Mr. President and Members of Council:

The Long Range Planning Subcommittee hosted a New Councilor Orientation and Reception on Saturday, March 17. There were 96 participants, overall – a record high for this event. Nineteen (19) new Councilors and fourteen (14) new Alternate Councilors participated. They had the opportunity to interact with committee chairs and other governance leaders, including 12 Board members. At this time I ask that the Councilors and Alternate Councilors who are attending their first Council meeting stand and be recognized.

The Joint Board-CPC Task Force on Governance Design submitted an interim report to the Board of Directors. The task force anticipates continuing its work through 2018. The key recommendations from its end-of-2017 draft report will be staged, with the streamlining of the governing documents proceeding first. The group working on streamlining the governing documents gave a presentation on this phase of the redesign at the district and division Councilors caucuses at this meeting.

The task force will meet in New Orleans this afternoon to consider the feedback from the caucuses on the streamlining of governance documents, to review the related efforts of the Committee on Committees and the CPC Working Group on Future Council Representation, and to propose next steps.

The CPC working group on Future Council Representation has been moved from under the Subcommittee on Long Range Planning and will now report directly to CPC. The working group is comprised of members of CPC, representatives from the Council Standing committees on Local Section Activities, Divisional Activities, International Activities, Younger Chemists and the Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Board, and Board member Ingrid Montes in her role as global liaison.

CPC reviewed the results of a survey on captioning at Council. The response was overwhelmingly in favor of continuing to offer closed captioning during Council meetings. Unfortunately, as you know we will not have closed captioning at this Council meeting because of a vendor cancelation. We will have closed captioning at the Boston Council meeting.

The Subcommittee on Petitions, Constitution and Bylaws met on Monday to discuss the four petitions on the Council agenda: two for action, and two for consideration. CPC subsequently considered and took appropriate action on Tuesday. CPC voted to support the Petition on the Composition of Society Committees and to oppose the Petition for Election of Committee Chairs.

CPC has considered the Petition on the Composition of Society Committees, which is up for action at this meeting. The committee supports the petitioner's intent to: “change the requirement for Councilors on Society Committees from at least two thirds (2/3) to a majority. This would allow for greater flexibility in member appointments and continuity of membership. The petition also removes the requirement that the Chair and Vice-Chair of a Society Committee must be Councilors.” I now yield the floor to Dean Adams, Chair of the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws, for action on the petition beginning on page 57 of the Council agenda.

Mr. President, this concludes my report.