

## Secretary's Report

Executive Meeting

January 2025

1. Membership numbers have been stable for the past 12 months – close to but not quite at pre-pandemic levels. A good turnout at Richmond will help us build some momentum.

Year	Conference Location	End-of-May Membership	Year-End Membership
2015	Michigan State	?	229
2016	Duke	186	290*
2017	Toronto	197	202
2018	Chicago	266	284
2019	New York	247	265
2020	Virtual	219	223
2021	Utrecht (Virtual)	188	263
2022	Minneapolis	270	276
2023	Vancouver	196	237
2024	Santiago	246	245

\* 290 is likely an overestimate as this was the year that we switched from CUP to managing membership through our own website. Several shadow accounts were created to test aspects of the website.

2. Due to incompatible schedules, the *ad hoc* Outreach Committee could not meet again since the last executive meeting in Santiago. But we did engage in email exchanges about two points: 1) developing some kind of online initiative together with other history of economics societies; 2) following up with societies that responded positively to our 2024 outreach campaign, possibly identifying ‘ambassadors’ to them. On the first point, there was some skepticism about the feasibility of this project, given the required level of commitment. It was suggested we reach out to other members of the community who are already engaged in similar initiatives. On the second point, we agreed about the usefulness of keeping these channels of communication open, and some names were suggested as possible ambassadors. The secretary reestablished contact with these societies later in the year suggesting possible collaboration around the Richmond conference, and several of them have again responded with interest. The International Society for Intellectual History submitted a concrete proposal for our consideration, which is included as a separate agenda item.
3. The Outreach Committee was created in January 2023 to discuss strategies to grow our membership and increase engagement with the community. After two years, there seems to be consensus inside the committee that we have done what we could to fulfill this mandate within the current institutional format. We thus recommend that the Executive Committee discontinue the *ad hoc* Outreach Committee effective immediately. To guarantee some continuity of effort, we also suggest that our mandate be partially transferred to the Growth and Outreach Committee. These recommendations are included as a separate agenda item.
4. Preparations for the ASSA conference were complicated by a labor strike affecting several of the conference hotels. Consultations within the Executive Committee and with other

societies with which we co-organized sessions this year led to a decision to move to an alternative venue not affected by the strike. The Executive Committee pre-authorized a budget of \$5,000 to cover the costs of this new venue, which will not be spent in its entirety.

5. We received 17 nominations for the Spengler Prize by the December 31 deadline, a noticeable decline from the recent historical trend.
6. The HES Executive Meeting in Richmond is tentatively scheduled for Friday June 27, 2025, 12pm to 4pm.