Madam President, Members of the Board of Directors, and fellow Councilors;

The ACS Committee on Ethics met in open session on Sunday, August 21, 2016.

The Committee discussed several ways to take advantage of social media to help disseminate information regarding the activities of the Committee, including both the opportunities to advance the work of the committee and the challenges that would arise from such implementation. Specific social media sites that were discussed include Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. The consensus of the Committee was that although these platforms all showed promise, more information from both legal and practical perspectives would be needed before we went forward on any of these platforms.

Recommendations from the previous Committee on Committees review were revisited to ensure that any identified concerns from ConC had been addressed. After discussion, we identified gaps, but also determined that the majority of the concerns from the previous review had been discussed and action had been taken where appropriate. We HOPE that ConC concurs.

A document tentatively titled “Research Ethics Information Profile for Authorship” was reviewed. The document is intended to serve as a general guide to questions of authorship regarding the publication of research, and is envisioned to be the first in a series of documents providing guidance in several areas concerning ethics. The Committee suggested several minor revisions to the document.

The Committee was asked to provide a letter of commitment for a NSF grant application pertaining to the development of a research ethics “checklist.” The role of the committee would be to assist in the review of the checklist once a draft version had been developed. The Committee voted unanimously to support the request.

Finally, to support our charge from ConC to “…review recognition opportunities for acknowledging ethical awareness…”, the Committee voted unanimously to develop an award for presentation at the ChemLuminary ceremony to recognize outstanding ethics related programming by a local section. It is anticipated that the first award would be presented in 2018 for programming in 2017.

Madam President, this concludes my report.

Dr. Keith R. Vitense, Chair