The ACS Committee on Nomenclature, Terminology and Symbols
August 22, 2018
Oral Report Presentation by Michael D Mosher, Chair
Boston, MA

Mister President, Fellow Councilors, and Guests:

The Committee on Nomenclature, Terminology, and Symbols (NTS), an ‘other’ committee of Council, has been very active during the past year. NTS was chartered to examine problems, monitor developments, and recommend actions with respect to issues in nomenclature, terminology, symbols, and units. A Strategic Planning session invigorated the committee structure and enhanced our capabilities to better serve the ACS Council and membership.

NTS’ vision is enabling a common language for chemistry. Our mission to “educate, facilitate, and advocate for the use of chemical representations that support a universal understanding of chemistry” is being implemented through our goals and strategies. NTS’ goals include educating practitioners about nomenclature, facilitating discussions and explorations of chemical representations, and advocating for a common language of chemistry.

NTS, in collaboration with the Braille Authority of North America has facilitated discussions with visually impaired chemists to standardize the Braille code for chemistry. Through this collaboration, we jointly hope to improve the ability of the code to represent chemical structures, increase the usage of the code through advocacy and outreach, and remove redundancy in the existing code. We are targeting project completion by the end of 2019.

NTS is preparing a series of educational materials on the nomenclature of the Periodic Table, the proper use of symbols in representing thermodynamic quantities , and the redefinition of the SI base units. These materials include worksheets for elementary, middle, and high school students that are aligned with educational standards.

In recognition of the 150th anniversary of the Periodic Table, the 72nd Session of the United Nations proclaimed 2019 as the International Year of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements. In conjunction with this upcoming event, NTS is developing seminars, educational materials, and information packets for students and scientists that focus on the Periodic Table. These initiatives will complement the work of IUPAC during 2019, which is also the 100th anniversary of that organization. Given the rapid pace of developments in cheminformatics and structure representations the need for standardized nomenclature, terminology, and symbols is more important than ever. We look forward to continued work in enabling a common language for chemistry.

Mister President, this concludes my report.