

Council of Divisions Report August 2025

I. Edits to Roles and Responsibilities of Division Chairpersons

Action Item: The Council of Divisions requests revisions to the Roles and Responsibilities of Division Chairpersons outlined in the Attachment. These revisions address:

- 1) Division Elections: Eliminate conflicting language regarding when division elections should take place and set the deadline for identifying candidates as October 15.
- 2) Division Awards: Clarify that individuals must be students at the time of submission to be eligible for a Student Paper Award and that papers must be presented at the Annual Meeting to maintain eligibility; Set the deadline to notify the Administrative Office for all division awards as April 1.

II. The Council elected C. Michael Awsumb to serve on the Committee on Social Action for the 2025-2028 term

III. Division restructuring/rebranding/consolidation

The Council created 2 Task Forces to review results from the membership survey regarding division restructuring, rebranding, and consolidation and other relevant data provided by the Administrative Office (e.g., division membership, division activities, division-sponsored sessions and number of attendees) and make recommendations to be considered by Division Chairs and their Members.

The Task Forces distributed their reports to Division Chairs via email and discussed the reports at the 7/15/2025 Council of Divisions meeting. Division Chairs were asked to discuss the recommendations with their division members to determine members' desired actions. The goal of the actions is to reduce the financial cost of divisions via division budgets and, more significantly, conference sessions.

To date, 6 divisions have consolidated, reducing the number of divisions from 23 at the 2024 meeting to 20 at the 2025 meeting. Some divisions are still considering consolidation and others have not held their 2025 meetings yet. However, some Chairs of smaller divisions noted that their divisions would rather maintain their identities and have a reduced resource allocation than consolidate or be subsumed by another division.

Therefore, the Council puts forward the following request:

Action Item: Allocate division-sponsored sessions based on division size.

A sizeable portion of division budgets are spent on creating division newsletters, yet newsletter downloads and readership are low. Division Chairs discussed options of producing a single collaborative newsletter from 3 or 4 divisions or using other modes of communication with members. Yet, some prefer the current model of each division producing 2 newsletters/year. To allow more flexibility and creativity, yet assure that communication is happening with division members in some form, the Council puts forward the following request:

Action Item: Make division-sponsored newsletters an optional activity of each division, with an expectation for alternative forms of division outreach (e.g., social media; combined newsletters).