A continued priority of the APS is to actively attract, meet the needs of, engage and retain the entire membership. The new Fellow of the APS (FAPS) Program has been implemented to play an active role in engaging members of the Society. As the Committee proceeded through the annual FAPS review process, there was a need to further fine-tune the approval process. As a result, a subcommittee was established to evaluate the rigor of the FAPS applicant criteria and suitability of application scoring.

Membership:
The total number of members is 10,711* (compared to 10,830 from a year ago). There was a net gain of 251 Regular, 281 Graduate Student and 61 Undergraduate Student members since the fall 2016 status report. The current retention rate is 88% for all members; 92% for Regular members.

*Note: 1,197 (752 Regular) members were dropped on 04/01/2016 as a result of unpaid dues.

During the previous year, there has been an on-going interaction with APS Marketing toward promotional campaigns to more effectively recruit and retain membership. The following efforts have been productive and will be continued:

1. Solicited non-member Editorial Board members and EB Invited Speakers:
   - 43 Editorial Board members applied; 27 renewed for 2017
   - 8 Non-member Invited Speakers applied; 6 renewed for 2017
2. APS exhibited at competing meetings, placed advertisements in related journals and posts marketing items to various social media outlets.
3. Authors publishing in APS journals who are non-members are solicited to join.
4. APS provided staff and a connected computer to receive membership applications and dues payments at APS Exhibit booth and kiosk during meetings.
   - 39 new members...
5. Members can place credit cards on file for auto-renewal of subsequent year’s dues.

A decade ago, the Finance Committee recommended and Council approved increasing APS Membership dues $15 every year until 2018 when the Regular membership dues hit $200. As a result of the challenges encountered by the current financial, regulatory and academic climates – standing APS membership dues and criterion were reviewed. The Committee recommended that the cost of membership remain at current rates. The Committee also endorsed an adjustment in benefits so that Affiliate members may also be eligible for membership meeting registration discount(s).

Moreover, in addition to the auto-renewal option for payment of membership dues, the Committee recommended that payments be permitted on a multi-year basis. These multi-year payments should be made in the amount of the current year’s rate. Individuals who pay in advance will not incur additional charges should dues increase in future years, but if a member chooses to resign with dues having been prepaid then the remaining balance will not be refunded.

Lastly, it is believed that the transition of a Graduate Student to Regular membership should be aligned to the date of the degree, not a time-limit on the Graduate Student membership. As a consequence, the current Graduate Student membership requirements should now read as follows:

Graduate Student Membership is open to any student working toward a terminal graduate degree in physiology or related field and who is actively engaged in physiological work. Graduate Student Membership is limited to five years or upon receipt of the graduate terminal degree, whichever is sooner.