

History of Chemistry (HIST) > Administration Form > 2023

*Required Fields

Governance

Please input your responses to all questions based on the annual reporting year (unless otherwise instructed.)

1. Does the Division have a Vision and/or Mission Statement? *

- Yes
- Yes
- No
- No

2. What was the date of the last Division strategic planning session? *

04/07/2008

3. What are the primary challenges confronting your Division? *

With the advent of all-virtual meetings in 2020, our programming suffered significantly. In 2021, there was one virtual meeting and one hybrid meeting. While this allowed HIST to engage with more of our members than in 2020, it also reduced the number of members willing to give talks via virtual formats. In 2022, both meetings were hybrid and we found more members willing to engage in person. In 2023, we had a very successful programming year. We note that the average age of HIST members is higher than in other divisions: in 2022, 28% of our members are 70+; in 2023, 31% are 70+. The covid pandemic has seemed to cause many of them to rethink attending national meetings in person. Engaging with this group is a significant challenge for the division. How the division will address changes in ACS meetings and provide suitable options in programming delivery for our membership will remain a significant challenge.

4. Were Division elections conducted according to its Bylaws? *

- Yes
- No

5. Were any elected or Committee Chair positions unfilled that were expected to be filled? Please provide a brief explanation why. *

Elections are held every two years. 2022 was an election year and the offices filled by elections were: chair-elect, secretary/treasurer, two councilor positions, two alternate councilor positions. 2023 was not an election year.

6. What additional support do you need from DAC or ACS staff? *

We continue to advocate that ACS should provide a platform for elections. Also, getting ACS staff to engage with our officers, particularly the program chair, has become increasingly difficult. When emails go unacknowledged and phone messages are ignored, it becomes almost impossible to print our program and abstracts in the HIST Newsletter and distribute it to members on time for its use at National meetings.

7. How can the Annual Review Process be made more effective at summarizing your past year's achievements and preparing for the following year? *

Filing the reports for the Annual Review process does make the Ex. Comm. review our annual achievements and budget, allowing us to continue practices that produce good results and evaluate our budgeting.

8. How many Executive Committee meetings were held during the calendar year? *

2

9. Did your Division hold a open meeting (If required by your bylaws)? *

- Yes
- No
- We don't require an open meeting in the by-laws

Member Relations

1. Did your total membership increase or decrease? *

Decrease ▼

What do you think prompted the decrease?

The changes ACS implemented in their new membership model went into effect in the April 2022 rosters. HIST lost about 100 members and it is likely all division and local sections had a similar decrease. In 2023 we lost another 119 members, 15% of our membership. Of that loss, 68% were retired members and 46% were society affiliates. We are monitoring to see how this will continue to affect our membership numbers.

2. What do you think promoted the membership increase or decrease? *

Prompt means cause or bring about (an action or feeling). Promote means further the progress of (something, especially a cause, venture, or aim); support or actively encourage. The things that both prompted and promoted the change are discussed in 1.

3. Did the Division have an adequate number of volunteers to cover your requirements? *

- Yes
- No

If the answer to the above question is No, please explain.

Our programming is totally dependent upon volunteers. We continue to try to involve members in participation in programming. We saw an increase in Division membership from 2017 (675) to 2019 (1122), before the decrease in 2020 (876), 2021 (788) and 2022 (674). So, in 2022 we end up with a membership number similar to that in 2017. The change in the membership model is directly related to the 2021 to 2022 decrease. We continue to lose members in 2023, as does the ACS. We do not know how this will continue to affect the Division.

4. Does your Division have a Membership Chair? *

- Yes
- No

5. How do you recruit new members? *

Through our programming and regular participation in Division Row at ACS National meetings. This has become a very effective way to improve our visibility to younger ACS members. The Bulletin attracts new members, especially affiliates.

6. What member communication platforms do you use? *

- Newsletter
- eBlast
- Website

Please add the URL and Date of Last Update

<http://acshist.scs.illinois.edu/index.php> 2/10/2024

- Social Media

Please post names/links of social media sites

<https://www.facebook.com/ACSHIST>;
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/77084782/admin/feed/posts/>

7. Does your division have subdivisions? *

- Yes
- No

If the answer to above question is YES, please list.

Archaeological Subdivision

Programming

1. In general, how would you assess the programming your Division delivered during ACS national meetings? *

The programming continues to recover from pandemic programming. In spring 2023, we had a 1/2 day symposium celebrating the HIST Centennial, and another celebrating past ACS president Helen Free. We also had a one day workshop on traditional research methods in history, one day on science in support of art history, and one day of general papers. In fall 2023, HIST had a total of 4 full days of programming: one day for the HIST Award symposium, another for the history of organometallic chemistry and 1/2 day of general papers. We also held 1.5 days of programming with ENFL on the history of energy and fuel.

2. How far in advance does your Division plan its national meeting programming? *

- Less than 1 year
- 1 Year
- 2 Years
- 3 Years
- 4+ Years
- Other

3. Do you have Program Chair(s) or Programming Admins for your Division? *

- Yes
- No

Please provide contact information: First Name, Last Name, Division Title and Term, and Email

Nicolay Tsarevsky, Program Chair, year-to-year, nvt@smu.edu; Christine Hahn, Associate Program Chair, year-to-year, Christine.Hahn@tamuk.edu

4. Would you like to add additional Program Chair or Programming Admin contacts? *

- Yes
- No

5. Did the Program Chair attend a planning session last year? *

- Yes
- No

6. Does your division know who will serve as a program chair beyond this year? *

- Yes
- No

Please provide contact information. This is optional but could be very valuable in identifying future division program planners

Nicolay Tsarevsky, Program Chair, year-to-year, nvt@smu.edu; Christine Hahn, Associate Program Chair, year-to-year, Christine.Hahn@tamuk.edu; Both will continue in their current roles.

