History of Chemistry (HIST) > Administration Form > 2025

*Required Fields

Governance

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

03/15/2024

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

08/17/2025

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

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

4. 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

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

ACS imposed limitations on programming at national meetings; increasing costs of national meetings that reduce interest in attendance; membership attrition.

6. Were Division elections conducted according to its Bylaws *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

7. 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. 2025 was not an election year. 2026 will be the next election year and the offices to be filled by election will be : chair-elect, secretary, treasurer, one councilor position, and one alternate councilor position.

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

Finances; communication infrastructure (website, social media, newsletter); document management and knowledge management; compliance with fiduciary and legal requirements. Our programming is being constrained by the new meeting requirements, and this is a serious matter.

9. 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. The process is already fairly effective.

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

3

11. 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.

12. Was an audit completed by a secondary volunteer or external agency of your financial records. *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

Member Relations

1. Did your total membership increase or decrease? *

- Increased
- Decreased

What are factors that drove membership decrease?

Unclear. In 2024, most of our membership gains were driven by Regular Student Members and Student Members - Undergrad. In 2025, the membership losses were driven by these same two categories. Members that transition to Community Associates are no longer Division members; this happens unintentionally on some member's parts as they don't recognize the result of the transition. We believe ACS membership fluctuations drive the fluctuations in our division.

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. In 2025, we lost 49 members. 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 for the History of Chemistry attracts new members, especially affiliates. We offer free-to-all video lectures twice a year (ChemHIST Talks). In addition, we have regular programming at regional meetings every year. 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 joint symposium “History of Quantum Chemistry” in collaboration with COMP and PHYS at the Fall 2025 National meeting. This was a continuation of the celebration of the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology, which started on June 4th with the very successful ACS Webinar, “The History, Heroes, and Theories That Created Quantum Mechanics”. 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. We value the way that history and chemistry interact with one another and how we communicate this in our programming and publications, including the Bulletin for the History of Chemistry and any books resulting from our symposia. The most recent book published as a result of a symposium was "The Birth of the 3rd Dimension in Chemistry," edited by Arthur Greenberg and David E. Lewis, published in December 2025 by Springer (https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-97743-5). Greenberg and Lewis published their volume with Springer as ACS Publications made the decision to publish its symposium series books only online and not have a print option. This decision impacts particularly older members who value physical books.

6. What member communication platforms do you use? *

- [x] Newsletter
- [x] Mass Email
- [x] Website

Please add the URL and Date of Last Update

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

- [x] 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 the name, title, and responsibility of all Spring/Fall/Regional or other program leaders. *

Christine Hahn (Christine.Hahn@tamuk.edu) is the Program Chair for the Spring/Fall national meetings and coordinates programming for the national meetings. Seth Rasmussen (seth.rasmussen@ndsu.edu) is the Regional meeting program coordinator. HIST has a loyal but not large enough unofficial cadre of symposium organizers for national meetings, including Seth Rasmussen, Gary Patterson, and Nicolay Tsarevsky.

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 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) is the Program Chair.

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. *

- [x] ACS Spring Meeting
- [x] ACS Fall Meeting
- [x] Regional Meeting(s)

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

MWRM, SWRM, SERMACS, CERM, MARM, GLRM, NORM; cover all regional meetings in a 2 year cycle

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.

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 or paper certificate 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 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 have virtual speakers at national meetings. Currently, virtual speakers are restricted to "virtual sessions," and this is a very real detriment to programming successful symposia.

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, which publishes peer-reviewed original papers in the history of chemistry, continues to be the single most important benefit to members. The HIST Newsletter, Program and Abstracts are sent out before each national meeting. This serves as primary communication device with our members, as it contains not only the program and abstracts for the meeting, but the Council Report from the previous national meeting, messages from the chair and program chair, and news of the discipline, including conferences and calls for award nominations, both national and international. We also provide 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 but decreased in 2025 to 51. 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 before decreasing to 82 in 2025. 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

If yes, please explain the activity

A symposium on chemistry collaborations within the Asia-Pacific Region was organized for the International Congress of History of Science and Technology (ICHST) (June 29-July 5, 2025, Dunedin, New Zealand), one of the largest international history conferences in the world. This symposium was a collaboration between HIST and the Congress on the History of Chemistry and Molecular Sciences (CHCMS), organized by Seth Rasmussen (HIST, CHCMS) and Yoshiyuki Kikuchi (chair of CHCMS). In addition to Rasmussen, additional HIST members also contributed papers, including David Lewis, Ian Rae, and Brigitte van Tiggelen (also former chair of CHCMS).

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

None.

11. Describe successes and challenges during the year. *

The dearth of half-day sessions for programming at national meetings continues to be a major problem. We do not believe we can attract members to a nearly weeklong meeting by providing only two days of programming. Despite this, 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 2025	HIST 2025 Spring Program and Abstracts yellow.pdf	1006.31 KB	2/4/2026
Program-Abstract Fall 2025	HIST 2025 Fall Program and Abstracts yellow.pdf	2.5 MB	2/4/2026