NTS Oral Report to Council

Good morning Madame President, Distinguished Board Members, and Members of Council. The Committee on Nomenclature, Terminology, and Symbols, (NTS), has been very active over the last year and looks to be very active in the coming year.

We have worked with the Committee on Technician Affairs (CTA) on the assessment and recommendations of the use of the term chemical technician. This term is often used to describe a position of employment in US industry. Unfortunately, there is little uniformity in the use of the term. We are interesting in continuing this collaboration with CTA in an attempt to standardize the use of the term.

NTS members have also been involved in providing feedback and comment on the redefinition of the SI base units. This has resulted in publications in newsletters and journals, as well as discussions and presentations within various symposia. Other work has been centered on the use of the IUPAC International Chemical Identifier (InChI) codes and in the development of a chemical ontology.

NTS met to evaluate and provide comments on the recent provisional recommendation from IUPAC Division II entitled “How to Name New Elements”. The recommendation that discoverers suggest names that include the endings “-ium” for new elements up to and including element-116, “-ine” for element-117, and “-on” for element-118 was met with approval by NTS. Pursuant to the discovery of the last four elements to complete the unfinished period in the Periodic Table, NTS hosted a booth at this meeting’s Exposition. The intent of the booth was to engage the membership in the activities of the committee and to generate and foster excitement about the discovery of new elements. We plan to continue this outreach to the membership in the upcoming Fall meeting.

Discussions within the US National Committee (USNC) to IUPAC have also prompted our interest. We are planning actions over the coming months to suggest a Project with Division II on the use of Latin nomenclature for undiscovered elements, providing feedback and potential assistance with Preferred IUPAC Names, and offering support to the USNC as they consider strengthening ties to the Cuban chemical education and research community.

Finally, NTS is planning programming with other Divisions for the Philadelphia meeting in order to provide information on elements and their names. This potentially coincides with the selection of the names for the four recently discovered new elements. We look forward to seeing you and the rest of the membership at that programming.

Madame President, this concludes my oral report.