
Executive Officer’s Report

At their annual meeting this year, members of the Council for the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) heard from executive officer Rich Nicholson as he described organizational changes at AAAS and its financial health (net worth: $21 million). Nicholson also said he has formed a New Ventures Committee to pursue such possibilities as the creation of an electronic journal and ideas for new meetings.

Several Council members requested statistics that would compare the disciplinary distribution of articles in Science to the number of members in each AAAS section. Suggested solutions to the perceived inequities included a set page allocation or even an editor for each disciplinary area, and an emphasis in the book review section on multidisciplinary balance.

Elections and Appointments

AAAS president Donald Langenberg introduced F. Sherwood Rowland, the new president-elect, as well as Warren Washington and Jeanne Shreve, the newest members of the Board of Directors. Langenberg also announced the following recently elected members of the Committee on Council Affairs: Rosemary Chalk, Arno G. Motulsky, Mary Budde Rowe, and Dael Wolfe.

The section secretary appointments were Thomas Dirksen (Dentistry); Betty-ann Hoener (Pharmaceutical Sciences); R. Clifton Bailey (Statistics); William H. Beasley (Atmospheric and Hydrospheric Sciences); Rachelle D. Hollander (Societal Impacts of Science and Engineering); and James M. McCullogh (General Interest in Science and Engineering).

Membership Report

Michael Spinella, director of Membership and Circulation, told the Council that membership has grown about 10.5% in the last 10 years—not encouraging when compared with other similar societies. One problem, he said, may be the competition AAAS faces from increasing numbers of specialized journals and societies.

Spinella also mentioned his concern with the low number of members who join AAAS sections. The sections, he said, represent the “grassroots membership” of AAAS, and he asked Council members for their ideas on how to best combat the decline and urged them to more actively recruit new members themselves.

Spinella also discussed plans to attract more international members, the possibility of creating a new membership category for high school teachers, and the potential for new products that would appeal to minorities or those in underrepresented fields, such as computer science.

Report: Education and Human Resources Directorate

Shirley Malcom, director of the Education and Human Resources Directorate, provided the Council with an overview of her group’s activities in education, science for underrepresented groups, and the public understanding of science.

Report: Governance Committee

Emilio Daddario, former AAAS president and current chair of the Governance Committee, acknowledged the hard work of his committee members (Phil Abelson, Mary Clutter, Dan Drucker, Judith Grassle, and Dael Wolfe) as well as of the AAAS staff who supported their work (Walt Gillespie, Bill Engelman, and Pat Culin).

The committee recommended that communication with members should be improved and that new mechanisms should be developed to better involve members in AAAS activities, suggestions that the Board has endorsed and asked Nicholson to implement.

The Lederman Survey Report

Leon Lederman, AAAS president-elect, discussed his report on America’s crisis in research funding (prepared for the AAAS Board of Directors earlier this year and distributed to all AAAS members). He read the statement on funding passed by the Board at its 14 February 1991 meeting, which calls for, among other things:

■ Science to emphasize the analysis of research funding and related issues in its regular news coverage; and

■ the AAAS staff to help broaden the dialogue on this issue by involving organizations from all sectors of society and possibly organizing a 1991 national symposium on research and its impact on society. Also, the Board established a special Committee on the Health of the Scientific Enterprise to coordinate efforts with AAAS and organize external collaboration.

Report: Committee on Council Affairs Meeting

The Council approved resolutions concerning world population growth; RU 486 and freedom of medical research; the support of institutional mechanisms to enhance coordination and support for environmental research and training, and their incorporation into public policy; and the support of a national center for biodiversity (see next page for text).

In addition, the Council:

■ unanimously approved an amendment to the Caribbean Division charter changing the title of the vice president to president-elect;

■ tabled for further discussion a bylaw amendment that would allow revocation of fellowship status after a finding of professional misconduct;

■ and approved the American Psychological Society and the Society of College Science Teachers for affiliation with AAAS.

Election of Fellows

AAAS members nominated for fellowship status this year were unanimously elected by the Council. (For the complete list, see Science, 22 March 1991.)

Resolution of Appreciation

The Council noted Arthur Herschman’s plans to retire after the annual meeting from his position as head of the AAAS Meetings office and approved a resolution in appreciation of his many years of outstanding service.

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