

Committee on Professional Training

Thank you, Mr. President-Elect

The mission of the Committee on Professional Training (CPT) is to provide guidelines and set standards for the training of chemistry professionals. In lieu of the in-person Fall 2020 Meeting, we conducted three virtual Zoom sessions.

(SLIDE 1) In 2020, the process for ACS approval became streamlined. Academic institutions started to submit reports using a powerful technological platform, CPARS (that stands for Chemistry Program Approval and Review System). This slide shows examples of data collected from those reports. This platform will expedite data analysis and provide aggregate data to ACS and the community at large.

(SLIDE 2) COVID-19 brought challenges to us all, including the ACS approved programs. Centering on the challenges faced by academic institutions, we adjusted the guidelines to allow for greater flexibility; and plan to re-evaluate the guidelines as the landscape changes.

(SLIDE 3) We continue to work on the revision of the 2015 guidelines for ACS Approval. The guidelines have been restructured into three tiers: Critical Requirements, Normal Expectations, and Markers of Excellence. Approved programs must meet all of the critical requirements. The normal expectations will encourage continual improvement in the programs, while the Markers of Excellence provide aspirational goals.

This slide illustrates the new structure using as an example, criteria of the new section on diversity, equity, inclusion, and respect (DEIR). The community at large and the department chairs from approved institutions have provided positive feedback and support this section as a timely response in the wake of the killing of George Floyd and the subsequent protests against systemic racism.

(SLIDE 4) In the last three years, we have also developed a student-centric model to describe excellence in education. This model incorporates the traditional four pillars of excellence: infrastructure, curriculum, faculty, and pedagogy. This model also recognizes that life skills, diversity and inclusion training, and safety culture are part of the training for success as global scientists.

Mr. President-Elect, this concludes my last report serving as chairperson.

Edgar A. Arriaga, Chairperson