Rationale for Increase in Registration Fees beginning in FY 16-17

The SPEP budget is based on the assumption that conference costs should be generated from registration fees and conference income, and that operating costs should be covered by membership dues. Conference costs are rising due to increasingly expensive travel and hosting costs and increased pressures on negotiating hotel contracts. At the same time, local hosts are finding the current environment a more challenging one for raising university funds. As a result there is instability in SPEP finances and a need for a larger cushion in case of deficit years (as was 2013-14). This instability is compounded by the fact that SPEP registration fees are low compared to other societies of its size (as a comparative study shows). Achieving financial stability by ensuring that the annual conference breaks even is also a necessary condition for considering a future expansion of the Executive Committee (EC) membership.

As of the 2016 conference, registration fees will increase by $20 for Individual Registrants and by $10 for Students, Emeriti, and Underemployed Registrants. Membership dues will remain unchanged. The new registration fees will thus be:

- Individual: $85 ($95 onsite)
- S/E/U: $35 ($45 onsite)

The projected additional revenue from the increased conference fees is $7170 (at 2014 rates of registration).

Projected 2016 Onward Conference Income:
- Registration Income = $23720 (based on 2014 registration numbers below)
- Sponsorship Income = $5725 (based on 2015)
- Program Income = $1250 (SPHS + IAEPE) (based on 2015)
- Local Host Contribution = $15000 (based on 2016 projection, but what local hosts can promise varies by institution and venue, running anywhere from $12000-15000)
- Book Exhibit Contribution = $5000 (variable by year)
- Total Anticipated Conference Income = approximately $50695

2014 Registration Numbers:
- 194 Faculty members registered in 2014 at $65 per person = $12610
- 95 Faculty members registered in 2014 at $75 person = $7125
- 88 S/E/U members registered in 2014 at $25 per person = $2200
- 51 S/E/U members registered in 2014 at $35 person = $1785
- Total 2014 Registration Income = $23720

Projected 2016 Onward Annual Conference Expenses:
- (Please note that projected costs are based on the number of members currently on the EC)
- Food and Beverage Minimum (receptions, coffee breaks, etc.) = $15000
- Hotel Service Charges and Fees = $3600 (24% in Salt Lake City [SLC]; this is typical)
- Hotel Taxes = $1368 (based on SLC; often more; and service charges are taxed)
- A/V rental costs = $5000
- Designing, Printing, and Mailing of Program and Poster = $9125
- Plenary and Prize Travel = $3000 (4 flights)
- Plenary and Prize Accommodation = $2500 (14 nights total)
Plenary Honoraria = $3000
Plenary Expenses = $600 (calculated at $75 per diem)
Prizes = $1000
EC Travel = $5000 (6 EC members and SPEP Graduate Assistant)
EC Expenses = $2100 (calculated at $75 per diem)
EC Accommodation = $2500 (14 nights after complimentary rooms; based on SLC rate)
PDC registration costs = $4000
Total Anticipated Future Conference Expenses = $57793

Total Projected Deficit = $7098