Madam President and Members of Council,

The Committee on Science, ComSci, remains focused on three areas: increasing understanding of emerging frontiers in science, developing public policies to advance science in society, and nominating eminent chemical scientists and engineers for prestigious external awards.

Our emphasis this year is on advanced materials; and in particular how to accelerate innovation through multidisciplinary and cross-sector collaboration. Our first symposium on this topic, which was held on Monday, highlighted the role of advanced materials for solar energy. It was one of our best sessions yet, with renowned speakers from industry, academia, and government highlighting key challenges in transitioning from R&D to practical applications.

Consistent with our mission to facilitate collaboration across divisions; our second forum on advanced materials at the Boston national meeting will feature a more intimate gathering of leaders from divisions, journals, and other organizations to illuminate key challenges affecting the move of advanced materials from discovery to application. And at the spring meeting in 2017, our third forum on this subject will focus on advanced materials for computation. All of these forums address advanced materials in the context of national meeting themes and emphasize collaboration among industry, academia, and government.

ComSci collaborated with several ACS committees to develop five public policy statements last fall, which were approved by the ACS Board in December. We recently led the development of a new ACS policy statement on hydraulic fracturing, which will be forwarded to the Board soon. ComSci is currently collaborating with other committees on revising ACS policy statements on energy, climate change and forensic science.

Our recommended nomination for the Presidential National Medal of Science was approved by the Board last weekend and will be submitted to the White House next month on behalf of the Society. Looking ahead to nominations in 2016, we will reach out again this spring to elicit suggestions for both the National Medal of Science and the National Medal of Technology.

In addition, following guidance from the Board Committee on Grants and Awards, ComSci will develop recommendations for the French Grand Prix Award for 2016 and the prestigious Dreyfus Prize in chemistry for 2017.

We also discussed a number of recommendations proposed by the Committee on Committees following its review of ComSci and have already begun to implement several of them. Finally, ComSci is working to strengthen ties with other ACS committees consistent with our strategic plan on graduate education, international affairs, and divisional activities.

Madam President, this concludes my report.