History of Chemistry (HIST) > Administration Form > 2024

*Required Fields

Governance

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

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

2. When was your last strategic planning or long term planning conducted? *

03/15/2024

3. When was the last progress review of your strategic planning or long-term planning conducted? *

08/18/2024

4. Do you have a Plan Champion to track progress? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

5. Strategic Planning or Long Range Planning Progress (Please choose one) *

- ( ) Fully Implemented
- ( ) Mostly Complete
- (●) We're making progress
- ( ) Just Started
- ( ) We're struggling and could use some help

6. 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+; in 2024, 28.6% of our members 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.

7. Were Division elections conducted according to its Bylaws *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

8. 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. 2024 was an election year and the offices filled by elections were: chair-elect, secretary/treasurer, one councilor position, and one alternate councilor position.

9. 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.

10. 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.

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

2

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

- (●) Yes, as required by bylaws
- ( ) Yes, but not required by bylaws
- ( ) No, although bylaws require an open governance meeting.

- ○ No, bylaws do not require an open governance meeting.

13. Was an audit done on your financial records? *

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No

14. If yes and required by your bylaws, was it conducted according to your bylaws? *

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ◉ Not Applicable

Member Relations

1. Did your total membership increase or decrease? *

- ◉ Increased
- ○ Decreased

What do you think prompted the increase?

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. In 2024, we gained 31 members. Most of the gain was in the Regular Student member category and Student Member Undergrad categories. We are monitoring to see how this will continue to affect our membership numbers.

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), 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 gained 31 members in 2024, the first increase since 2019. We do not know how this will continue to affect the Division.

3. Does your Division have a Membership Chair? *

- ○ Yes

◉ No

4. 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. We offer free-to-all video lectures twice a year (ChemHIST Talks). In addition, we have regular programming at some regional meetings. We have organized HIST symposia at Pacifichem, increasing our visibility to an international audience and helping our recruiting efforts. We co-sponsor symposia and webinars with other divisions, such as the HIST/AGRO webinar on seaweed (November 2024) and "Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Dr Olga Kennard," sponsored by CINF, cosponsored by COMP and HIST at the Spring 2024 national meeting. These cosponsored events increase our visibility among current ACS members. 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) is a valuable resource to communicate with members and potential members.

5. How do you retain members? *

Through our programming and publication of the Bulletin for the History of Chemistry.

6. What member communication platforms do you use? *

☑ Newsletter

☑ Mass Email

☑ Website

Please add the URL and Date of Last Update

https://acshist.scs.illinois.edu/index.php

☑ Social Media

Please post names/links of social media sites. What type of information is shared using this medium? How often do you post information using this medium? How do you evaluate the impact of posting to that medium?

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

Programming

1. In general, how would you assess the programming your Division delivered during ACS national meetings in the last 12 months? *

- Above Expectations
- (•) Meet Expectations
- Below Expectations

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. How many Spring/Fall, Regional, and other Program Leaders do you have? Please list title, responsibility, and names. *

Christine Hahn (Christine.Hahn@tamuk.edu) is the Program Chair and coordinates programming for the national meetings. Seth Rasmussen (seth.rasmussen@ndsu.edu) is the Regional meeting program coordinator.

4. Do you have a programming administrator? *

- (•) Yes
- No

Is the programming administrator a paid contractor or volunteer?

Volunteer.

5. Was your Division represented at the Leadership Institute's Long Range Program Chair Workshop? *

- (•) 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.

Christine Hahn (Christine.Hahn@tamuk.edu)

7. Would you like to add additional programming volunteers not listed. *

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

8. Which meetings does your division regularly participate in? Check all that apply. *

- ☑ ACS Spring Meeting
- ☑ ACS Fall Meeting
- ☐ Regional Meeting(s)

If so which regional meetings? (MWRM,SWRM,SERMACS,CERM,MARM,GLRM,NORM)

9. Does your division provide specific divisional virtual symposia beyond ACS Meetings? *

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

10. Does your Division program outside of the ACS via joint conferences with other societies? *

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No

Does your division have a Memorandum of Understanding with the external society?

No, we do not. We will be participating in the 2026 Biennial Conference on Chemical Education programming.

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. The ACS provides meeting content through its web-based virtual platform. Does your division provide any additional meeting content to its members? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

If yes, please describe

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. We also started a program of providing a reprise of 2 talks presented at each national meeting via a webinar. This has been well-received.

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 Student members increase to 89 before decreasing to 85 in 2020 and down to 38 in 2022. In 2024, Regular Student members have increased to 70. Our Student members (undergraduate students) increased to 115 before decreasing to 92 in 2020 and down to 66 in 2022. This increased to 71 in 2023 and up to 106 in 2024. 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. *

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

10. List nominations for ACS Fellows made during the year of this report. *

None.

11. Describe successes and challenges during the year. *

Nothing specific. We continue to program strong and well-attended symposia at national and regional meetings.

12. What one or two ideas have you planned or implemented in the past year that might be of interest to other Divisions? *

Reprising 2 of the best or most interesting papers presented at each national meeting in a separate webinar open to all members. Making an effort to program at every regional meeting in a two year cycle, i.e., have a half day symposium at half the regional meetings one year and at the other half the next year.

Supporting Materials

Brief Description	File Name	File Size	Date Uploaded
Program-Abstract Spring 2024	HIST 2024 Spring Program and Abstracts yellow.pdf	1.19 MB	2/3/2025
Program-Abstract Fall 2024	HIST 2024 Fall Program and Abstracts yellow.pdf	1.59 MB	2/3/2025