



SOUTHERN AIR

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE

SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION FOR INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH

AUGUST 1980

VOLUME III, NUMBER 2

PRESIDENT

SUZANNE W. LARSEN
University of Tennessee

VICE PRESIDENT

LARRY G. JONES
University of Georgia

SECRETARY/TREASURER

E. MICHAEL STAMAN
University of Missouri-Columbia

PAST PRESIDENT

NORMAN P. UHL
North Carolina Central University

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Richard D. Howard
West Virginia University

Denise Strenglein
University of South Florida

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

AUDIT

Jeanne E. Budig
Lincoln University

LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS (1980)

Greg Litaker
University of Louisville

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Gerry McLaughlin
Virginia Polytechnic and State
University

SAIR/AIR PROGRAM

Richard Howard
West Virginia University

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Norman P. Uhl
North Carolina Central University

SAIR PUBLICATIONS

Charles D. Salley
Georgia State University

CONFERENCE PROGRAM (1980)

Larry G. Jones
University of Georgia

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Larry G. Jones
University of Georgia

LOOKING TO LOUISVILLE, October 29 - 31, 1980

Final plans for the 1980 SAIR Conference to be held October 29 - 31, 1980 at the Louisville Inn (formerly Stouffer's Inn) are being set, and it is hoped that SAIR members and friends are being equally successful at making plans to be in Louisville for the meeting. Conference and hotel registration materials will be sent with the next issue of the SAIR Newsletter, so all that SAIR members need to do between now and then is to make certain the SAIR Conference dates are clear on the calendar and that transportation plans are in mind. In fact, some State associations might want to start exploring the possibilities of car pools or chartered buses as inexpensive travel arrangements.

The 1980 SAIR Conference program will include a full schedule of workshops, contributed papers and panels selected from the very exciting proposals submitted by SAIR members, plus several invited presentations in planning, program evaluation, and faculty and minority issues. The complete SAIR Conference program schedule will also be included in the next SAIR Newsletter. With workshops on fact books by Glynton Smith, student attrition and retention by Tim Sanford, and papers by Bloom, Bryson, Budig, McLaughlin, Montgomery, Pratt, Reichard, Uhl, to name only a few, you know the SAIR Conference program will be solid.

1979 CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

The Future of Institutional Research, the published proceedings of the 1979 SAIR Conference in Orlando, has been mailed to all 1979 - 1980 members and has been in some demand by others. A limited number of copies are still available from Larry G. Jones, SAIR, 310 New College, The University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia 30602. The cost is \$1.00 and checks or money orders should be made payable to SAIR.

RESEARCH IN HIGHER EDUCATION

The subscription form for Research in Higher Education, The Journal of the Association for Institutional Research, is attached for the convenience of those who have yet to subscribe. Perhaps Gerry McLaughlin (Chair of the AIR Publications Board) will have a display of all AIR publications at the SAIR Conference in Louisville, for those not familiar with the available literature.

1979 - 1980 SAIR MEMBERSHIP

The attached analysis of 1978 - 1979 and 1979 - 1980 SAIR membership was prepared by Denise Strenglein, Coordinator of Institutional Research, The University of South Florida, for the officers of SAIR.

The report is being distributed to all SAIR members and friends because 1) it should be of interest to all, 2) it confirms the strength of the Southern Association as the leading regional group in AIR, 3) it shows who and where your friends in IR are, and 4) it will give some State groups something to talk about at AIR meetings.



SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION FOR INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH

MEMBERSHIP ANALYSIS FOR 1978-79 AND 1979-80

Denise Strenglein
Member at Large

Analyses of the Southern Association for Institutional Research (SAIR) membership were performed for the years 1978-79 and 1979-80 by state, by position type and office function, and by institution type. Overall, we grew by 9.4% (160 to 176). Sixty-nine of the 1978 members returned in 1979, a return rate of 43%.

The position type and function analysis is probably the least accurate measure since both position title and office title may be misleading. Be that as it may, there appears to be a slight growth in the proportion of institutional researchers over other types for the two years, and there seems to be a growth in the number of administrative titles at the expense of staff titles between the two years. Table 1 and Figure 1 numbers and proportions by position and function for the two years.

Table 1
SAIR Membership by Function
1978-79 and 1979-80

| Function | Number at Director Level | | Number at Staff Level | | Total | |
|---|--------------------------|------------|-----------------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| | 1978-79 | 1979-80 | 1978-79 | 1979-80 | 1978-79 | 1979-80 |
| Institutional Research (I.R.) | 50 | 66 | 27 | 25 | 77 | 91 |
| I.R. & Planning | 12 | 13 | 3 | 6 | 15 | 19 |
| I.R. & Budgets | | 1 | 2 | | 2 | 1 |
| Planning/Research/Evaluation (but not I.R.) | 12 | 13 | 7 | 12 | 19 | 25 |
| Other Administrative Areas | 21 | 18 | 11 | 7 | 32 | 25 |
| Instruction | 4 faculty | 5 | 6 students | 4 | 10 | 9 |
| Data Processing | 1 | 3 | | | 1 | 3 |
| Unknown | | | | | 4 | 3 |
| Total | 100 | 119 | 56 | 54 | 160 | 176 |

