

VI-H-Membership

August 8, 2015

SAS Membership Committee Report (SciX 2015)

Outline:

1. Membership committee members: potential term extensions?
2. Updates on active/completed Membership committee activities 2015
3. Proposed additional membership committee activities for future 2015-2016
4. 2020 vision...

1. Membership committee members: potential term extensions?

Committee members:

Ingeborg Iping Petterson (Committee member 2014, appointed as Chair 2015 to complete the last year of the term of the previous Chair. Term extension 2016?)

Andrew Whitley (Committee member 2014, 2015, 2016?)

Richard Osibanjo (2015, 2016?)

2. Active/Completed Membership committee activities:

a. Membership survey (review from PITTCON MEETING and points of action since then)

In 2014 the membership committee worked on drafting an online survey to poll members of SAS on a number of topics. Highlights of the survey results are described below:

Student trends:

Free student memberships at SciX- 20% retention rate- is this a reasonable number? I think we agreed that this seems reasonable for this kind of incentive and therefore is worth it to continue it. Suggestion was made to send an email to students who are approaching graduation to encourage them to sign up the next year.

They like electronic journal, print copy not very important. This information relayed to the publications committee. This is why it is important that with the new membership fees, we have a 'electronic only' option.

They like the student event, employment opportunities, access to linkedin group, and opportunities to get involved with the society.

With the upgrade of website came a more manageable database of members for those interested in finding a mentor. The resource now exists, but how will we make this known to members? We should advertise this aspect (on the website, newsletter) and tell people it's OK to reach out to a mentor independently.

Together with the Coblentz society – an organized speed dating find a mentor event at SciX 2015.

Non-student trends: surprise! 100 % use twitter, linkedin and facebook! Continuing to develop and encouraging use among members and of LinkedIn groups, Facebook page, Twitter (Web team, publications team!)

b. Elsevier women's postdoc association clearing house

In 2014 SAS was invited to participate in a survey of our member demographics as well as to describe any particular programs or activities run by SAS that are beneficial for advancing the careers of women postdocs. This information is now included in an online clearing house hosted by the National Postdoctoral Network and serves to advertise the SAS in a positive light, especially to new potential members from early-career women demographic. (But also others who appreciate services like childcare at conferences, mentoring programs, etc, which are all mentioned in the SAS sections featured here.)

This was advertised in the LinkedIn groups pages **and the newsletter*** (upcoming).

Additionally, it is interesting to see what other societies are doing, see how SAS 'stacks up' compared to other organizations, and find suggestions for new potential member benefits and SAS activities in the future.

c. Childcare SciX 2015

An informal poll of members at SciX 2014 indicated that many of our members with young children would be very interested in having childcare services available during the conference. Working together with the local organizing committee for 2015 (Edita), Edita was able to arrange a local childcare center to provide on-site childcare.

→Collect emails and prepare a survey for parents who used the service.

d. Membership event SciX 2015

The membership event at SciX was particularly tricky to organize this year due to many logistical challenges provided by the Rhode Island location, but thanks to Stephanie and Bonnie it came together!

Discussion points:

How can we streamline this process in the future?

What is the available budget for this event?

What is the projected outlook on the budget for this event?

e. Inviting new members

Personalized invitation letters (emails) :

- Students about to graduate- don't forget to renew as an interim member!
- Reminder emails for members to renew
- ACS meeting database

3. Proposed additional membership committee activities for near future (2015-2016):

- Potential changes to membership dues procedures....How to streamline the membership dues and renewal process?**
 - Calendar year subscription? 15 month free memberships to go towards calendar years.
 - Automatic renewal?
 - 3 month grace period?
- Twitter poster competition? (As RSC has recently organized).**
- Find a Mentor event- Mentor 'speed dating' event organized together with Coblenz Society at SciX 2015.**
- Spectroscopy internship program- connecting students with industrial (and academic?) internships.--- sign up at the SciX booth?**
- Promoting SAS Job board:**
 - Start a booth activity at SciX about employment.
 - David heaps--- more examples of successful jobs via SAS connections in newsletter, on jobs board.
- SAS spectroscopy art/Photography competition : (Year of light theme?).**

The best design (cover feature?) in Applied Spectroscopy throughout the year?

Photography competition on Social media? 'year of light'

4. SAS 2020 vision (activities for the future (2016-2020))

- Spectroscopy Certification program? (it should be cheap)
- A bridge program that connects academics with people in industry, fostering collaborations with labs and industry- collaboration grant?
- Conference travel grants for PhDs and **Postdocs**?
- Research travel grant (Funds for a small research visit/collaboration)?
- Educational youtube channel? Involve the technical sections, but first we post some videos.
- webinars, industry partnerships.
- more presence in Europe/international.
- Award /certification for equality? →Athena SWAN model.

Recommendations for Committee / Proposed Steps forward

Working closely with other committees to achieve short term goals. Brainstorming for how to achieve long term goals.

Actions for EC/SAS: Discussions of suggested items above.

Items to be voted by EC/GB – if any :

ACS database usage.

Changes to membership renewal procedure?

Respectfully Submitted,

Ingeborg Iping Petterson

Membership Committee Chair/coordinator