7. Would you like to add additional contact(s) for Program Chair(s) beyond this year? *

- Yes
- No

8. Do you have a Regional Meeting Coordinator for your Division? *

- Yes
- No

If the answer to above question is YES, provide contact information for your Division's Regional Meeting Coordinator.

Seth Rasmussen, seth.rasmussen@ndsu.edu

9. Did the Regional Meeting Coordinator attend a planning session last year?

- Yes
- No

Best Practices

1. What are the most important benefits your Division provides to its members? If posted on your website, provide a link to the webpage. Add any additional comments not listed and you deem important. *

The Bulletin for the History of Chemistry - <http://acshist.scs.illinois.edu/bulletin/index.php>
HIST Newsletter - <http://acshist.scs.illinois.edu/newslett/index.php>
HIST Program and Abstracts - <http://acshist.scs.illinois.edu/meetings/index.php>
Member-focused awards such as our new HIST Fellows program - <http://acshist.scs.illinois.edu/awards/HIST%20Fellows.php>
All HIST Awards - <http://acshist.scs.illinois.edu/awards/index.php>

2. Please describe techniques used to recruit and develop volunteers.

Volunteers are developed via participation. Input is requested from the membership on programming and division activities via the Newsletter, USPS, email, and the HIST website. If the members attend symposia, they are invited to express their opinion about programming and asked to suggest ideas for future programming. Those who give talks in general sessions are approached, when appropriate, to submit a paper to the Bulletin for the History of Chemistry. They are also asked whether they have an interest in organizing a symposium on their specific interests in the history of chemistry.

3. How does your Division recognize its volunteers?

Volunteers are thanked verbally for their services. Individuals may also be honored with a HIST Certificate of Appreciation plaque in recognition of their service. The Division has developed a HIST Fellows program, whose first class was honored in 2022.

4. Does your division provide any meeting content beyond the ACS app?

- Yes
- No

Describe your Division's way of delivering meeting content to its members?

We make all meeting abstracts available via the HIST website (and via USPS for those members who request a hard copy). Some meeting talks also develop into papers, which are published in the Bulletin for the History of Chemistry and received by all members. Furthermore, we have also been very successful in the publications of ACS symposium volumes based on well-attended symposia, as well as publishing symposium proceedings with other publishers. We believe the ACS should continue to provide the option to stream talks given at national meetings, i.e., continue the hybrid model for national meetings.

5. Describe successful outreach activities to serve members who don't attend national meetings and what pitfalls to avoid.

The Bulletin for the History of Chemistry continues to be the single most important benefit to members.

6. Different communication platforms may reach different audiences. Which communication platform(s) work best to reach and inform your diverse membership?

The Bulletin for the History of Chemistry; the HIST Newsletter & Abstracts; the HIST Facebook page (which has now exceeded 2.3K likes and over 2.3K followers (HIST now has a Facebook following that is comparable to most of the "big" divisions of the ACS, which speaks to the inherent interest in the history of our science throughout the chemical community); HIST LinkedIn page; emails. HIST recently started the LinkedIn page to assist with outreach and inform about news and other programming opportunities. We are hoping to expand our communication platforms to our membership and raise awareness of HIST among non-members in the community.

7. Describe activities aimed at students and young professionals.

HIST encourages students to give talks and posters at national meetings. We continue to have talks given by undergraduate students and graduate students at our general sessions. We have seen our Regular Students members increase to 89 before decreasing to 85 in 2020 and to 38 in 2022. Our Student members (undergraduate students) increased to 115 before decreasing to 92 in 2020 and to 66 in 2022. This increased to 71 in 2023. We believe the increase prior to 2020 was a direct result of our efforts to include these members at both national and regional meetings. The new ACS membership model continues to be a challenge.

8. List any Division awards or provide the URL where the awards are listed on your website.

The Joseph B. Lambert HIST Award in the History of Chemistry, for outstanding achievement in the history of chemistry. The Paul R. Jones Outstanding Paper Award, presented to the author of the best paper published in the Bulletin for the History of Chemistry in the past three years, including the current year. The Citation for Chemical Breakthrough Award recognizes breakthrough publications, books and patents worldwide in the fields of science embraced by the ACS, and are presented to the institutions at which the work was performed. The HIST Fellows Award, for HIST members who have made a significant impact on the advancement of history in the chemical sciences, as well as dedicated service to the division. Information for all can be found at <http://acshist.scs.illinois.edu/awards/index.php>

9. Did the Division engage in any international outreach or activities, beyond inviting international speakers to present at a symposium or general session?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please describe.

The Joseph B. Lambert HIST Award is international in scope and the winners in 2023 were Canadian. The Citation for Chemical Breakthrough Award many times goes to international locations. Of the three awarded in 2023, one went to the University of Copenhagen, Denmark, one to the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry, Mainz, Germany, and one each to the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm, Sweden and the Niels Bohr Institute, University of Copenhagen, Denmark. See information available at http://acshist.scs.illinois.edu/awards/citations_chem-breakthroughs.php. We routinely include news from the British Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry and the History of Science Society in the HIST Newsletter.

10. List nominations for ACS Fellows.

Roger Egolf

11. Does the Chair have any other issues to be considered?

Nothing specific.

Supporting Materials

Brief Description

File Name

File Size

Date Uploaded