an overall national governance model that articulates a high-level framework and a roadmap by which various governance bodies (including CPC, the Board and individual committees) are each empowered to undertake the detailed design of specific components of the governance structure. The Task Force has already been coordinating with committees engaged in parallel activities, including CPC, ConC and Constitution & Bylaws. The Task Force will present its report to the Board and CPC in December, and discuss the framework, roadmap and timeline with Councilors in appropriate venues during the Spring 2018 National Meeting in New Orleans.

This concludes my report.

Mary K. Carroll
Vice-Chair