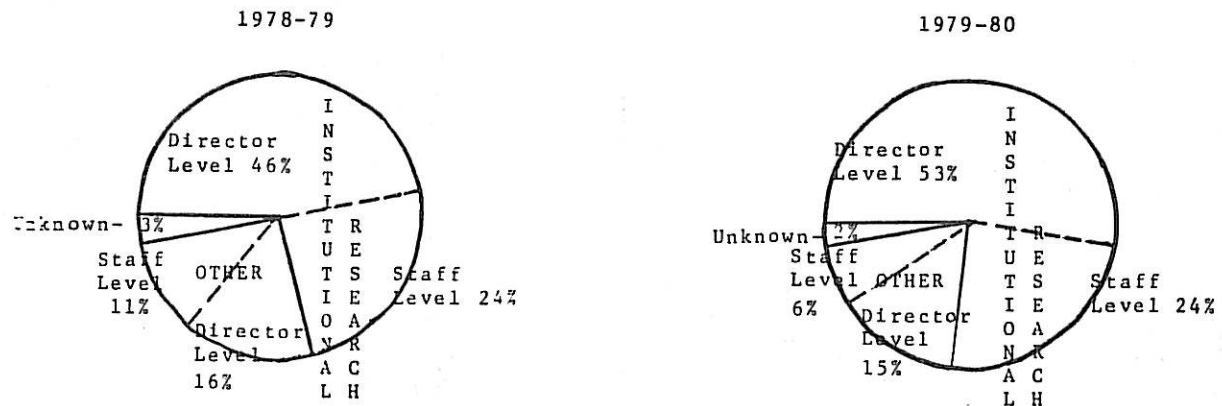


Figure 1. SAIR membership by position type. (Institutional research includes IR offices, IR & Planning, IR & Budgets, and Planning/Research/Evaluation. Other includes Other Administrative Areas, Instruction, Data Processing, and Unknown.)

The proportion of public versus private schools has remained constant although the two-year public institutions have lost a few percentage points to other educational organizations. Table 2 and Figure 2 give membership by institution type.

Table 2
SAIR Membership by Type of Institution
1978-79 and 1979-80

| Type of Institution | Number in 1978-79 | Number in 1979-80 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Public University or Four-year College | 113 | 126 |
| Private University or Four-year College | 26 | 18 |
| Public Two-year College | 13 | 17 |
| System | 5 | 7 |
| Other (Medical school/clinic, K-12, graduate school, Association, unknown) | 3 | 8 |
| Total | 160 | 176 |

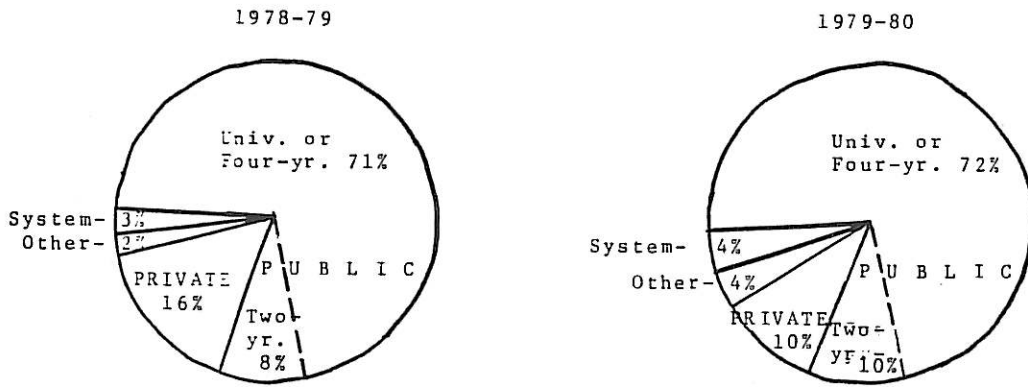


Figure 2. SAIR membership by type of institution.

The proportional representation among the states is shown in Figure 3. It has remained fairly constant. Florida, host in 1979-80, gained over 6% while Tennessee, host in 1978-79, lost 3.6%. If this is truly a trend, it looks as if we may be keeping some of the gains from the host state. This is worth watching. North Carolina lost the greatest share, due to the freeze on travel, but Canada is holding its own for reasons known only to our crazy colleagues north of the border. Figure 3 includes the numerical distribution by state.

The profile of SAIR suggests that we are made up predominantly of institutional research, planning and evaluation administrators with a significant number of nonadministrative staff members and graduate students. We come mainly from four-year public colleges or universities. The bulk of the membership comes from the Southern Atlantic states of Virginia through Florida with Tennessee (non-Atlantic) and South Carolina (not many members) as the exceptions.

