

History of Chemistry (HIST) > Administration Form > 2021

*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 (virtual and in-person) 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. As such, 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. What offices were filled by elections during the past year? *

Elections are held every two years. 2021 was not an election year so no offices were filled by elections in 2021.

6. Were any positions unfilled that were expected to be filled? Please provide a brief explanation why. *

No.

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

We believe ACS should conduct elections for divisions or at least provide a platform for elections.

8. What can DAC do to improve the Annual Review Process? *

DAC has removed the ability to download an Excel spreadsheet prior to filling out the Financial report. It was very useful in prior years (i.e., 2019 and previous years) to do this and use this as a draft report for the division executive committee to review before filling out the on-line forms. In the same way, it would be useful for the Administration report to be available as a Word file to fill out prior to filling out the on-line form. We have no specific recommendations.

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

2

10. Did your Division hold an open meeting for Division members? *

- Yes
- No

11. Do the Division by-laws require an open meeting? *

- Yes
- No

In 2021, the ACS Board of Directors authorized an additional one-time supplemental funding allocation equal to your division annual allotment.

12. Please describe below how your division has used (or plans to use) the supplemental funds that were allocated in 2021 *

Some of the funds are ear-marked for support of a special issue of the Bulletin for the History of Chemistry celebrating the 100th anniversary of the division. We plan to print extra copies to share with non-Division members.

Member Relations

1. Did your total membership increase or decrease? *

Decrease ▼

What do you think prompted the decrease?

The last two years have been a very unusual time. We believe many ACS members are re-evaluating their technical division memberships, including in the HIST Division. The change in the ACS national dues structure is also contributing to instability in division memberships. The smaller programming in 2021 might have also contributed to this decrease.

2. 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) and 2021 (788), which we don't know how to evaluate yet. The increasing numbers indicated our programming and the Bulletin were reaching our members and others in the ACS. We depend upon walk-in traffic for our programming during national meetings. The disruption in programming in 2020 and 2021 caused a significant disruption for our members and others.

3. How does your Division use its website to serve its members? *

The website allows us to notify members of current news and events. It is the gateway to the HIST journal, the Bulletin for the History of Chemistry. The website also serves as an active archive of Division business.

4. What is the URL for your website? *

<http://acshist.scs.illinois.edu/>

5. When was your Divisions website last updated? *

02/03/2022

6. 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 was better than that in 2020. At the Spring National meeting there was a one-day symposium (History of Polymer Science) and a half-day symposium (Springer Briefs in the History of Chemistry: The 10th Anniversary) as well as several 1/2 day sessions with general papers. At the Fall National meeting, there was one all-day symposium (Contributions of African American Chemists) and two 1/2 day sessions for general papers. There was good attendance at all the sessions.

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@gmail.smu.edu Mihaela C. Stefan, Assistant Program Chair, year-to-year, mihaela@utdallas.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 will continue as Program Chair, as will Miheala as Asst. Program Chair.

7. Would you like to add additional contact(s) for Program Chair(s) beyond 2020? *

- Yes
- No

8. Do you have a Multidisciplinary Program Planning Group (MPPG) Representative for your Division? *

- Yes
- No

If the answer to above question is YES, provide contact information for your Division's Multidisciplinary Program Planning Group (MPPG) Representative.

Christopher Heth, Phone: (701) 858-3084; Email:christopher.heth@minotstateu.edu

9. Did the Multidisciplinary Program Planning Group (MPPG) Representative attend a planning session last year? *

- Yes
- No

10. 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, Phone: (701) 231-8747; Email: seth.rasmussen@ndsu.edu

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

- Yes
- No

Best Practices

1. Please describe techniques used to 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.

2. Please describe how you recruit volunteers to serve the Division.

Volunteers are developed via participation, as outlined in part 1 above. As members become more active in programming and/or Bulletin publications, they are also encouraged to participate in HIST leadership roles.

3. How does your Division recognize its volunteers?

Volunteers are thanked verbally for their services. They are sometimes awarded a plaque in recognition of their service. The Division has developed a divisional HIST Fellows program, whose roll-out was going to happen in 2020, but has been delayed to 2022 due to Covid-19 travel restrictions.

4. How does your Division provide meeting content to its members?

We make all meeting abstracts available via the HIST website (and via USPS for those members who request a hardcopy). 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 publication 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 meetings.

5. Describe outreach activities to serve members who don't attend national meetings.

Through options given by ACS, such as streaming talks given at national meetings. We also make the meeting abstracts available via the HIST website (and via USPS for those members who request a hard copy). Some of the talks also develop into papers, which are published in the Bulletin for the History of Chemistry and received by all members. We have also been very successful in the publication of ACS symposium volumes based on well-attended symposia, as well as publishing symposium proceedings with other publishers. Finally, the division maintains a strong presence at regional ACS meetings and has recently sponsored and organized multiple history symposia for regional meetings.

6. What are the most important benefits your Division provides to its members?

The Bulletin for the History of Chemistry, the HIST Newsletter & Abstracts; and member-focused awards such as our new HIST Fellows program.

7. How does the Division provide information to its members on Divisional activities?

The Bulletin for the History of Chemistry; the HIST Newsletter & Abstracts; the HIST Facebook page (which has now exceeded 2100 likes and over 2200 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 communications platforms to our membership and raise awareness of HIST among non-members in the community.

8. 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 undergraduates and graduate students at our general sessions. We have seen our Regular Student members increase to 89 before decreasing to 85 in 2020, and our Student members (undergraduate) increase to 115 before decreasing to 92 in 2020 and to 73 in 2021. We hope 2020 and 2021 pandemic years are an anomaly. We believe the increase prior to 2020 was a result of our efforts to include these members at both national and regional meetings.

9. List any Division awards.

The HIST Award; the Paul R. Jones Outstanding Paper Award; the Citation for Chemical Breakthrough Awards; the HIST Fellows Award

10. 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 Citation for Chemical Breakthrough Award many times goes to international locations. Of the four awards designated in 2021, two went to two sites in Japan and one to a site in the US. 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.

11. List nominations for ACS Fellows.

Seth Rasmussen

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

Nothing specific.

Supporting Materials

Brief Description

File Name

File Size

Date Uploaded