[SLIDE 1 (COVER)] Madam President, fellow councilors, and colleagues:

The Committee on Ethics met in open session on Sunday, August 25. We had last met in person at our strategic planning retreat in early June, and we are delighted to announce that we have voted unanimously to adopt a new strategic plan. [SLIDE 2] Our new vision and mission statements, together with our three strategic goals for the next 3-5 years, are displayed on the screen. We will work to make our vision a reality by developing and disseminating educational products, developing collaborative programming on ethics within and outside of ACS, and increasing ACS members’ recognition of ethics in their careers and its impact on society.

To achieve our new goals, the committee has decided to move from a subcommittee structure to a series of short-term project groups, each led by a project leader, which will convene around particular tasks and disband when they are complete. This should minimize redundancy in committee operations and give more committee members leadership opportunities. At our strategic planning retreat, we highlighted nine projects in line with our goals, and we have already begun working on five of them, including developing a list of programing ideas that local sections can use to train their members in ethical issues, constructing interactive activities that teach ethics to younger chemists, and redesigning our Web presence to better disseminate materials to interested members.

[SLIDE 3] In order to learn about the ethical issues of interest to ACS members, we identified a number of topics related to ethics and used two questions on the ACS Salary Survey to gauge member interest in each. The first question asked how important each topic was to members. The results, displayed on the screen, indicate that each topic was considered important by at least 85% of respondents. [SLIDE 4] The second question asked respondents to rank the top three topics for which they would like to see more resources available. As you can see, data integrity was by far the most popular choice, followed by accountability. One of our project groups continues to analyze the survey results based on respondent demographics, and we hope to use this information to partner with other groups within the society to increase member awareness and understanding of relevant ethical issues. We hope to release more details from the report to members of the society within the coming year.

Finally, the Committee on Ethics congratulates the Silicon Valley Local Section, the inaugural recipients of our ChemLuminary Award for Outstanding Local Section Programming Related to the Promotion of Ethics in Chemistry. Ethics and ethical decision making should be part of everything that we do as chemists, so we encourage all local sections to consider the components of their 2019 programs that relate to ethics and self-nominate for next year’s award. Our project group tasked with marketing the award will be in touch to remind you to do so!

Madam President and fellow councilors, this concludes my report.