Dear Colleagues,

The meeting at Rockhurst College in October was the first annual meeting since the name of the organization was changed from AMCBT to ACUBE, and it marked the end of the first year under the new name. For better or worse, there was not a noticeable difference in the meeting itself. Everything I appreciate about the annual meetings was there - excellent presentations, spirited discussions, collegiality and fellowship. The size of the gathering was about the same as it has been for the last several meetings, although it may have been more geographically diverse. Nevertheless, there were significant events during the year that may have a lasting impact on the organization. Some of the goals that the Steering Committee had for the year included publicizing the name change, so that people who knew AMCBT would be aware of it, and also to reach a broader audience and recruit new members. Largely due to the efforts of Tom Davis, Membership Chair, we have added about 90 new members. I also am pleased that we have established relationships with other, similar organizations and that ACUBE is increasingly recognized as the primary undergraduate biology education organization. In particular, we have been working closely with CELS and AIBS, both of which include members from biology education and disciplinary societies. I encourage you to bring information about ACUBE to other organizations you belong to or interact with.

Our emphasis has been on recruiting more members, and I think we all agree that we want our membership to grow. But, how big do we want to get? Can we become too large? We probably don't need to worry about that for a while, but perhaps we should be thinking about potential issues. One aspect of the annual meetings that we would not want to lose is the fellowship and sharing that occurs, which may be harder to facilitate if the meetings become too large. I believe it is helpful if the membership feels connected to the leadership of the organization, and vice versa. Please contact me or any of the Steering Committee members if you have concerns or suggestions about the direction of ACUBE. I would also like to encourage more of you to get involved and play a role in the decision-making processes. If you are interested in running for a Steering Committee position, let one of us know so that you can be nominated.

I look forward to seeing many of you at UW-River Falls next October.

With warm regards,

Karen Klyczek, Past President
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