Committee on Membership and Appraisal

Annual Report
July, 2000

In 1999 (see previous annual report), an attempt was made to contact approximately 320 members of the Botanical Society of America who had previously agreed to serve as Campus Representatives for the Society — the responsibilities of Representatives is to distribute recruiting materials and promote membership in the Society. On average, 65 percent of those contacted responded, with over 90 percent agreeing to continue in their role as Campus Representatives. In order to increase the number of Representatives, as well as the campuses represented all Society members having e-mail addresses were subsequently contacted requesting their participation on this Committee of Representatives. As a result of these efforts, the Campus Representatives now comprise 243 individuals representing 47 states and 11 countries. In July 2000, Kim Hiser (BSA Business Office) informed the Committee that a shipment of new posters and brochures was anticipated and should be available to mail to Campus Representatives prior to the beginning of the 2000-2001 academic year. The Chair of this Committee provided the list of addresses to the Business Office.

The Chair (Bruederle) of the BSA Membership and Appraisal Committee recommends that future efforts include: 1) maintaining and annually updating this database of Campus Representatives, which will be provided to the incoming Chair; 2) identifying under-represented states, e.g., Minnesota, and unrepresented institutions, e.g., University of Michigan, from which “volunteers” should be solicited; and 3) mailing materials to Campus Representatives annually (or every other year), prior to the beginning of the academic year. This will require that the Business Office have the posters and brochures ready and available in July of each year in which there will be a mailing. The Chair also recommends that the future Chair of the Membership and Appraisal Committee be a volunteer from among the Committee members and serve for two terms or agree to work with the incoming Chair; currently the Chair is typically the Committee member with the greatest seniority on the Committee.