

Membership Report Fall 2011
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As of September 15, 2011, the total number of ASOR members stands at 1360. This is down a bit from our spring meeting, when ASOR had the highest membership numbers in its history (nearly 1400), but I am told that a slight dip is typical this time of year. New members have come in through several recent membership drives.

We have about 85 paid-up institutional members, the same number we saw in spring 2011. This number has been trending downward during the past several years. We should think about reducing the price of an institutional membership or offer a sliding scale that would allow undergraduate institutions, for example, to pay a lower rate than research universities.

Membership updates

There is continuing concern about the status of women and minorities in ASOR. Discussions with members of the various membership committees, members of the EC and other ASOR members have led to ideas on how we might encourage women, minorities and younger scholars to participate in ASOR beyond presenting papers at the annual meeting. We are concerned about the representation of women and minorities on various standing committees, on the Executive Committee and on the Board of Trustees. The fact that ASOR has not had a female president in its 110+ year history may discourage women from seeking leadership positions or playing a more active role in ASOR.

We hope to see a committee formed that would further explore the issues and develop a plan to better integrate women and minorities into ASOR, especially at the highest levels. Tammi and I have worked with Andy to schedule an informal networking reception for women of ASOR in the ASOR suite in San Francisco on November 18. We hope that this will encourage women, including younger scholars and more experienced members, to participate more fully in ASOR.