On an annual basis SAC undergoes changes in membership. In the past year, Jennifer Pollock (WEH), Martha O’Donnell (CAMPS), and Merry Lindsey (CVS) completed their service as section chairs. We recognize and thank Jennifer, Martha, and Lindsey for their leadership and dedication to the APS. Concomitantly, we welcome Carmen Hinojosa-Laborde, Ken Gagnon, and William Jackson as new section chairs for WEH, CAMPS, and CVS to SAC.

In November 2015, SAC and Council held their second Joint Meeting outside the regular EB meetings in New Orleans, LA. At the Joint Meeting, council and SAC discussed the Society’s Strategic Plan, Operational Guide Write-ups related to Sections, Guidelines and Procedures for future EB programming, the role of SAC in COC operations and in governance of PAS, and new initiatives including the Reprogramming/Rebranding Initiative and the establishment of a Leadership Academy. SAC members welcomed the opportunity for a concerted exchange with Council and strongly support the continuation of the Joint Fall meeting.

SAC has discussed extensively about ways to increase the attractiveness and diversity of our scientific program at the Experimental Biology Meeting, and to leverage on the unique advantages of a more generalistic as compared to an organ-specific scientific society. A task force consisting of the Chairs of the Joint Programming Committee, Robert Hester, the Chair of SAC, Wolfgang Kuebler, and SAC members and Section chairs Donald Kohan and Sean Stocker was established to discuss future options for EB programming. At the 2014 Fall Meeting, SAC was scheduled to review session allocations for the 2017 EB meeting. In the previous SAC evaluations, the number of session allocations for each section was determined based on a relative average of the number of abstracts submitted to each section from the previous 3 EB meetings. SAC members shared considerable concerns about the current evaluation system. SAC therefore decided to keep session allocations unchanged for the time being, and to work with Council to develop alternative metrics.

Most sections continue to see a continuous increase in applications for their awards. In response, many sections have increased their number of awards, as well as award endowments to adjust for increased travel and housing expenses, and several sections have established APS Endowed Matching Funds to sustain the funding of existing awards or increase the number of awards for established programs.

Finances remain an important concern, and for some sections expenses have exceeded income in the past years. Major cost factors remain the social events/banquets at the EB meeting, and the support for trainee activities.