Committee on Science

Report to the Council

Orlando, Florida

Wednesday, April 3, 2019

Madam President and Members of Council:

The Committee on Science, ComSci, voted to approve the immigration policy statement. The Committee plans to make minor updates to the existing forensic science policy statement, and continues its work to develop a new policy statement on synthetic drugs. Several policy statements will expire in 2020, and ComSci has formed review teams to begin gathering background information on the issues underlying these statements.

The Chair of the Committee on Divisional Activities (DAC) met with ComSci to share information about DAC’s work and identify potential areas for collaboration. Discussion focused on retention of division members, the dues allocation formula, industry engagement, and the role of the Multidisciplinary Program Planning Group. In the course of the discussion, several opportunities for ComSci to use DAC mechanisms to engage with divisions were mentioned.

The Committee discussed chemistry’s role in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and considered how ACS might address the SDGs. Suggestions included targeted programming at ACS National and Regional Meetings, special issues of ACS journals, and policy statements. Specifics of programming can be further determined as goals and objectives of this engagement are clarified by ACS.

ComSci organized a symposium here in Orlando on “Exploring the Frontiers of Chemistry through NASA Research”, and is planning a “Water for Two Worlds” symposium, in San Diego. This session will be organized in collaboration with the ACS journal *Accounts of Chemical Research*. Planning for programming around the synthetic drug policy statement in Philadelphia Spring 2020 has begun. Organizing such symposia fulfills ComSci’s mission of identifying emerging areas of science.

On behalf of ACS, ComSci is preparing nominations for the U.S. National Medal of Science and the National Medal of Technology and Innovation. ComSci submitted a nomination for the Dreyfus Prize on behalf of the Society earlier this year.

ComSci voted to support the petition to streamline the ACS Governing Documents.

Madam President, this concludes my report.

Martin G. Kociolek, Chair