

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
August 6, 2012
San Diego, California**

**Discussion: Possible Changes in Policies for
Dues and Registration Fees to Benefit
Students and New Archives Professionals
(Prepared by: Kate Theimer and the Students and New
Archives Professionals Roundtable Steering Group)**

BACKGROUND

On June 22, SNAP Roundtable Chair Rebecca Goldman initiated an “open discussion” thread on the roundtable discussion list about SAA dues. While the discussion was wide-ranging, some concrete suggestions were raised, centered primarily on the timing of dues payments and the rules regarding extending the student and bridge rates.

The SNAP Roundtable Steering Committee agreed that the following suggestions should be forwarded to the Council for appropriate consideration:

1. Allow students to maintain a student membership for as long as they meet the requirements for student membership.

Rationale: Although it is not specified in the SAA Governance Manual, the current practice is to limit students to two years of membership at the student level. Some students, particularly those enrolled in Ph.D. programs, may take more than two years to complete their degrees.

2. Allow members to renew their memberships at the bridge rate whenever they are unemployed.

Rationale: As specified in Section VI of the Governance Manual, the bridge rate is “a one-time benefit for full members who are unemployed.” Some new archivists, particularly those moving between temporary positions, find themselves unemployed more than once.

3. Allow members to spread out their dues payments over the course of a year.

Rationale: Many students and new archivists are living from paycheck to paycheck and paying the full membership rate at one time can be difficult.

4. Allow members to renew their membership less than annually, i.e., for periods of less than one full year.

Rationale: Many professionals are employed in grant-funded or temporary positions with no guarantee for continued future income. Allowing members to renew for less than a full year allows those members or affiliated institutions to pay for membership during the contracted period of work.

5. Institute tiered pricing for conferences and workshops.

Rationale: For membership dues SAA has tiered levels tied to a member's income. This system benefits members at lower income levels and extending this model to other SAA activities would similarly benefit student and new archives professionals with low incomes.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Does the Council support the further exploration of any or all of these five suggestions?
2. If so, what should the process be for further exploration and analysis? Should groups such as the Membership, Finance, and Education committees be tasked to consider the questions relevant to them and report back to the Council?
3. If not, what response does the Council have to the SNAP Roundtable?