

Report of BSA Representative to the AIBS Council

AIBS continues to do a very fine job in Public Policy, becoming more involved in advising Congressional representatives on biological (and botanical) issues (and actually in being sought out as such a resource), via individual interactions and public presentations at meetings and hearings by the Public Policy staff (currently two people), holding of public roundtables (three were held in the past year), and through letters as needed, or petitions. BSA has supported this initiative and I recommend it be continued.

BioOne is doing well, the budget is in good shape, SPARs and related revenue generating organizations are doing well. Minority recruitment efforts are underway; at present there is a diversity scholarship program- contact AIBS for details. IBRCS, which is a project to develop input concerning NEON at NSF is also developing well.

Some issues that were presented for discussion at the spring AIBS Council meeting include the following: 1) Meeting attendance is down. AIBS will continue to consider the best format for its annual meeting - anyone with ideas is welcome to submit them to me, Richard O'Grady or Gary Hartshorn (current President). It is recommended that there be a Presidential Summit meeting every five years and that the meeting be scheduled at a time when government officials can attend. 2) there is a need for publicizing exciting breakthrough research in organismal biology and thus articles are needed for submission to the UPI project with CSSP (i.e., articles written for the public that will be released to newspapers). 3) individual membership is declining, but perhaps no worse than in other societies.

Much of the day was spent in brainstorming about particular issues, such as Biological Education- curricula and workforce issues; Biological Research Funding Challenges; and Biological Research Infrastructure (IBRCS and NEON). Ideas were put forward by each group considering these, which will be developed further, hopefully into new initiatives by AIBS.

Submitted by

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