Madam President and Members of Council,

At this meeting, the Committee on Professional Training (CPT) evaluated 28 periodic reports from currently approved programs and held conferences with seven departments beginning the process of applying for ACS approval.  CPT also evaluated a site visit report from a program seeking approval, four reports from approved programs on probation, and one appeal of an action to withdraw approval. CPT voted to withdraw approval of one program. There are currently 688 colleges and universities offering ACS-approved bachelor’s degree programs in chemistry.

The Committee published a supplement that provides guidance on how departments might satisfy the requirement for coverage of two of the following systems: synthetic polymers, biological macromolecules, supramolecular aggregates, and meso- or nanoscale materials. Two new documents on the value of ACS approval to chemistry programs and the value of certification to students were also released. All of these resources are available on the CPT web page. The Committee also discussed mechanisms to deliver certificates to graduates who have completed the curriculum requirements described in the ACS Guidelines.

A survey to solicit information on the use of online courses and virtual laboratory experiences in undergraduate chemistry programs will be launched following this meeting with a report on the results to be published later this year. The Committee also approved a short survey on undergraduate research funding to be included in the CPT 2016-17 annual report that is completed by all ACS-approved chemistry programs. A subcommittee developed plans for a special retreat meeting this summer that will be devoted to developing policies and procedures to improve the consistency of program reviews and better orient new members to the review process.

On Sunday, a breakfast meeting was held with the Visiting Associates, the volunteers who make site visits to programs that are seeking initial approval by ACS. The Committee reviewed the expectations for site visitors and answered questions from the participants. The Committee also met with representatives from 41 PhD-granting institutions. The new macromolecular science requirement and strategies for improving the diversity of the graduate student population were discussed. On Tuesday, the Committee held a symposium on the role of undergraduate research experiences in the ACS-certified degree.

Madam President, this concludes my report.

Thomas J. Wenzel, Chair