Madam President and Fellow Councilors,

Good morning. As President-Elect, I’d like to thank you for your support and well wishes.

I’ve had a very productive meeting here in Orlando, and will continue to interact with other committees, divisions, and governance entities in order to fulfill my Presidential initiatives in 2020. During the San Diego meeting in August, I will be meeting with five committees and one division to solicit their feedback on my initiatives, as well as to look for additional opportunities to help support their programs.

As I frequently travel abroad, I am planning to leverage these trips to make stronger connections with international ACS members. While I visit Spain this spring, ACS will be hosting a member reception to share the value and benefits of ACS membership for international chemical professionals.

I am also working with staff to develop a multi-leg trip through Latin America to visit with students, international chapters, and sister chemical societies in countries where ACS does not currently have strong ties. My goal is to strengthen relationships between these chemical professionals and ACS.

As mentioned in my Council written report, I am working to establish an annual conference in the United Stated similar in format to several around the world focusing on younger scientists. These include the Lindau Conference in Germany, the Global Young Scientist Summit in Singapore, and the HOPE Conference held in Japan. Working with governance units and staff, the framework for a US based Lasting Encounters between Aspiring and Distinguished Scientists (LEADS) Conference are beginning to take shape. These events would specifically target younger scientists with networking opportunities, panel discussions, and technical presentations by esteemed scientists and industry leaders. The speakers would mentor the next generation of scientists to tackle global issues related to food supply, climate change, and energy production.

Thank you all again for your support, and I encourage you to contact me with advice and ideas as I progress through the Presidential succession and work on initiatives for the benefit of our members. (Slide 1) Please feel free to contact me at l.echegoyen@acs.org with your thoughts.

Madam President, this concludes my report.