



Report of the Executive Director

Assembly of Delegates

November 13, 2009

Investment

- Dividends
- Interest
- Reinvestment of profits
- Buying back stock
- Why does a company grow?
Time and money contributed by those who believe in the product.

What Life Asks of Us*



- “*On Thinking Institutionally*” by Hugh Heclo
- Ryne Sandberg, 2005 baseball Hall of Fame: ...I played it right because that is what you’re supposed to do...”

Sandberg quote continued

- I was taught you never, ever disrespect your opponent or your teammates or your organization or your manager and never, ever your uniform.



Associations

- “Americans have always been excellent congregators”, Erik Aker, Policy Today, 3/30/08
- Sharp declines in associational memberships
- “Checkbook organizations” where all you do to be a member is write a check and get a newsletter.
- These associations do not increase scientific capital, they do not contribute to the growth of the profession.

Science



- “For science is more than the search for truth, more than a challenging game, more than a profession. It is a life that a diversity of people lead together, in the closest proximity, a school for social living. We are members one of another.” A.G. Ogston, August, 1970

Scientific Societies

- Advance discovery
- Disseminate information
- Peer review
- Training
- Standards



What would science look like without scientific societies?

- Annual conferences
- Symposia
- Journals
- Abstracts/posters
- Network or discussion platforms
- Facilitate collaboration



The case for Sigma Xi

- Frank Van Vleck's foundation
- The Pillar Program
- Strategic and operational plans
- Cultivate, nurture, foster integrity



A scientific Phi Beta Kappa*

- Friendship in Science
- To lend aid and encouragement
- And in collegiate halls to award an honor, which to scientific recipients shall signify, "Come up higher."

* Frank Van Vleck, Society of the Sigma Xi, 1892

Sigma Xi Motto

- Companions in zealous research
- Σπουδῶν Ξυνῶνες



Ethics and honor in science

- Our foundation upon which we build.
- Mission, goals, etc should evolve with time.
- Our core, our very reason for existence should not change.



Strategic plans and programs

- Facilitate and promote public understanding of science
- Enhance the health of the research enterprise
- Foster integrity in science and engineering



Misconduct

- *Once a matter reserved for insular professional concern and study by esoteric sub-specialties of sociology, scientific misconduct has become the subject of front-page media attention and the obsession of indignant Congressional committees.*
- *Patterns of governmental funding are shifting, the structure of academic research institutions is changing, and there appears to be a general movement from autonomous basic research toward directed commercial research...*
- *Recent misconduct cases share a certain pathology regarding research funding and pressure to publish noteworthy research; such pressures are characteristic of the scientific community's current difficulties.*

Headlines yesterday, today

- *ARTICLE: RESEARCH MISCONDUCT: DEVIANCE, DUE PROCESS, AND THE DISESTABLISHMENT OF SCIENCE*
- *Copyright 1995 by Dan L. Burk and The George Mason Independent Law Review. Portions of the paper were presented at the symposium on "Legal and Regulatory Issues in Biotechnology," co-sponsored by the American Chemical Society's Biotechnology Secretariat and Division of Chemistry and the Law, March 14, 1994*

What is expected from us

- Pay it forward
- Recognition
- Investment of time and money
- Acknowledge public trust in what we do
- Mentor: our future



7 Measures of Success for Sigma Xi

- Member service culture
- Programs/products aligned with mission
- Data driven
- Actively listen
- Leaders facilitate visionary ideas
- Adapt
- Leverage resources through alliances

Charge to Sigma Xi Delegates

- “Come up higher”.
- Hold ourselves accountable.
- Seek to uphold high ethical standards in our professional lives.
- Encourage and nurture the scientific leaders of the future.