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COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

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Cathy A. Nelson, *Secretary* (202) 872-4589

27 August 2014

Dr. Randy M. Miller, Chair
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
California State University, Chico
400 West First Street
Chico, CA 95929-0210

Dear Dr. Miller:

The Committee on Professional Training reviewed your department's periodic report. Based on the information available, the Committee concluded that the chemistry program meets all of the requirements in the ACS Guidelines and agreed to **continue approval**.

The Committee commended the many positive developments in the chemistry department, including three new faculty appointments, the approval to construct a new science building, and the significant increase in the number of chemistry majors as a result of the new degree tracks that have been instituted to produce high school teachers. The Committee complimented the department for remaining in agreement with the contact-hour requirements for ACS approval through an agreement with the administration and the union.

The Committee made the following suggestions for the continued development of the chemistry program.

Sabbaticals. According to the periodic report, only one faculty member took a sabbatical over the five years covered by this report. The Committee urges your eligible faculty members to take advantage of this important opportunity to engage in an extended period of professional renewal in order to maintain the vitality of the faculty and the academic program.

Research reports. According to Item 6.1, undergraduate research is used to fulfill certification requirements, and the student research reports submitted were described as good. However, at least one of the reports submitted was referenced as a requirement for CHEM 300, which is not listed in the periodic report form or the college catalog. Please ensure that all research reports provided during the next review are from students enrolled in courses that are used to satisfy certification requirements.

The Committee made the following recommendations that require action by the department.

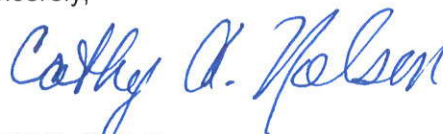
- **Laboratory experience.** According to Item 5.5, the required laboratory experience covers four of the five foundation areas, as specified in the ACS Guidelines. However, the inorganic lab experience is obtained mainly in Integrated Chemistry Lab II (CHEM 382), which is rather limited in scope and must be improved. A brief description of the changes you have made and all relevant course materials must be included in your department's next periodic report. The enclosed supplement on inorganic chemistry offers guidance on the expectations for instruction in this area.

- **Certification requirements: biochemistry degree track.** Based on the information available, only two in-depth courses are required for student certification in the biochemistry degree track. The other courses listed in Item 5.4 appear to be electives with no indication of the number of courses students must complete. If courses taught outside of the chemistry program are required for certification, you must provide copies of the course materials for CPT review. If you wish to certify graduates from this track, you must confirm that four in-depth courses are required for certification purposes at the time of your department's next review.

As specified in section 5.12 on page 26 of the ACS Guidelines booklet, you must adequately address the recommendations in the next periodic report package that you submit for review by CPT. Your program's next periodic report will be due in **2018**.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about the information in this letter or the expectations for ACS-approved programs.

Sincerely,



Cathy A. Nelson
Secretary
Committee on Professional Training

CAN/hdk

c: President Paul J. Zingg

Enclosure: Inorganic Chemistry Supplement