Canada - 1, 1

1978-79 italicized numbers
1979-80 regular print

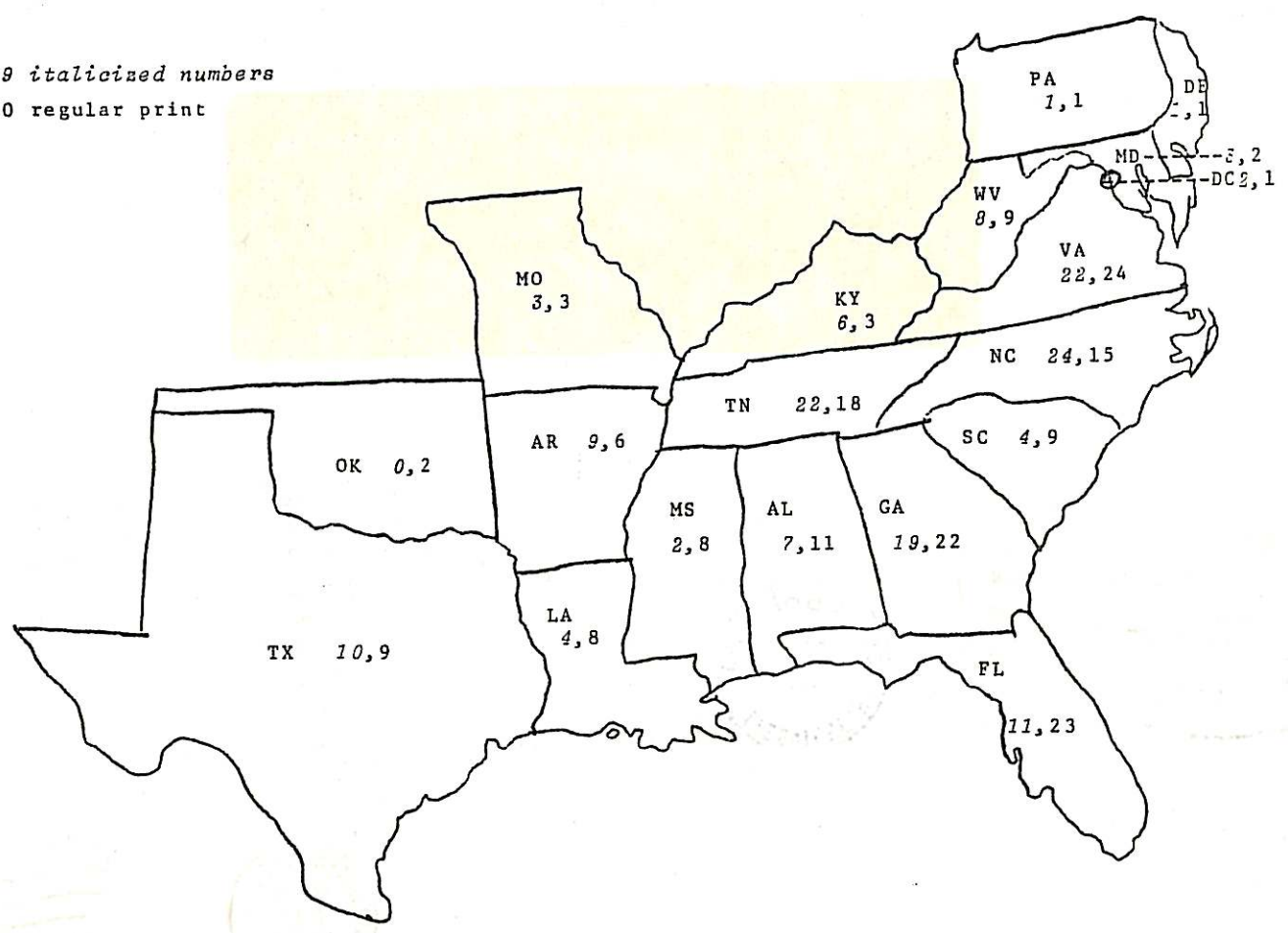


Figure 3. Numerical distribution of members by state, 1978-79 and 1979-80.

Table 4
Proportional Share of SAIR Membership by State
1978-79 and 1979-80

| State | 1978-79 Share % | 1979-80 Share % | Percent Change 78-79 to 79-80 |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Alabama | 4.4 | 6.3 | 1.9 |
| Arkansas | 5.6 | 3.4 | -2.2 |
| Delaware | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.0 |
| District of Columbia | 1.3 | 0.6 | -0.7 |
| Florida | 6.9 | 12.1 | 5.2 |
| Georgia | 11.9 | 12.5 | 0.6 |
| Iowa | 0.6 | 0.0 | -0.6 |
| Kentucky | 3.8 | 1.7 | -2.1 |
| Louisiana | 2.5 | 4.5 | 2.0 |
| Maryland | 1.9 | 1.1 | -0.8 |
| Mississippi | 1.3 | 4.5 | 3.2 |
| Missouri | 1.9 | 1.7 | -0.2 |
| North Carolina | 15.0 | 8.5 | -6.5 |
| Oklahoma | 0.0 | 1.1 | 1.1 |
| Pennsylvania | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.0 |
| South Carolina | 2.5 | 5.1 | 2.6 |
| Tennessee | 13.8 | 10.2 | -3.6 |
| Texas | 6.3 | 5.1 | -1.2 |
| Virginia | 13.8 | 13.6 | -0.2 |
| West Virginia | 5.0 | 5.1 | 0.1 |
| Canada | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.0 |

"Share" may be affected by location of conference!