Nomenclature, Terminology, and Symbols

Oral Report to Council

April 5, 2017

Madame President, members of the Board, and Councilors. The Committee on Nomenclature, Terminology, and Symbols (NTS), an ‘other’ committee of Council, has been active during the past year. NTS has been charged with examining problems, monitoring developments, and recommending actions with respect to issues in nomenclature, terminology, symbols, and units.

Last year, NTS noted the selection and approval of the names of four newly discovered elements. NTS met, discussed those selections, and provided comment to International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) prior to their formal approval of those names.

In the coming year, NTS will be working to align our activities with the ACS Strategic Plan. This has already begun through our work on updating the NTS mission and vision statements. Such statements define our role in the evaluation of new nomenclature rules, new chemical and process terminology and symbols, and advocating for the proper use of these important elements of communication between scientists worldwide.

NTS continues to liaise with the United States Adopted Names program (a group that proposes nonproprietary names for pharmaceuticals in the US) and the United States National Adhering Organization to IUPAC (the US representatives to IUPAC). These external organizations are heavily involved in the development and implementation of new nomenclature, terminologies, and symbols that affect chemists. NTS interaction allows the ACS to stay abreast of changes that affect chemists around the globe.

NTS members continued to provide educational outreach efforts on nomenclature, terminology, and symbols through publication of numerous articles on IUPAC standards, summaries of nomenclature rules, and informative essays on definitions. Planning is underway to extend these efforts to high school teachers and students in the form of level-appropriate pamphlets, handouts, and activity sheets.

Madame President, this concludes my oral report.