Women Chemists Committee

Oral Report to Council

Women Chemists Committee

San Diego, CA

March 28, 2012

Mister President and Members of Council:

At this meeting, the Women Chemists Committee (WCC) celebrated our 85th Anniversary with events and programs highlighting the accomplishments of women scientists. On Monday, a symposium was held featuring the inaugural awardees of the WCC Rising Star Award. Ten outstanding mid-career women scientists were recognized for their significant contributions across all areas of the chemical enterprise including academic research, industrial applications, sustainability, and the development of the next generation of great women scientists. On Tuesday, the committee acknowledged eight WCC/Eli Lilly Travel awardees as a continuation of the student award program aimed at attracting women into the chemical sciences. The WCC also recognized Dr. Sue B. Clark, the 2012 recipient of the Francis P. Garvan-John M. Olin medal.

This year the WCC focused on updating our goals and strategies to ensure we remain aligned with the updated ACS strategic plan and relevant to our constituency. The committee voted at our executive session to update our mission to state we will be leaders in attracting, retaining, developing, promoting, and advocating for women in the chemical sciences in order to positively impact society and the profession. To achieve our mission, we restructured the committee to focus on the important areas of recognition and professional development. The WCC now consists of four subcommittees including awards and recognition, communications and technology, professional development, and programs and events. We also instituted two important taskforces. The first is the non-tenure track faculty taskforce which will focus on addressing the outcomes and recommendations outlined in the white paper authored by the WCC in 2009. The second is an awards taskforce which will start to address ways the WCC can help promote the recognition of women scientists and specifically increase the number of women scientists winning national awards.

In the area of professional development, the WCC continues to be an active part of the grassroots coalition, the Chemical Entrepreneurship Council. Our goal is to help women chemists gain the skills necessary to translate their innovative research to tangible products and services. This year we have planned Lens of the Market workshops at both the Middle Atlantic Regional Meeting and the fall national meeting in Philadelphia to help women explore and define commercial possibilities specifically focusing on the important area of materials and sustainability.

Mister President and Members of Council, this concludes my report.