Academic Practice Specialty
Open Meeting

Proposal to Create the new Council on Academic Affairs and Research

April 2018
Overview

- Context
- Strategic Purpose
- Need for Change
- Why a Council?
- Council Responsibilities
- What about the Academic Practice Specialty?
- Questions?
Context

✦ A need recognized by board of directors and members for several years

✦ Part of a concerted effort to raise the bar for the occupational safety and health profession and make it a sovereign profession

✦ All new Councils must be added to the bylaws, which requires HOD approval – vote closes April 11th
Strategic Purpose

- Position ASSE as a thought leader
- Drive professional competency/capability
- Determine and maintain the profession’s body of knowledge
- Prioritize and promote research and educational achievement of the membership
- Support education and the academic profession to ensure that students are prepared to practice OSH
- Create new knowledge while informing the policy affecting the profession
Why a Change?

- Current structure is fragmented among academic standards, member engagement, and the academics practice specialty
- No structure dedicated to advancing OSH research
- Inefficient
Why a Council?

Need a structure that can:

Streamline operation and harmonize policies across ASSE and oversee all academic-related matters
  - Including development of education standards and accreditation, student engagement and research-related activities
  - Centralize:
    - Administration for OSH educators, students, academic publication, research and educational policy
    - Communication between the academic community and the Society

Enable nimble response to opportunities and challenges
Currently no Council is assigned responsibility for research

- Society Bylaws:
  - “[I]n fulfilling its purpose, the Society shall . . . promote and conduct research in areas which further the purposes and objectives of the Society” (Purpose and Objectives: Section 2F).

- Needed to support every major activity of the Society – Advocacy, Professional Development, ASSE Communities and Standards Development
  - All constantly require new information, new learning

- Members need data-driven, evidence-based research to inform their practice
Why a Council? Cont’d

- Better position ASSE to influence OSH policy through research
- Develop strategies for improving student participation in ASSE activities
- Professionalize the discipline and mature OSH academic programs by integration of ASSE’s education standards
- Better integrate safety AND health as professional foci and strategies at the workplace
Other Benefits of a Council

- Dedicated staff support
- BOD–provided budget to support academic activities, similar to other Councils
Council Responsibilities

- Make recommendations for academic–related Society goals, objectives, and policy
- Develop and implement a strategy to engage OSH educators and college/university programs, including promoting OSH academia as a field to prospective educators and students
- Maintain and mature ASSE’s ties to international education efforts and the development of the body of knowledge
Council Responsibilities

- Partner with other councils to determine strategies for student outreach and engagement, including:
  - Improving student participation in ASSE activities
  - Recruiting high school, university and non-traditional students to the profession
  - Encouraging students to pursue accredited certification
  - Encouraging and supporting faculty and therefore student research
  - Fostering networking among students and practicing professionals
Council Responsibilities

- Manage the publication of Journal of Safety, Health and Environmental Research (JSHER) and the annual Academic Forum.

- Perform interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary outreach in academic-related matters, including:
  - Reaching out to business, engineering, health care, public health, homeland security, emergency management, security management, risk management disciplines
    - Including driving OSH academic coursework into the curricula of the professions

- Interface with other ASSE councils/committees with an interest in academic affairs.
Council Responsibilities

Research-related responsibilities, including:

- Promoting basic and applied research that advances the profession, including maintaining the ASSE research agenda and collaborating with the ASSE Foundation regarding the RFP process and proposal reviews.
- Promoting the development of interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary research to support practitioners.
- Developing literature reviews on key and emerging topics in OSH and related disciplines.
- Facilitating the translation of academic scholarship into formats and tools that are useful for practitioners.
- Developing and disseminating business solutions and briefs on key and emerging topics to engage senior business leaders in OSH.
- Developing events to share learning and create new opportunities for connection, including academic symposia to connect researchers, students, and academics across disciplines, and business roundtables to provide a forum for high-level problem-solving and learning.
Council Membership

- New Vice President, Council on Academic Affairs and Research
  - Reports to the Board of Directors
  - Appointed first year, then elected according to normal VP election rules
  - One three-year term
  - Launched ASAP

- Seven members at large who will be appointed by the VP and approved by the Board of Directors
  - Mix of educators, researchers and business reps
  - One two-year term, may be reappointed for an additional term
COAAR Committees

- Education Standards Committee will move to COAAR from Council on Professional Affairs

- Other committees and task forces created as necessary
Academics Practice Specialty?

- Newly formed Council will work with the Academics Practice Specialty Administrators and Advisory Council to determine the best mechanism to engage academic members
  - Likely re-imagined and re-formatted to better suit the unique professional needs of academicians and made part of COAAR

- Campus safety professionals may be interested in a special group under the Management Practice Specialty involving the management of campuses (academic, hospital, corporate, etc.)
Questions?

Please type in the “Questions” pane or email Laura at lclements@asse.org